



THOMIANA



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Publication of S. Thomas' College Old Boys Association, Australia Branch Inc.
PO Box 2337. Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023



THE OLD THOMIANS IN
MELBOURNE, INVITE YOU
TO A FABULOUS

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2022 AT 6 PM

ST. AIDAN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,
39 WALLARANO DRIVE, NOBLE PARK

VEN S P NESAKUMAR HEADMASTER OF
STC GURUTALAWA WILL CONDUCT THE
SERVICE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW
THE SERVICE



The eventful year 2022, celebrating our 50th Anniversary, fittingly ended with the annual Carol Service attended by a record crowd and presided by the Head Master of STC Gurutalawa, The Ven. S. Phillip Nesakumar.

The Executive Committee of the OBA wish to express their gratitude to all those who supported our events during the year; and wish all Members and their families a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Reflections of the Year Gone By.....



As we draw close to the end of a calendar year with the dawn of November, I write these words to welcome back to physical school those students and teachers who have been permitted to return by the Ministry of Education with the lifting of some of the health and safety restrictions on movement and gatherings. We are limping back to normalcy – limping, not running! We have to take it slowly and even though they be furtive and careful steps we are hopefully on our way back to some level of normalcy following the unprecedented and challenging 19 months that we have experienced as a nation and as a world. It has been a period of dislocation, disorientation and disruption. It has been a period of great suffering and challenge on many fronts not least of all due to the pandemic but also due to a number of socio-political and economic factors that have been a cause for great concern.



As a School we have been no less affected by the turbulence faced in education. As the playwright Ruwanthi de Chickera said on a webinar a few months ago, our education system is broken beyond repair. It has been laid bare and exposed for all its weaknesses and inadequacies but like the Emperor in the story of the Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen, the harsh truths that have been exposed in all their stark nakedness have still to be adequately realized and accepted by those that can make a change – and change there must be in the post-covid new normal if we are to move forward.

We at S. Thomas' have decided to be bold in some of our decisions as we plan reopening. So, as we welcome our children back to school it will be to a school that is the same in terms of physical infrastructure but it will be a very different school in terms of our methods of teaching and evaluation. It is our hope that if Covid-19 has taught us anything it is that we need to move into the modern world that embraces technology, that inspires creativity, critical thinking, problem solving and innovation, that focuses not just on IQ but also EQ and one in which the teacher is no longer the "sage on the stage" but the "guide by the side." This would mean that everyone involved – students, teachers, other staff and, importantly, parents – need to buy in and "catch the vision", so to speak, so that as we go forward, we will do so together.

We look forward to having all our children coming back soon. The campus has been like a lifeless wilderness these past months. We long to hear the buzz of conversation, the joy of children's laughter and to see some "organized chaos" where the children are able to once more enjoy themselves with their friends and classmates as they play and sing and dance or simply sit in small groups during breaks to chat and share their thoughts.

May the campus be a happy place where children are free to be children and where they will learn those lessons that are sometimes far more important than the lessons, they need to know to pass exams. May our children bloom and flourish over the coming months and years.

The Rev'd Marc Billimoria
Warden



S. THOMAS' COLLEGE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION -AUSTRALIA BRANCH (STCOBA)



S. Thomas' College is an Anglican, Government approved, private, fee-levying School for boys founded in 1851 by the first Bishop of Colombo, the Rt. Rev'd Dr. James Chapman. The school was originally located in Mutwal and moved to its present campus at Mount Lavinia in 1918.

S. Thomas' College is much more than just a school. It is an institution rich in tradition, characterized by more than one and a half centuries of hard work, dedication and achievement, all infused with the legendary “Thomian Spirit”. It is a pioneering institution that seeks to incorporate the challenges and opportunities of the modern world in nurturing the very best in youth, where mere boys come in and young adults go out to be integrated “men and gentlemen always”.

History of the OBA:

STCOBA Australia Branch was established in 1972 and is based in Melbourne, Victoria; and is the first Thomian OBA to be formed overseas. The membership is predominantly from Victoria and also includes other states in Australia and 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.

Mission:

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).

Esto Perpetua

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



9 January 2023

Dear fellow Thomians,

Happy New Year! Another 365 laps around the sun. Here we are in 2023, finally some levels of normality during the second half of last year.

I'm proud of our Association's successes over the last year, particularly being able to provide our members some great levels of engagement especially the Thomian Ball which was a great success.

Membership numbers are increasing but I would like to see this improve further. If you have not renewed your membership yet I would encourage you to do so. There are several Thomians who have made Melbourne home who haven't become members. If you know of a classmate or an old Thomian please encourage them to sign up to the OBA.

I must thank the current EXCO for the fantastic job they have done last year. The team has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Association has come out on top from an engagement point of view as well as a financial perspective.

Reflecting on a personal level, the last 4 years as President of the OBA has been a tough but a fantastic journey which I have enjoyed every minute of. I must thank every person that has served in the EXCO and Dance Committees during my tenure. I would encourage you to join the next EXCO if you are able to serve in any capacity and give back to the College that has made us who we are.

Please look after yourselves and look forward to seeing you at the next event.

Esto Perpetua!

Peneeth Goonawardena

EDITORIAL

"May your CHOICES in the New Year reflect your HOPES, not your FEARS"

On behalf of the Executive Committee (Ex-Co) of the OBA, we express our best wishes for a great New Year to all our readers in Australia and overseas and send all our love and good wishes for an awesome year.

The last year, 2022, has been one of the busiest years for the OBA in the recent past with many events commemorating our 50th Anniversary included in the Calendar. Luckily, Covid had a lesser impact on the events than in the previous two years.

Activities in the last quarter of 2022 included the Information Forum, Melbourne Cup Draw and the Carol Service. The Information Forum was one of the new events in our calendar, focussing on providing advice to new and pending migrants to Australia in areas of entry requirements, employment, banking, real estate and investment. The Melbourne Cup Draw, conducted for the third year, proved to be a success and now being a good source of revenue to the OBA. The finale for the year was the carol service boasting a 30-member choir and the attendance of the Head Master of STC Gurutalawa.

Covid came close to home last year with several members of the Ex-Co contracting the virus; most notably, 5 members a few days after the Transfiguration Service. Most of the Ex-Co meetings were held physically and the venue relocated to the Springvale RSL Club.

Following the AGM in 2022, the revision of the OBA Rules was undertaken to comply with the Model Rules for Associations of Victoria (2012). A sub-committee comprising of Rodney Jansz, Selva Kanagasabai, Jarit De Mel, Suren Aponso, Niral Fernando and Upali Gooneratne completed the task during the year and the revised Rules will be tabled at the next AGM (Feb 2023) for adoption. Our appreciation to everyone in the subcommittee for undertaking this arduous task.

The Ex-Co is likely to see some new faces this year and some "old guards" moving up the ranks. The composition will be finalised at the AGM. After

operating with depleted resources for most of last year, we look forward to a full-strength committee, hopefully with "younger" members who are critical for the future of the OBA.

The AGM, scheduled for 10th February, is expected to take place without any restrictions and will be "business as usual" with respect to the social after the meeting. The other events that are currently confirmed for the year include the Royal-Thomian cricket matches in Victoria on 5th March. Plans to combine this event with a "Family Day" is being considered based on the venue. It is expected that the Big Match in Sri Lanka would go ahead as planned from 9-11th March with a "Live-Broadcast" event in Melbourne on Friday 10th March. Preliminary discussions are in progress for the 2023 Thomian Ball and most likely it would be the first task of the new Ex-Co to finalise.

As highlighted in previous issues, the membership of the OBA has remained somewhat stagnant for several years in spite of concerted "membership drives" from time to time. To address this, the aim is to attract many younger members to the Executive Committee, with the expectation that they would be able to attract the more recent arrivals to Australia.

The OBA supported The Walk A Mile initiative launched by our parent OBA in Sri Lanka in 2022. We honoured our commitment to support the Smart Classroom initiative and transferred funds in August 2022 for 2 classrooms. A letter of confirmation by the organisers is included in this issue. This was in addition to donations to the branch schools (Prep School, Gurutalawa and Bandarawala) and a local charity (Monash Children's Hospital) to meet urgent needs.

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

ESTO PERPETUA

Editorial Team

Vasikaran Ratnarajah
Upali Gooneratne

OBA News

Information Forum – 27th September 2022



The first Information Forum for new and pending migrants to Australia was conducted on-line on the 27th September 2022 at 6.30 AEST (2.00pm in Sri Lanka). In addition to the OBA website and circular, the event was advertised through the Warden and Head Masters of Prep School, Gurutalawa and Bandarawala. As anticipated, most of the 70+ registrations were from Sri Lanka

The Forum, which lasted nearly 2 hours, included 4 main topics presented by Specialists in the respective fields, as below:

- Immigration:** Sanji Caldera & Charuka Dahanayake (Sanji Caldera Associates)
- Recruitment:** Varsha Raghavan
- Banking:** Sajith Kolugala (ANZ Bank)
- Borrowing & Financial Planning:** Pramu Rodrigo (Tomorrow Financial Solutions)

Godfrey Senaratne – 80th Birthday Celebration



Godfrey Senaratne, one of our senior members of the OBA, celebrated his 80th Birthday with his family and friends on 8th October 2022. A lunch was hosted by the family at the Coconut Tree Restaurant, Wantirna. Godfrey, who was at College (Mt. Lavinia) from 1951-1962 was also a member of the academic staff for a further nine years from 1965-1974. In 2018, he received the President’s Award for his long and dedicated service to the OBA. Congratulations to Godfrey on this tremendous milestone and wish you all the happiness in the years ahead.



Carol Service – 10th December 2022



STC OBA Carol service 2022 was held at St Aidan’s Church Noble Park on Saturday 10th December at 6 pm. This was the final OBA activity as part of the 50th Anniversary celebration and the committee was keen to finish well with a grand service.

An invitation was sent to join the OBA choir via webmaster and through various methods to have as many Thomians and Thomian connections for female voices. We had a good response with a choir of 30 people. The practices commenced in early September and concluded with the rehearsal in early December. The Choir was directed by Herbert (Felix)

Bartholomeusz and accompanied by the talented organist Ashan De Silva. The choristers had great fun and fellowship with light refreshments after practices.

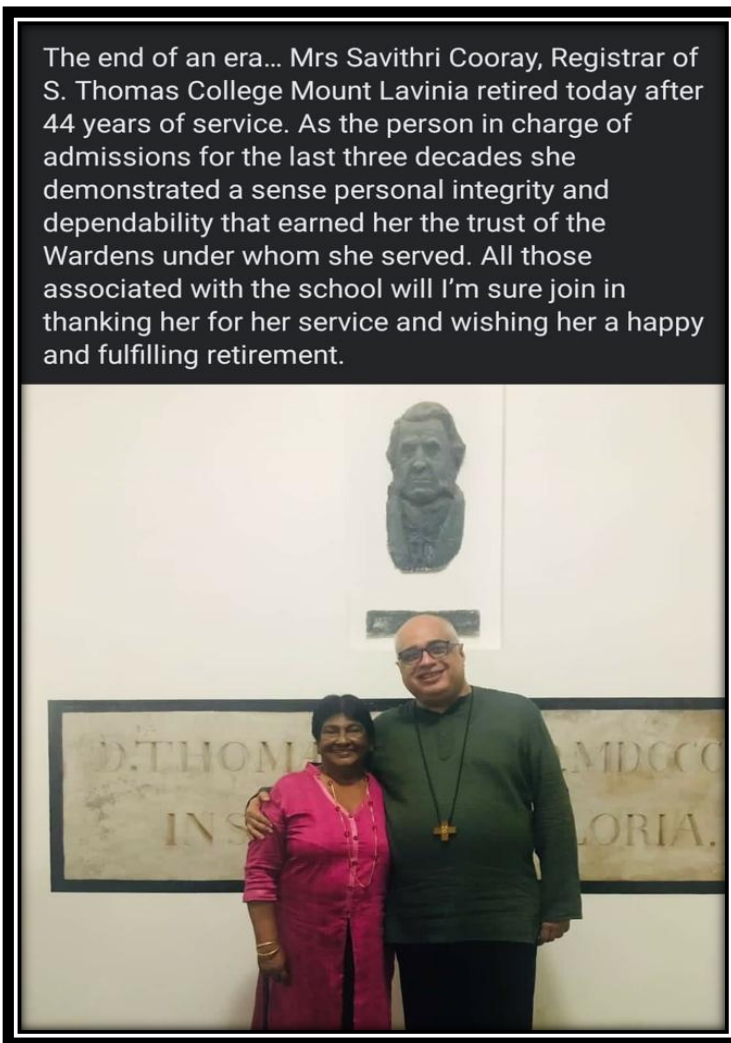
The committee faced challenges when our Thomian Priest was unavailable and however by God's grace we were privileged to have Dr Rev Ruwan Palapathwala, a Thomian, conduct the service. We were also privileged to have Ven Rev Philip Nesakumar Headmaster of St Thomas College Gurutalawa who was visiting Melbourne to give the address for the Carol service. Rev Nesakumar also conveyed the greetings from the Warden and other Headmasters of the branch schools and the Thomian family in Sri Lanka.

The traditional Festival of nine lessons and carols went well with the beautiful singing by the choir. In addition to the special English carols there was one Sinhala and Tamil Carol sung with gusto. Buddy Reid and Rodney Jansz provided pre carol service entertainment with their instrumental music. The service was well attended and followed by a fellowship with great food and fun. Thank you, gifts were given to the participants, with kids receiving some gifts as well.

NEWS FROM MOUNT LAVINIA

Retirement of Mrs. Savithri Cooray - Registrar

The end of an era... Mrs Savithri Cooray, Registrar of S. Thomas College Mount Lavinia retired today after 44 years of service. As the person in charge of admissions for the last three decades she demonstrated a sense personal integrity and dependability that earned her the trust of the Wardens under whom she served. All those associated with the school will I'm sure join in thanking her for her service and wishing her a happy and fulfilling retirement.



'Thank you for the Music' - Mr. G.R.L. Bartholomeusz 80th Birthday

Mr. G. R. L. Bartholomeusz had his secondary education at S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia from 1948 - 1959. At an early age he showed a love for all music but church music was what he was particularly drawn to, with a wonderful Alto voice and playing the organ.

He was a member of the Thomian choir when Rev. Canon Roy Bowyer-Yin was the choir master. Mr. Bartholomeusz as a diligent chorister, learnt much from his choir master and mentor 'Fr. Yin' as he was known to all, which was to be the foundation for his wonderful 40+ years of service to both S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia and the church. Thomian choristers are a family unto themselves and while there is an omerta on not identifying soloists or giving individual attention to any one chorister, it would be a failure to mention that Mr. Bartholomeusz was the soloist of the carol 'Once in Royal David's City' at the Thomian carol service for 3 consecutive years from 1954-1956. In 1956 he was part of the Thomian choir that provided the chorus for the Theatre Production Dido and Aeneas.

Upon leaving school, Mr. Bartholomeusz embarked on a career in architecture. Generations of students who had the privilege to learn from him would have noticed his meticulous detail in calligraphy (all Thomians tend to have the same style of flowing hand) and his ability to draw the music staves perfectly on the blackboard are testament to these skills. In 1959 Warden De Saram, who was then Vicar at St. Michael's Polwatte, invited Mr. Bartholomeusz to be organist there. Dedicated to his service almost to a fault, it is reliably understood that upon hearing the news of his father passing away, he still went to St. Michael's to play the organ at that evening's evensong. In 1963 the chapel was in need of an organist, and Rev. Yin requested Mr. Bartholomeusz to do so, in full confidence of the skills of his protege. Thomians young and old should note and forever be grateful to Mr. Bartholomeusz for giving up on his highly promising career in architecture



to take up this post, and thus began a lifelong service to the school.

In 1963, when Mr. Bartholomeusz was organist, Rev. L.G.B. Fernando was the choir master. However, in 1974, Mr. Bartholomeusz took over as both choir master and organist at S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia. In 1988, Warden Neville De Alwis with support from the Old Boys arranged for Mr. Bartholomeusz to visit the U.K. and broaden his experience in Church Music and as organist by visiting many churches and Cathedrals. In 1993 Mr. Bartholomeusz was appointed Precentor in lieu of his years of service even at that time, having led the musical life of the Chapel of the Transfiguration. Mr. Bartholomeusz was also Duty Master in the College Boarding during his tenure. Mr. Bartholomeusz retired from Service in 2004. Mr. Bartholomeusz was also the accompanist of the Colombo Philharmonic Choir for close upon 40 years, and also trained a Mount Lavinia neighbourhood choir 'The Joys of Singing' and later the 'Mount Lavinia Mens' Chorus'.

The Chapel as always was the centre of Mr. Bartholomeusz's service to the school but he also was a wonderful teacher of both English and Western Music, demanding high standards from all his students, and never letting up on any boy taking short cuts. Hard work and preparation was non-negotiable to both his choristers and also his students. As a great linguist, his Western Music Term examinations would blur the boundaries between testing ones knowledge of Music and deciphering an English riddle, ensuring students read the question carefully, and did not assume what the question was. His attention to detail was legendary, and all the Chapel Feast Services were of the highest traditions and symbolism as befitting a place of worship following the high church tradition of Anglicanism. Mr. Bartholomeusz was an absolute perfectionist and oversaw the transition of the Chapel's Hammond Organ from 1930 to The Allen Digital Computer System Organ – the first of its kind in Sri Lanka in 1986. The organ technicians were seen to marvel at the hours he spent having them get the tone

exactly to his requirement, spending several minutes on each note to get it 'just right'. In 1968 the mural of the Transfiguration was painted in the Chapel. It is well known that the image of Jesus was that of Rev. Roy Bowyer-Yin, but a little known fact is that the inspiration for the image of the disciple John was that of Mr. Bartholomeusz, 'the one with the curls' as he let slip at a choir practice on a few occasions.

It is no exaggeration, that the Chapel and its musical life owes much to Mr. Bartholomeusz. As we come together to participate at a Service of Thanksgiving on the occasion of Mr. Bartholomeusz's 80th Birthday (9th July), which is a testament to his amazing ability to nurture and inspire all those who had the privilege to be taught by him and their gratitude and opportunity to say 'Thank you, Sir'.



Special Choral Service of Thanksgiving for Mr. Russel Bartholomeusz, led by a choir of past and present choristers, was held on Wednesday 13th July 2022 at the College Chapel.

Courtesy: STCOBA (ML) website

Thomianawe value your opinion

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

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



S. Thomas' College **OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION**
 Mount Lavinia

Estb : 1886

The President
 S.Thomas' College Old Boys' Association Australia Branch
 Melbourne
 Australia

3rd November 2022

Dear Sir,

WALK A MILE – LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Old Boys' Association of S. Thomas' College Mt Lavinia, we sincerely thank the entire S.Thomas' College Old Boys' Association Australia Branch for the valuable contribution of Rs.800,000/- towards the Smart Classroom / Senior Quadrangle / Guruthalawa / New Pavilion / Walk-a-Mile project. Thanks to your generosity, the project was a grand success, making it the single largest, globally coordinated fund-raiser organized by the OBA in the 137 years of its existence. The Walk-a-Mile event too was a great success, in spite of inclement weather, attracting several thousands of participants which included Old Boys, Students, Parents, well-wishers and invitees from other schools as well as a global audience through the Live Stream.

Please find below a quick update of the overall Walk-a-Mile project status, to date:

Smart Classroom Project - Completed

The OBA has successfully completed fundraising activities and achieved our goal of equipping all remaining 80 classrooms with Smart Boards. All Smart Boards were installed prior to the Walk-a-Mile event and are now in operation, making STC Mt Lavinia one of the first schools to have all classrooms equipped with Smart Boards in Sri Lanka. We are confident that the Smart Boards will help teachers improve the standard of delivery of lessons, creating significant value to our students.

Senior Quadrangle Project – 3rd Phase - Completed

The OBA has successfully delivered on the commitment to fund 50% of the original infrastructure cost of this project. This phase of the building was declared open by the Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo, Lord Bishop of Colombo, on the 6th of October 2022.

The Guruthalawa Project - Completed

Through Walk A Mile and executed via the Guruthalawa OBA, we have been able to help raise much needed funds for projects to be carried out by STC Guruthalawa including new classrooms and other urgent infrastructure developments. Funds collected through the project have been transferred to STC Guruthalawa.

Pavilion Project – In Progress

The Walk-a-Mile project is expected to fund a substantial part of the total infrastructure cost of this project. We expect a shortfall of funds to complete this project, once the Walk-a-Mile accounts are finalized. Subsequent fund-raising efforts under the Walk-a-Mile umbrella may be organized to address any such shortfall.

Thank you again for your generous contribution towards the development of our beloved Alma Mater.

Esto Perpetua!

Sanjeev Paliawadana
 Hony. Secretary
 STCML OBA

Richard de Zoysa
 Project Chairman
 Walk-a-Mile Project

Chandana William
 Project Secretary
 Walk-a-Mile Project

EX OFFICIO PRESIDENT
 Rev. Marc Billimoria
warden@stcmount.lk
 +94 11 273 7173

HONY SECRETARY
 Mr. Sanjeev Paliawadana
secretary@stcmoba.com
 +94 77 340 2790

HONY TREASURER
 Mr. Ranil Goonetilleke
ranil@lionbeer.com
 +94 77 246 5980

LOOKING AFTER YOUR NEW CAR

Soon after I obtained my first car many years ago, I was told by my father (also an old Thomian!) that if I wanted to get the best use of this vehicle, I would have to actively look after it. This seemed obvious – but once he elaborated, I realised the real value of his advice.

“Many young men who buy their first car” he observed “are so happy with the new purchase that they forget to take proper care of it. Don’t wait until the car gets damaged or is obviously struggling to function before you take it to the garage mechanic. Ensure you get the car regularly serviced once a year – or whenever the manufacturer recommends that it should be serviced – so that small problems can be detected and rectified before they become big problems.”

“It is also important that if you detect any signs of malfunctioning yourself – an unusual noise, a change in the smooth-running noise of the engine, a failure to start when you put on the ignition – you should get the car seen by your mechanic before the problem gets worse.”

– and develop a good working relationship with them.”

Now, after working as a doctor for many years, I have realized that my father’s words of wisdom constituted valuable advice that can also be given to a human being who starts life with a healthy body.

Our bodies are not designed to last forever (which young men and women, flush with the exuberance and self-confidence of youth seldom realise. Young adults believe they are indestructible. Ill health and death are so far away beyond the horizon that one does not need to waste time even thinking about them.

But as we reach middle age, we suddenly realize that the years have flashed past and we ask ourselves “Where did the time go?” Our fitness level is no longer what it was when we were in College. We are now taking more tablets than we would like to – and we have become conscious of our mortality.

How can we transpose the advice about looking after a car to looking after our bodies?


Firstly, get yourself a preventive health examination when you start your first regular job. The Defence Force, the police and many companies now do this for new employees – but if it is not part of your company policy, get it done yourself. Consult a doctor who can ascertain if there are any conditions in your family (like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, glaucoma etc.) that can affect you as you get older. Have a baseline check of your height and weight, blood pressure, glucose level, cholesterol level, kidney function and liver function. If these are all within normal limits, you can do your next check-up in about five years. But if there is anything untoward, have an eye kept on things by your doctor with regular blood pressure checks or blood tests.

Next, if you notice some unusual new symptoms or anything untoward, don’t dismiss these clinical warning signs with a “No, I’ll be alright”! Go and see your doctor. Better to consult your doctor, discuss your symptoms, have yourself examined, perhaps have some tests done and be reassured that all is well rather than ignore the symptoms until the condition which the symptoms were trying to bring to your attention manifests as a disease beyond effective treatment.

Finally, just like finding a garage mechanic or a *Baas* for your car, find a doctor you can trust. Not the cleverest or most expensive specialist you have heard of, but a good general physician or GP who knows you well - and has time to listen.



Dr. Sanjiva Wijesinha (STCML 1956-1967) is a GP working in Melbourne. He was a surgeon in Sri Lanka and an associate professor at Monash University. More health articles are available on his webpage at sanjivawijesinha.com



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

I'll Always Remember!

My Alma Mater- the Latin meaning - my bounteous Mother! Happy memories bind, in affection for and loyalty to our Alma Mater, the Old Boy of ages ago with the Old Boy of only yesterday.

In the longest nine years of my life, between 1952 and 1960, my Alma Mater nurtured me and made me what I am. She instilled in me the courage to face the world outside, so that when I stepped outside the front gate beside the Chapel, for the last time as a student, in December 1960, I was ready to take the world on! I was one of her lesser children in academical achievement, but I am as good as the greatest of them she birthed, in my love for and gratitude to her.

College was the vast space in acres, beside the Mt. Lavinia sea, the majestic Chapel, the imposing buildings, the beautiful sports grounds and the many other facilities around. She was the vibrant spirit that was friends, fellows, Teachers and all the other staff, the Warden, Chaplain and not least, the "servants". Her spirit inspired pride and humility. When all else begins to fail, that pride and that humility, will remain constant.

I took my mind back to those nine years and the memories flooded in.

I dedicate this simple writing to all old Thomians, but especially to those who shared with me, those same years, in our beloved school by the sea.

Sundays were always special for me as a Chorister and a Server and then, in addition, as Senior Sacristan in the final years. Attention to the sermon depended on who delivered it. The Good Friday 3-hour service was an agony each year, to a degree that depended on the celebrant.

Sunday Sea Swim. About 10.00 am. Fr. Yin was in charge. I remember the Sunday when a small group of us swam out with him to where the contestants in the annual two-mile race from Mt. Lavinia Hotel to the Rock and back, passed within a few feet of us as we paddled the water. I was 13 and very frightened of the deep sea. But I was in very supportive company.

Evensong I loved and enjoyed Evensong. There seemed always to be a sombre, poignant atmosphere. "The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended". I enjoyed singing the psalms in a depleted choir, sitting in a small congregation of mainly boarders. I used to watch the patches of light from the beams of the setting sun, shining through the grill behind the priests pew, creeping up the carpet of the centre aisle and I felt "special" when I was lit up by a beam from behind!

We took a walk on the beach with a friend, after Evensong, generally to the hotel and back, before gathering at the dining hall for dinner.

Choir and Servers Guild holidays were always enjoyable fun times. There was the annual day off from school at San Michele Island. One year, instead of travelling on the barge with the other boys and Fr. Yin, I swam across from the mainland to the island. It was not much of a distance, but the water was black and looked treacherous, full of imagined water snakes and thalagoyas!

I enjoyed the annual holiday at S. Thomas' College, Gurotalawa, at the end of the first term. We travelled up and back by train in a compartment reserved for us and of course, we sang and sang, all the "pub" songs and bailas of that time, along the way. The whole day hikes to Nuwara Eliya, Haputale, Bandarawala, Horton

Plains and Idalgashinna were great challenges I looked forward to, amongst many other fun activities. I remember Dr. and Mrs: Hayman as well as Fr. A.J. Foster, Chaplain, in 1952 and 1953. Fr. Foster dared me to swim a mile in the pool and to dive from the 5-meter board. I took him on and won two slabs of chocolates.

Wednesday. Assembly. Short school day. The entire school gathered in the school hall to hear the Warden address the Assembly. The Warden entered on to the stage through a side door on the west side, having climbed about 5 steep timber steps. I remember well, an Assembly on the quadrangle, because of the bothersome insects, warm sun and inaudible Warden.

Saturdays. Boarders were allowed 5 hours Exeat leave every fortnight and weekend leave once a month. On 5 hours leave, I went home in Wellawatte to visit my mother and then a Thosai or Chinese lunch somewhere, followed by a "picture" at the Savoy or Majestic cinema. The Liberty and Regal were too far, but we sometimes dared to go there, only to get back to college a little late for "Prep" and receive a reprimand or punitive punishment from the prefect on duty.

Hostel food. As a meek "fresher" in Chapman Jnr. in 1952, 1st: Term, I had to go without lunch on a few occasions. The rice was served in 3 large dishes, with a saucer to serve, on the table. Some of the boys had very big appetites and no concern for the others so that the dishes were empty before I had a serve. Of course, I was too timid to ask or complain!

It was in 1952 that one night, the boarders went on strike at dinner, protesting against the poor-quality food and lack of variety. There were meetings between representatives of the boarders and the lady in charge, Mrs. Gauder and the Head Master of the boarding and/or the Warden. Very quickly, there was a distinct all-round improvement in the food.

Before the meal -" For what we are about to receive, may the Lord's name be praised." After the meal -" For what we have received, may the Lord's name be praised" - said by a Christian Prefect or Senior.

Lower 4. 1952. Our heights and weights were checked and recorded. Next, our athletic prowess was tested. On the big club grounds—100yards dash; high jump; long jump; I was mediocre, short for my age and skinny. I never became one of dear Brookie's favourite athletes.

We were vaccinated and inoculated, I do not remember against what, at different times, over the years. Long queues, fast moving, outside the Sick Room. A few faintings, but generally, all brave.

Confirmation 1953. Confession was terrifying. The bad words, the anger, the little acts of innocent mischief! But I was only 13. The Bishop of Colombo, the Right Revd:

Rollo Campbell laid his hands on my head and confirmed me as an Anglican Christian. Piety-ful for a while!

The American Evangelist, Billy Graham, came to Colombo in 1953. A small group of us, Adrian de Silva, Harold van Twest, Viren de Mel, Jan Van den Driesen and myself, from Chapman Jnr., were given permission to attend an evening rally outside the Colombo Town Hall. Piety returned for a while.

Rain Holiday. Pouring rain from about 7.00 am. Day boys were getting soaked, getting to school. The hopeful waiting and then, the announcement, at about 8.30am. Holiday! Beauty!! Then the rain ceased about half an hour later!

On Report. I did not truly deserve to be put 'on report' ever, between the Lower 4 and Upper 6th, because I was a diligent student. I came First in class in the third term of the Lower 4th, 1952. It was not a pleasant experience, standing in a queue, on a Wednesday afternoon, after lunch, outside the Warden's office in Thalassa, to show my report to him for his signature, when I was in Upper 6C, 1956. It was not for long, but it was that eccentric, lovable Mr. LGB Fernando's way of bringing out my Mathematical best, when he sensed that I had some distractions. I am grateful to him for my distinction in Mathematics at the SSC 1956, which I obtained along with many other students in Upper 6C that year.

Caning. I was never caned by the Warden. I came very close to being caned by my House Master in Chapman Jnr. in 1952, Mr. Viji Hensman, in a group, for no fault of mine. For no explicable reason, he changed his mind at the very last moment and dismissed us. However, The Head Prefect, Percy Gunasena, in 1953, rapped me on the knuckles with the blunt edge of a foot ruler, in the Prefects room after dinner one night, for throwing bread balls.

Soccer I was the last under 17 College Captain of Soccer. I loved the game

Fives I admired the tough seniors who hammered that little black ball with all their might and found the "butt" or 5th: wall. Sometimes, a split finger or palm. I enjoyed playing Fives. Sadly, it is no more in College.

Volleyball How true to the spirit of our Alma Mater, that senior boarders would join the "servants" to play the game in the evenings, in the early '50s. Sadly, that game is also no more in college.

The Royal/Thomian Weekend. In 1952, a Tent ticket cost Rs 1/75cts: In 1960, it was Rs 3/75 cts: Special buses were organised to take the boarders to and fro, over the two days. In 1960, R.A.V. Bandaranayake (Ranjith) was Head Prefect. I was his deputy. It was our job to organise the distribution of and sale of tent ticket books, the production of the Thomian Souvenir with

advertisements, the catering at the Thomian Tent as well as the Prefects tent, the prefects' positions and duties and the prefects transport to and from the venue, which was the Tamil Union Oval. The Police were in attendance. In 1958, a huge crowd of mainly "recent" Old Boys, stormed the main gate where Errol Jacotine was on duty, knocked him down to the ground and then stormed the Thomian tent, at the entrance of which I was on duty, a brand-new Prefect! They knocked me down and entered the tent. I do not remember what the issue was! That was the year, I think, that barricades were set up around the ground and Army and Navy personnel were on duty. I think it was because of the unrest in the country over the anti-shri campaign which led to the racial riots later in the year.

Racial Riots - 1958. College was closed down. A select group of about 30 boarders, chose to stay back, to guard the college. I was one of them and I had the most traumatic experience of my life, when, with 3 other prefects and Canon de Saram, Warden, I attended to a dying Tamil man who had been bashed and set alight with petrol. I have written about this experience elsewhere.

We cycled round Ceylon in 13 days 1958. "Jockey" de Zoysa and I set off at the end of the 1st Term. I cycled on my own from Wellawatte to Jockeys home in Boosa. His account of our trip can be found elsewhere. This was a life experience!

We hiked through central Ceylon, 22 days, at the end of Term 1, 1959. Jockey's account appears elsewhere. This was also a life experience. We went through incredible feats of bravery and endurance.



Maurice Fairweather and I. We cycled upcountry, in December 1959, first stop was his Uncle Mano and Aunt Daisy's beautiful tea plantation bungalow, in Matale. That Christmas, in their home, along with Maurice, was the most beautiful in my teen years. That cycling trip was also a life experience!

The Inaugural Inter - house Drama Competition 1960 There was not a lot of time. I asked a chap in Miller A, Wijewardane, an Arts student, to come up with something suitable for us to stage. A few days later he came to me with a draft of a play he had written. I did not think it was good enough, so I took on the responsibility. I rewrote the "Assassination" scene from "Julius Caesar". I selected the cast, involving as many boys as possible. I designed the costumes - bed sheets as togas, thongs with straps up to the calves and a strap

around the fore head. Wijewardane, Leslie Brainerd, another chap whose name I do not remember and I, played the main parts. I conducted the rehearsals. The judges were :- Mr. R.F.L. Mendis (Rifle); Fr. Yin; Mr. F.J. Seneviratne; Victor Walatara. Held in the college hall, the entire Upper school was the audience. **We won**, beating De Saram House under the direction of Shanthi Paranavitane.

Drama Society. The Master-in-charge was Mr. "Rifle" Mendis. Shanthi Paranavitane and I played the main characters in his production of "The Merchant of Venice", staged in the college hall. The public and students from other schools attended. I think this was in 1957. I think it was in the same year that the choristers supplemented a cast of professional actors in the public performance of "Dido and Aeneas" at Ladies College Hall.

Prize Giving Day. A day looked forward to by all the winners each year and I count myself among them. But more importantly it was a day looked forward to by every student, because at the end of the Head Prefects address, he would request the Chief Guest to ask the Warden to declare a school holiday on the Monday following, which was granted to a thunderous cheer. In 1960, as Head Prefect, I delivered the address. **Prizes** I won the choir prize, servers prize and the chapel Readers prize. I won the Senior Biology Prize in 1956 and the Senior Oratorical Prize in 1960.

The Annual Carol Service It was very special to me. In 1954, I sang the entrance carol "Once in Royal David's City". In 1960, my final Carol Service, I sang all the Tenor solos. I have a tape recording of the Service, which I treasure with pride. The party after the Carol Service, at the Wardens bungalow, for the choristers, was much enjoyed. The congregation each year was enormous, spilling out onto the front steps.

Old Boys' Day Celebrations. The various matches between Old and Present boys were interesting to watch - Cricket, Hockey, Water-Polo, that I remember! It was invariably, a gathering of the most famous, the most powerful, the richest and the best men in the country! I have no doubt they all enjoyed the traditional lunch of rice, beef curry, parippu curry and pol sambol!

The Annual Dorm Feed With the amalgamation of the houses in 1956, they became competitive between Miller-Chapman and Copleston- Cloughton. Up to 1955, my contribution to a low-key, much enjoyed Dorm-Feed in Chapman House, was a large tin of Marshmallows made by my two sisters!

Duck Pond. I was thrown in a few times as a "fresher" in Term 1, 1952, in my pyjamas!

Christening In January 1952, I was one of about 5 "freshers" in Chapman Junior. It seemed like I was the focus of a special group of about 10 veterans, with a

“hard core” of 4, who were the “administrators” of the ritual and I can only guess the reason why. During the term and at the end of it, I was subjected to the worst they could think of and it drove me to becoming suicidal. But by the end of the second term, it was all forgiven and forgotten.

Lavos. There were never enough tins for water. It was a matter of knocking on a closed door and calling out “Tin after you, I am in No:3”. It became a bit of a rush, if the tin had a leak!

The Turd in the Pool. One Saturday, in the early '50s at a 4.00 pm swim, the pool was crowded with junior boarders, when someone spied a “**turd**” floating atop the ripples at the shallow end and shouted out. There was a panic-stricken scramble out of the pool and we all stood at the edge, gazing in disgust at this ugly evidence of the total disregard that someone amongst us had for the rest of us. The atmosphere changed dramatically when a “joker” commented aloud “Thank God it is hard!” and we all laughed.

Nude Bathing. As Juniors, we wore shorts when we had a bath in the cisterns. But as Seniors, we bathed nude. In 1956, 1st Term, about 20 juniors went up to the senior dorms. The second day of “senior life” happened to be a Saturday. That afternoon, a senior from Copleston A, rounded up all the “freshers” in the senior dorms and ordered us to go to the senior cisterns, in our towels, for a bath. We were all very shy and embarrassed. I remember David Jonklaas, from Copleston B, being the first to be ordered to take off his towel and get under the tap-- and so we were “broken in” to nude bathing at the senior cisterns. The senior who organised this event was the late Tassie Seneviratne, a great and very popular Thomian.

Tuck Shop—the lady in charge [I do not remember her name], Samaris and Sirisena, were such good people, unsung service providers! The lime juice, the mas pang on Wednesdays, stringhoppers, beef curry and sambol—how I enjoyed them!

Miscellaneous There was the affable public drunk, **Julius Perera**, an old Thomian, on the street and at the big match, in the early '50s, a contemporary of some of the Thomian elite in the VIP stand. There was the “mad” vagrant, an old Thomian, name forgotten, who occasionally parked himself on weekends, overnight, outside the last classroom at the Chapel end of the main classroom block, in the early '50s. As juniors, we were scared of him. There were our wonderful teachers, the office staff, the caretakers of the grounds and swimming pool, the dining hall, kitchen and dormitory “servants”, chapel boy, class room peon and bell boy, Chemistry lab, Physics lab: and Biology lab: assistants, life in the boarding, being a Prefect. So much more is remembered, but so much for now.



Lynwood Stork

Lynwood was at STCML (1952-1960) and was in the boarding (Chapman Jnr and Miller House) throughout his time at College. He was the Head Prefect in 1960, Captain of Basketball and won colours in both Basketball and first XV Rugby; and also represented College in Diving and Debating. Lynwood was a Senior Chorister and Choir Leader. He migrated to Australia with his family in 1976 and has been a member of the OBA for many decades. Since his retirement 1993, he and his family now live in a 20-acre property in Ravenswood,



S. Thomas' College, Old Boys Association,
Australian Branch Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Friday 10th February 2023

TIME: 6.30 p.m. Registration; Meeting commences at 7.00 p.m.

VENUE: Mount Waverley Youth Centre, 45 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley, Vic 3149

Did
you
know?

Facts about College

The College Colours / Flag



The College uses the colours dark blue & black. The necessity for instituting colours for the school was considered by Warden Miller in 1883. In a letter to his wife in England, he wrote that the general opinion is that the best combination would be one of dark blue and black; black in the middle and blue outside. The College Colours were begun to be used on 15th January 1885.

There is also a general interpretation of the College Colours. Blue is the colour of the sea and the sky which is eternal and infinite. It stands for all that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy and most of all divine. Black is the colour of darkness, ignorance, sin, shame and all that is evil & sad.

The blue meets the Black, but it does not stop there. Instead, it emerges as Blue again. That which is of positivism, optimism and divine meets that of negativism, pessimism and diabolical, and emerges and triumphs in the end. In other words, we believe in things of God, virtue and goodness that which is positive and dynamic; and victorious over all that are sinful and hateful.

The College Motto

The College Motto '*Esto Perpetua*' was used since the early days of inception of the College. This fundamental, which is from Eton College England was introduced by our founder Bishop Chapman.

It is worth mentioning that when the College was adopting the medallion of S. Thomas' as the crest, the phrase '*Pro Deo et Ecclesia*' was being used under it. This in English means '*For God & Church*'.

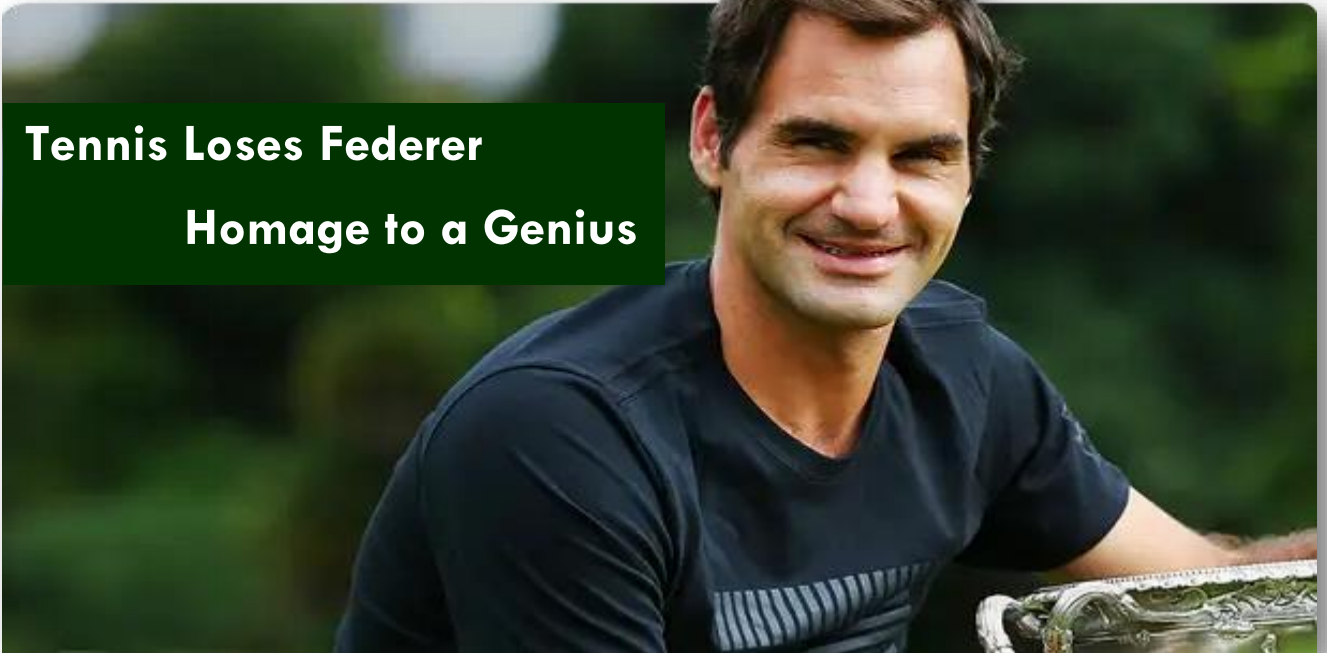
Therefore, the whole message of the College motto is that of a blessing of which S. Thomas' may flourish forever for the betterment of God & His Church.



Capsule History of the College – First 30 years (1849 - 1879)

1849	Foundation stone laid in Mutwal by the Founder, Bishop Chapman
1851	The Institution was opened by Bishop Chapman, the Bishop of Colombo.
1852	The Warden Rev. Cyril Wood having arrived from England, the College was formally opened
1854	Dedication of the Cathedral, which was used as the College Chapel
1862	College was affiliated with University of Calcutta
1871	The Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship was granted
1875	The School Magazine was first published. It is the oldest journal of its kind in the country
1879	There were 100 boys in the school of which 30 were boarders
1879	The first Royal Thomian Cricket Encounter played only by students. The match had been played in the previous years but the teams included Teachers representing each side along with the students

Tennis Loses Federer Homage to a Genius



TENNIS LOSES FEDERER - HOMAGE TO A GENIUS

Roger Federer, the most celebrated Tennis player in history, after an illustrious two-decade career, departs the arena he graced with such virtuosity. Over an improbably long period he dominated in the most star-studded period of professional Tennis, unarguably that which showcased the greatest depth of talent of any era.

Federer concedes his mortality with the same dignity and equanimity, with which he has greeted both victory and defeat, the defining features of his public conduct over the years. It has been a stellar display, definable only in superlatives- even at the risk of sounding mawkish. Ideally, instead of this gradual fade-out, loyal fans would have cherished a more spectacular finale, a dream farewell, but sport is cruelly indifferent, even to its icons.

Like all greats who enforce change on their domain, Federer imposed his writ on his sport. To match his authority, delivered with silken skill, he forced rivals to improvise, restructure, to reach in to unsuspected depths and, in the process, to uplift their own competencies. That the top twenty in the last two decades, Roddick,

Nadal, Djokovic, Murray, Wawrinka, Berdych and Hewitt included, became the players that they are, is in large measure due to the excellence and the challenge Federer presented. Had he not been around, his opponents would have been lesser players, lesser men.

In a sport which was subsiding in to constant, tedious contests, amongst a group of lusty base-line hitters with massive forehands and looping double-fisted backhands, Federer re-conjured a vanished finesse; the beauty of all-court shot-making, comprising a captivating mix of serve and volley, mid-court aggression and delicate passing shots, threading invisible gaps with surgical precision, reinforced by dexterous serving and solid back-court play.

Shot-for-shot, in the bread-and-butter armoury of all good Tennis players, through all his playing years Federer was superseded in consistency and power, by most of his close rivals. In an era when 200 kmph serves are a commonality, in terms of speed Federer was unexceptional. One could easily name a dozen players, some of them not even in the top hundred, who would out-gun the maestro on a given day. Yet, in terms of

total career aces , Federer is third in the list, not far behind the two giant artillerymen, Isner and Karlovich.

When talking of powerful single-handed backhands, the names that come to mind are Wawrinka, Gasquet and, latterly, Thiem, Tsitsipas and Shapovalov. Federer is not the natural first. Forehands were delivered with greater power and consistency, by Del Potro, Djokovic, Nadal, Berdych, Verdasco and a host of other, lesser players. Amongst the top ten serve-volley specialists of the last three decades, Federer rates an honourable mention, but pundits would not rank him above Cash, McEnroe, Edberg, Sampras, Becker, Stich or even Henman. His return of serve was reliable but rarely exceptional, mostly a neutral shot to ease him in to the point. In that department he will not be rated above Agassi, Nadal, Murray, Djokovic or Hewitt.

Given the superiority of all those players in specific aspects of the game, what enabled Federer's lengthy dominance over a host of rivals, with individual weapons bigger than anything in his arsenal ?

One can talk of Federer's court coverage, a dance choreographed personally by the master , feathery light on his feet, an exhibition of fluid, balletic grace; the unreadable serve, delivered with identical action, whether down the centre or nicking the side lines; the back-hand down the line, its classic beauty masking the raw power; the topspin, back-hand cross-court flick, from deep in the ad-court, defying the mechanical limitations on shot-making and conjuring angles a double-fisted hitter would envy; the flat , rocketing, off-forehand, delivered at full stretch, described by John McEnroe, a genius of an earlier era, as the "greatest shot in our sport"; the running passes on both wings; the reflex volleys from mid-court and the overhead smashes with feet three feet off the ground, the backhand smash and the "tweener".

Perhaps it was all of these, combined with the freshness that he brought to the game, the elegant all-court artistry, beguilingly creative, its freedom of expression defying the fear of error percentages, confident that the winners would eventually override the errors; a magical shot-making, his racquet a fencer's foil, probing chinks in the opponent's armour.

His brilliance is captured by McEnroe, commentating at Wimbledon a few years ago; from his deuce court Federer delivers an explosive backhand return winner, against a massive first serve, the ball nicking the side-line of the opponent's service box, and McEnroe declaims in awed tones, "that shot does not exist, It Does Not Exist !!!" Federer made the impossible look both

casual and natural, persuading the spectator that genius was a universally attainable goal.

Yet, this audacity , with minimal margin for error, was constantly shadowed by the likelihood of failure, particularly against more conservative opponents. Some of Federer's significant losses are attributable to the high-risk nature of his game. But it was also his vulnerability, which enthralled and kept the audience on edge, all the time.



Poetry In Motion - Federer at Wimbledon

Federer had no formula, unlike the more calculating Djokovic , who relied on the metronomic precision of repetitive shot-making , with minimal variation from the first to the last stroke, even in a forty-shot rally; or Nadal, the man who troubled Federer the most, shackling opponents with relentless, top-spin, baseline bludgeoning; or the choleric, unhappy, Murray, scrambling from side-to-side like a terrier, constantly at war with himself, his impregnable defence more effective than his attack. In stark contrast to all his peers, Federer in full flow was a joyous exhibition of spontaneity and improvisation.

Federer's genius was summed up best by a great of a different era, Jimmy Connors, who once said, " in an era of specialists you are either a clay court specialist , a grass court specialist, a hard court specialist.....or you are Roger Federer ".

How does one define greatness in sport? Statistics, of course, are a prime consideration. Federer has 20 Major Singles titles in his cupboard, surpassed recently by both Nadal and Djokovic. He has figured in some of the most scintillating duels in the history of Tennis, most of which he has won. The only warp in a glittering tapestry is his record against Nadal who, as the Aussies would say, had the "wood on him". But that too has to be viewed in context. In 40 encounters, of the 24-16 tally in Nadal's favour, 14 of Federer's losses are on

clay, a surface on which Nadal, unarguably, has no peer. On the faster surfaces Federer leads, 19-11.

Federer's supremacy fostered magnificent rivalries which enriched tennis of his period, in a manner not seen in any previous era. Apart from Nadal, against Djokovic it is 27-23 in favour of the Serb with the rigidly structured game, 23-3 against Wawrinka, 14-11 against Murray and 17-6 against Berdych. Against Roddick, who himself said that given Federer's 21-3 dominance that there was no rivalry, 18-9 against Hewitt and 15-5 against the giant Del Potro; reaching further back when Federer was yet to cement his superiority, it is 11-8 against both Safin and Nalbandian and 8-3 with Agassi.

Federer's supreme individualism does not leave a legacy for new entrants to inherit. Rigidly structured playing styles, which regularly produce thousands of clones in tennis courts the world over, are based on pre-determined formulae, supported by proven results and easily passed on from coach or academy to aspiring players. In the universal context of production-line tennis, Federer's talent was a radiant aberration. Out on the court Federer wrote a script birthed in his own psyche.

What of Roger Federer, the man? Great athletes tend to be viewed only in the context of the discipline that they dominate. Similarly, Federer the man is largely obscured by Federer the tennis player, with his involvement in and contribution to worthy causes rarely reaching the public eye. There is the Roger Federer Foundation for disadvantaged children, totally funded by him, and its affiliation with the South Africa – Swiss Charity, IMBEWU, to assist disadvantaged African children in sports, social and health awareness. In addition there is the leadership he has provided, through numerous sporting events, to generate funds for disaster victims all over the world. Federer, clearly, is a rare synthesis of sporting greatness and civic goodness.

Federer is also the only athlete of the Open era, to combine an obviously busy family life with that of being a world top five player. In an unrelentingly demanding sport, which precludes distractions outside the game, Federer is clearly a dedicated family man at the head of a large and loving family. This sense of proportion and balance, the awareness of the transient nature of supremacy in a sport, and the active contribution to a greater calling outside that dominance, invests Federer's persona with a completeness, that no other great of the game has demonstrated in his playing days.

The "Greatest of All Time" (GOAT) debate needs mention, even briefly, in any dialogue involving Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. The Serb, with his growing collection of majors, may finally be defined, statistically, as the best craftsman of all time whilst the Spaniard, with his tenacity and physicality, is already spoken of as the toughest opponent of the Open era. However, greatness embraces multiple dimensions. For instance, it cannot admit the international embarrassment that Djokovic is, today. Greatness is a composite of longevity and successful outcomes, reinforced by visual beauty, lethality of delivery, impeccable conduct, charisma, and the respect accorded by society. It is as much about style and manner of execution, and influence outside the sport, as it is about win-loss statistics.

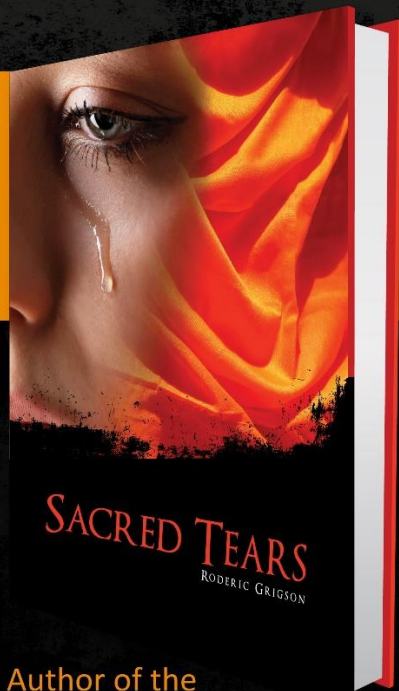
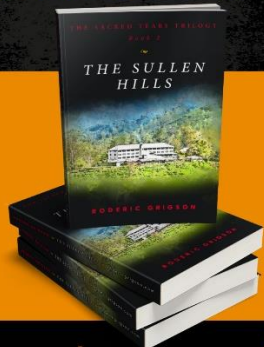
Federer's on-court conduct was invariably civil and understated, untainted by the often embarrassingly theatrical bellicosity and provocative histrionics of some of the other stars. That timeless grace extended beyond the court and inhabited his public persona as well. He is still the superstar of Tennis, continuing to transcend the sport despite the decline of his on-court dominance. In the Open Era, no other player has impacted the game as beneficially, as Federer has done. The retirement of no other tennis player has evoked such universal regret, acclaim and tributes, especially from former opponents and fellow contestants. Given all those elements, Federer, the supreme aristocrat of Tennis, wins the GOAT contest, hands down. Federer was the greatest, in a time of greats.

Federer's career was akin to a glowing comet traversing the Tennis galaxy. Sadly, whilst other galactic wayfarers return at predictable intervals, this is one stellar being who is destined to disappear in to the sun. There will be no heir because he leaves behind no mould for recasting. What a bereaved Tennis world is left with is an enduring legacy of displays of genius, of consummate artistry, unique to the man. The statistics of his dominance will always be available for analysis but the elegance, the grace, and the unimpeachable conduct, both on and off the court, must remain enshrined in collective memory, particularly for those fortunate enough to have witnessed the peerless athlete in his prime.



**Anura Gunasekera (STCML 1955-1966)
21st Sept 2022**

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



Available for sale on Amazon and through the authors website www.rodericgrigson.com

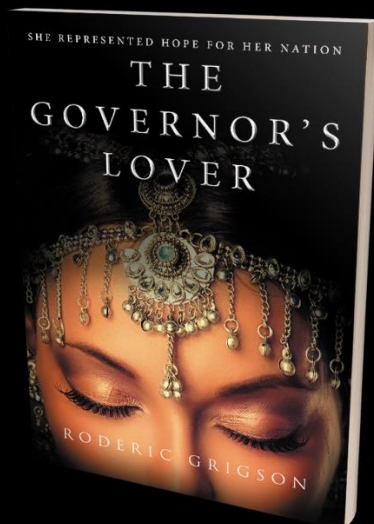
Sri Lankan born, Australian writer
RODERIC GRIGSON

Author of the

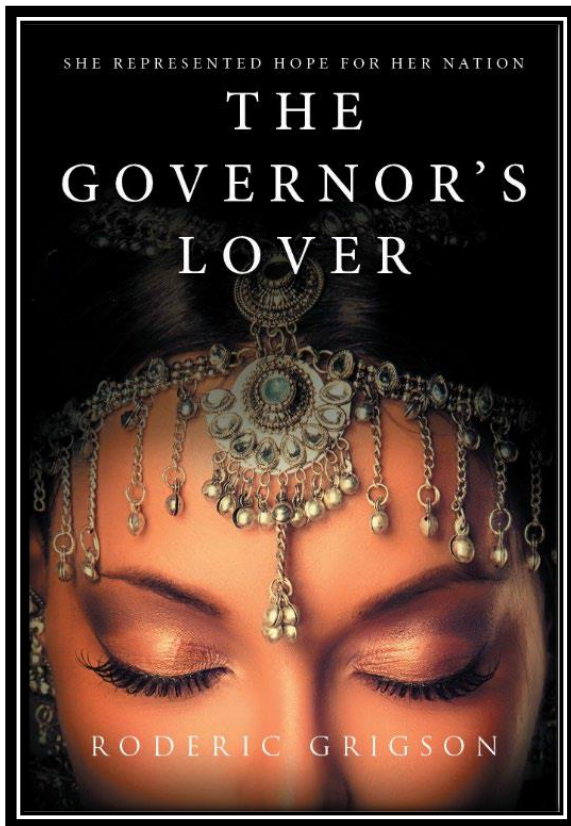
SACRED TEARS TRILOGY

His latest book ...

Available for sale on Amazon or by contacting the author.



THE GOVERNOR'S LOVER BOOK REVIEW



It is 1805, and the new Governor of the Crown Colony of Ceylon has just arrived to take up his post in the country. The Kandyan War continues unabated in the hill country and the local half-Sinhalese, half-Portuguese beauty, Lovinia, experiences the impact of these events on her blossoming life.

Imagine being transported to Colonial Ceylon and guided on a journey of love, lust, and intrigue over 200 hundred years ago. This is exactly what author Roderic Grigson achieves with his evocative descriptions in his fourth novel, "*The Governor's Lover*".

Grigson tells the story of the forming relationship between Lovinia, the lead dancer in her father's dance troupe, and the newly arrived Governor, Sir Thomas Maitland. A relationship that has the power to change her fortune and that of her father and family, whom she loves dearly. She is torn between two very different lives and must choose to follow her heart or her head.

History provides stories that must be kept alive to understand how different cultures developed and grew. I was quickly lost in the beauty, enchantment, and mystery of Lovinia and this time and place in history. By the end of the first chapter, drawn to her mystique and left with a desire to know more about her story – past, present, and future, I could not put the book down.

So important is this story to Sri Lanka's recent history that the town of Galkissa, where their clandestine relationship took place, was renamed Mount Lavinia in honour of the female protagonist in the narrative. The mansion built for the Governor as his country retreat went on to be the well-known Mount Lavinia Hotel, one of the oldest hotels in Asia.

However, while history offers us this fascinating basic narrative, it leaves us with little else. Was this another love story, or was there much more to this dalliance?

The well-researched novel combines historical facts with spell-binding fiction, and you have a real page-turner. It immerses the reader into life in Ceylon during the early 1800s, painting a vivid picture of the opulent colonial lifestyle enjoyed by the ruling British class against a backdrop of poverty, anger and resentment among the locals who have lost their country to the European invaders.

So well presented are the areas in question that they force the reader to see the country in a new way and appreciate the historical significance of these neighbourhoods.

Surrounding the two main protagonists is a cast of equally intriguing characters who are each worthy of a story. They help to provide depth and texture and give the reader a real appreciation for life during those times.

The author's experience growing up in Ceylon and his knowledge of the country have allowed him to put the reader right in the middle of the events in the story. His effortless writing style, carried through this novel and all his previous novels, creates a sense of excitement through its unexpected twists and turns.

More importantly, through the characters' lives, the book presents the internal conflict and conviction that we all encounter, showing us that nothing is as simple as "just a love story".

A fascinating read.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/0648419088>

College Teachers can “Raise us up to be more than we can be!”

Many Thomians have great memories of their time at St Thomas' College (College) with their classmates and teachers who nurtured and guided them. Teachers at College came in different guises-as learned educators, pundits, mentors, advisors, disciplinarians or ultra-disciplinarians. This is true of other schools' I have attended.

I have met many old Thomians who reminisce with fondness the teachers who mentored them, and a few who carry hurts from the 'trivial words' that were spoken to them by some teachers or 'soul wounds' from the uncalled for 'facial manipulations' at the hands of teachers. These teachers have prepared us in many ways for the good times, and to endure the challenges in life to deal with people who have a different point of view.

I joined St Thomas' College, Mount in 1964 from St Thomas' Prep Kollupitiya. I enjoyed my time with my friends from Form One to Upper Fourth. We had good calibre of teachers who were keen to impart their knowledge and wisdom.

In Form One, I had Mrs. Karunaratne who was an excellent English teacher and taught us the basics from 'Path to Parnassus' and the intricacies of the English language. Her husband was briefly the lower school headmaster before Mr. Deutram David took over the helm wielding his cane at many a 'fearful' young boy. I also enjoyed the teaching approaches of Mrs. Samuel in history and geography and subsequently Mrs. Jacob.

Singing classes always excited us. Our young minds were given a glimpse of the future by the enigmatic Ms. June Boralessa and Ms. Doreen Abeywardene. Their charm was balanced by Mrs. Jayasekera who encouraged our singing talents.

During our singing classes in first term, we were grouped as singers or 'non-singers.' Some of us sang 'off tune' and were labelled as 'non-singers.' I thought this was not a good show as my mother sang and conducted choirs. The next term I decided to change my accent and sang in a British accent; to my relief I was promoted to the singer's group! This incident demonstrated to me that teachers can be flexible when we made an effort. Years later this act gave me the confidence to sing at another school choir and subsequently in Australia.

In Form Two, I had the lovely Ms. Olga de Alwis who too wore impressive sarees and blouses which worked on the imagination of the young boys. She was also a Cub teacher, and hence some of us joined the Cubs to enjoy her 'maternal' care.

Life changed in July 1965 when my father, The Rev John Selvaratnam became the Warden at College. I therefore decided I had to keep a low-profile in order to keep out of trouble. However, his 're-moulding of the school standards' had some interesting effects on his two sons!

In Lower Third, Mr. Leo de Silva was our class teacher. He was feared by some. I have been told that he would hold a boy by their shirt outside the window of the first floor- though I have never observed this feat! Mr Leo instilled in us the joy of learning English. He was also our Cub Master and taught us the importance to be good citizens.

I had Mr. Brodie in Lower Third and Mr. Manickam Atputharaja in the Upper Third who were also our Under 12 team cricket coaches. The basics in cricket I learnt from them, and later Mr. Ponniah and Mr. Jayasinghe in the Under 14 helped me subsequently in playing first eleven cricket at St John's College, Jaffna where I carried the bat and scored an unbeaten century. The skills and tenacity learnt from the two schools helped me to play cricket in Melbourne at the Northcote District Cricket Club, where Australian cricketers Bill Lawry, Gary Cosier and Rod Hogg played. My special thanks to Mr. Jayasinghe who was the assistant Under 14 cricket coach and nominated me to the squad. I am eternally grateful to him. The love of cricket and the contacts helped me later in looking after

the sports injuries of the Victorian cricket team, and the Sri Lankan cricket team during their early visits to Australia and the World Cup squad in 1996.

Mrs. Bandaratileke was our teacher in Upper Third. She was called "Pirimi Sappathu" because she was the only lady in College who wore shoes that resembled men's shoes! She was a superb English teacher and she along with Mrs. Jayasekera gave me the confidence to act in many plays in College.

In 1968 we progressed to Middle School which brought in an era of new friends from St Thomas' Prep. We had Mr. Satchithanathan who was our class teacher. He was a dynamic teacher and enjoyed using the back of his hand to discipline his students!!

Geometry and algebra took a dip to the South Pole with the joy of being taught by Mr K. Karalukulasingham. He had 'soul wounds' in his life that made him very intimidating. I certainly did not enjoy learning mathematics under duress which made me consider changing schools.

I recall my father had to discipline a few teachers who were scooting out of school early in the afternoon to give tuition or to conduct 'boogie classes.' On one occasion Mr K did not like one of my father's decisions. Hence, on one fine day Mr K selected ten of us after a class test and brandished our soft faces with "ten of his best" with the palms of his hands. We took it like men with this 'facial treatment extraordinaire!'

I found that one had to forgive teachers who hurt them to move on in life or else one has a 'hangover' of being a victim for the rest of their life!

One of the outstanding teachers I had was Mrs. V Welikala. She was an amazing class teacher and taught us English. She was an exceedingly kind teacher who had exceptional talents of guiding teenagers in a very impressionable stage of their life.

The Middle school headmaster was Mr. C S Weerasinghe. He was referred to as 'Pol Weera.' Though he was strict he was incredibly supportive of the leadership in the school and encouraged boys to try their absolute best. We got to know him better as Prefects in the middle school.

Mr. Thambithurai taught us the basics of science. He came first off the rank 'courting' Ms. Swarna Navaratnam the 'belle' at College when she came to teach us Art for a term. Mr. Wilson was referred to as "Kotiya" and taught us history. He was strict but kept his wrath for his son who was in our class. Mr. Devathason was referred to as "Dos" and taught us Latin which improved my understanding of English and later the study of anatomy. I also studied Sinhala from the Principal of the Montessori next door, Mrs. Nita Silva, J.P. which helped me tremendously in preparing for the GCE O/L.

I recall Mr. Orville Abeynaike, the first eleven cricket coach. Orville was a gentle man in the real sense of the word. In 1964 we beat Royal in the "Big Match" under the captaincy of PNW Gunasekera. In 1965 Anura Tennekoon became captain and that year "Attaya" as he was known, because of his slim stature, was selected to play against the West Indies. Anura subsequently captained Sri Lanka. We enjoyed the cricketers visiting the Warden's home just before the Big Match for the "blessings" from the Warden. These visits were enjoyed by my sister Sulo and her teenage Ladies' College friends who used to visit and enjoy serving 'brunch' and 'brushing' shoulders with the talented cricketers. No wonder our boys were 'distracted' during the 1969 'Big Match'!!

Though Orville was mild mannered he was terribly upset with the captaincy of Dennis Chanmugam during the "Big Match" in 1968. In this Big Match, Royal scored 232. On the first day St Thomas' replied with 70 plus for 5 or 6 wickets. On the second day STC was 133 for six; without consulting Orville, Dennis 'the Menace' declared the Thomian innings. Orville was not a 'happy chappy' but in Royal's second innings, Dennis was impressive in bowling the opener with his first ball. St Thomas' survived due to the great partnership by Ajith Jayasekera and David Ponniah. On the Monday after the match, despite Orville's initial reluctance and the non-nonchalant attitude of Dennis, he received the Warden's award! Moulding characters was integral to Thomian ethos and that all important 'win or lose but play the game fair' example was evident.

I enjoyed the Carol Services conducted by Rev LGB Fernando who was fondly called “Lajabba.” He was also an excellent maths teacher. Rev LGB was always dressed in splendour at the carol services as the choir master waving his ‘wand.’ The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was the pinnacle of the Chapel services. Rev LGB was ably assisted by Mr. Russell Bartholomeus who was an excellent organist. It was great to meet him again in during a visit to STC in 2002 and also Warden David Ponniah who was much admired cricketer with Ajith Jayasekera whom I met during the early 2000’s when he was the Manager of the touring Sri Lankan Team.

One of the highlights in my time at College was when my father invited Mr David Paynter to paint the ‘Transfiguration’ of Jesus Christ. The cost of the painting was Rs. 10,000; the College did not have the money. My father appealed to the old boys and they raised the funds (which I observe is still the case when funds are required!). Mr Paynter stayed in our annex and would get up in the morning to pray so that he was inspired by the Lord to paint the figures of Jesus Christ, Peter, James, John, Moses, and Elijah. He later moved to Miller B where Mr Godfrey Senaratne was a boarding Master. Mr. Senaratne was a popular and well-loved teacher and very loyal to the leadership.

We had two very able scout teachers, Mr. Muttiah and Mr. Edirisinghe. The scout movement helped me to prepare for life in Australia where my brother and I had to clean our flats, cook, iron, and polish our shoes after being spoilt by home help in Sri Lanka. We used to do ‘chip a job’ to earn money to attend scout camps. One of the memorable camps was in Nuwara Eliya; these two scout teachers made it an exceptional one.

The other teachers who stood out were the Sub-Warden, Mr Jayasinghe, the enigmatic Mr. Vinnasithamby, Mr. Brookie Da Silva, Mr D. N Pereira (Bulto) to name a few. I left school in early 1970 to join our Anglican brother school, St John’s College before I travelled to Australia for further study in 1976.

Looking back, all my teachers at St Thomas’ provided me and many others the foundation and building blocks to live life at its full potential. The education at College and the Thomian calibre has given me confidence to communicate in public and on the world stage. The Thomian grit has helped to participate in four different sports and try to emulate the great phrase by the founder of the Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin: “The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part; the important thing in life is not the triumph, but the struggle; the essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.” The highs and lows of College life have helped to form our personalities, our characters and made us who we are today. The ability to read, write and speak in three languages at College has also helped me to listen to people and conduct inner healing work in Australia and Sri Lanka.



Dr Peter Selvaratnam AM

(Ph.D., Medicine), is an Assoc. Clinical Professor at The University of Melbourne, a Specialist Doctor in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (as awarded by the College of Physiotherapists in 2007), a Visiting lecturer at LaTrobe University, and a former Senior Adjunct Honorary Lecturer in Anatomy at the Faculty of Medicine, Monash University

Peter has also been a consulting Specialist Physiotherapist for a number of years for state and national sporting teams including cricket, hockey, basketball, football and Olympic sports.

Peter is also co-editor and author of the textbook, Headache, Orofacial Pain and Bruxism (2009) and “Healing of the Hurting and Helping the Wounded” published in English, Tamil and Sinhala

Peter was awarded the Order of Australia AM award for his research work on the spine and sports medicine, professional work at universities, mentoring and humanitarian work in Australia and Sri Lanka



Address by the Right Hon. Sir John Kotelawala, K.B.E., M.P., Prime Minister of Ceylon, at the Prize Giving, S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia, Saturday, 31 st July, 1954



When I played for Royal against S. Thomas' many years ago my intention, which was shared by my teammates, was to give the Thomians a good drubbing, and, if that was not possible, at least to give them a test of endurance. Much as I value the opportunity which I now have of presiding at your Prize Distribution, I shall endeavor to do neither this afternoon. I must congratulate the Warden on his Report, which illustrates what opportunities school like S. Thomas' have of continuing to play a leading part in the training of our youth and the moulding of their character.

I am glad that the Warden's Report did not follow the usual pattern of Principals' Report on such occasions, when the Government's policy on

education is taken up for microscopic examination and dissection. Our policy on education was born of the county's needs, and does not claim to be a perfect solution to the Problem that confronts us of providing the best possible education for the rising generation without cost to the parents. Now that we have Free Education we have 6,561 schools and 1,570,000 school going children. Our high standard of Literacy, no doubt, enabled us to obtain our freedom at an earlier date than we otherwise might have, and in an atmosphere of calm. Peace, and quiet, Since then , however, various problems have cropped up like little mushrooms, and one hears it said that education in the mother-tongue is likely to put the clock of political progress 50 years back, and that the next generation will see the ugly monster of communalism rear its head amongst us, The problem of taking education to the masses and giving equal opportunities to the sons of rich and poor parents alike could not have been tackled unless children were given instruction in the only language they knew, which was their mother-tongue.

We have two major linguistic groups in this country and education has, therefore, to be conducted in both these languages. But education in one language does not necessarily mean that people must not learn the other language, or cease to enjoy the obvious benefits which the knowledge of the English language brings with it in science and cultural subjects. One must not under-estimate the role of language in a child's life during his formative years, or forget that language is a child's chief means of making social contacts and influencing others. In actual use, language plays an important role in thinking and the solving of problems. Bi-lingualism, and even tri-lingualism, should therefore be encouraged as far as possible, if the communal harmony which we pride ourselves in having today, is to be preserved for the future;

because, unless we understand the other man's language and talk to him in his mother-tongue we would have failed to reach his innermost thoughts and have merely succeeded in creating a barrier between ourselves and our neighbours. I would welcome, therefore, every opportunity a Sinhalese takes of learning Tamil, and vice versa.

As I speak to you now my thoughts go back to the news item of about two weeks ago according to which some 30,000 students were to present themselves for the G. C. E. Examination. That little announcement gave me more food for thought than many of the other matters that took the headlines that day. 30,000 students sitting for the G. C. E. Examination at one and the same time means that there is a much larger number of senior students in our schools who have more or less ended their student days and look forward to some sort of employment. There are, I understand, two G. C. E. Examination a year. On this basis, and with a population that is growing as fast as ours is, one cannot over-estimate the importance of finding jobs for those for whom educational facilities are being provided by the State. It is as important as providing an adequate food supply for our people. Ceylon is an agricultural country, and unless we are prepared to open up all the land we have as quickly as we can, we would fail in providing jobs for the young men and women who are being turned out of our schools every year, and in finding food to feed the thousands of new mouths that are being added to our population every day.

What are schools like S. Thomas' proposing to do to help the Government and the country to face up to the obvious difficulties with which we are confronted? It would be a condemnation of your school and, in fact, of any school, if the students who pass out every year lack a spirit of adventure and find they are unable to do the work which the county expects them to do, and sit down instead at a time of shrinking employment in the expectation of being able to select their life's calling according to their tastes. There is plenty of work to be done in opening up farms and land, and taking up employment in shops and mercantile establishments, which in the past, employed foreigners, because sons of the soil thought, or were taught to think, that these jobs were inferior. The Government will shortly start sending out of this country all non-nationals who are in various types of employment for which there is adequate manpower

locally. There will be in the next few months a golden opportunity which all young people should seize avidly, - of getting a foot hold into the glorious arena of commerce and business.

At the commencement of my address I referred to the part that school like S. Thomas' could play in the moulding of our national character. In the recent past, there has been a marked deterioration in public morale due largely to the fact that as a people we are only too prone to give ear to rumours. Rumour thrives on rumour, and little bits of gossip keep on snowballing until they sully the personal reputations of men and women and cause a general lowering of public morale. While rumour-mongering was at its height in this county, I happened to inquire from an Englishman how it was that the English acquired and maintained their national characteristic of exclusiveness, of each one minding his own business and leaving the other person alone. My friend told me that the English had acquired and develop this characteristic as a result of their instinct for self-preservation. Otherwise, he remarked, if every man was unnecessarily friendly with his neighbor and inquisitive about what he was doing, he would find his neighbor coming into his house and removing his lawn-mower one day, and something else the next, and this unnecessary familiarity would breed contempt without any of the advantages of good neighbourliness. We cannot, as a people, get respect if we do not show respect. If every man tries to tar everybody else, we tar ourselves as a race.

In this war on personal reputations that is going on, I notice a most reprehensible tendency for persons in all walks of life to say things merely to get headlines for themselves in the newspapers. Living in an age of headlines creates tremendous problem. The variety of types that hit the headlines is truly amazing. Existing papers cannot cope with the rush of headline hunters, and so new ones keep on appearing to cope with the demand for personal frailty and public scandal. The most alarming tendency of all is that some members of religious orders are now attempting to hit the headlines because of their failure to realise that their duty is to preach their religion. If this tendency is unchecked, and all religious denominations get affected, there will be religious disharmony, and eventually breaches of the peace, as happened recently at Mawanella. I therefore appeal to our schools, to teachers and students alike, to heads of our denominational institutions. - who are now no

longer worried by the bitter controversy that went on with regard to the place of denominational schools in our educational system, – to throw in their weight towards preserving our national character which is under a grave threat of being warped and destroyed, if the present tendencies to which I have referred are permitted to go unchecked.

There is one more subject I would like to touch on before I conclude. Public education today should be, in every sense, an education for freedom and democracy. Students in our schools have to be prepared for participation in a democratic system with a genuine feeling of love for their land, and a realization that it belongs to the Ceylonese as a race, and not to any individual or community. Democracy is not safe unless every growing child is brought up in a religious atmosphere, whatever his religion may be,

and also taught to respect the religions of others. Sport and disciplinary training derived from such activities as Scouting and joining the Cadet Corps are probably the finest ground for preparing them for this task. The teachers in our schools have a sacred task to perform and fulfil, particularly as the country cannot afford to let its young minds get poisoned.

Our school are our strongest bulwark for our future. Schools like yours with such a glorious history and such a wonderful tradition set by Warden de Saram and his illustrious predecessors must continue to mould character, instil discipline, and impart knowledge of a kind that will ensure that the products that continue to into eminence in the public life of our country in the past.

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

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

Membership Register

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

Tribute - Memories of 'Singing Miss' Doreen Abeywardena Warasakoon



It is with profound sadness I heard today of the passing of our beloved 'Singing Miss' Doreen Warasakoon. She passed away suddenly and unexpectedly to a serious illness.

Rolling back the years, my classmates and I met her when she was newly appointed as the Assistant singing teacher to June Boralessa, somewhere around 1960. We later found out that she was from the well known Thomian Abeywardena family. The redoubtable Lassie, my Under 16 Cricket Coach, and Monty - who was the Under 14 B team cricket coach, were her brothers.

The Singing period was a welcome respite from all the heavy duty work we did with formidable and demanding teachers. Mr JHS Pieris was the Headmaster, supporting him the Assistant Headmaster Mr. Deutrom David, followed up by an all star line up which included Mrs. Kusuma Bandaratilleke, Mrs. Lorna Mendis, Mrs. Burder, Mrs. Olga Mendis, Isla Mendis, Mrs. Merlin Fernando, Mr. Manickam Arthputhuraj, Mr. Lekamge, Mrs. Samuels, Mrs. Jacob, Miss Jayakuru and Mrs. Ziegler.

The first year, front of house, second standard was, under the friendliest, utterly benign and grandmotherly Mrs. Wickramanayaka and Mrs. Karunaratne.

Being put through our paces by a formidable but excellent group of teachers we all loved the break, legitimately provided by the singing class.

Miss Doreen Abeywardena, as she was then, led us through some noisy and lusty (invariably out of tune) renditions of perennial favourites like Oh my darling Clementine, Loch Lomond, the Ash Grove and Polly Wolly Doodle among others.

Along with June Boralessa, who was also universally admired Doreen was young, vivacious, friendly and non-threatening - in marked contrast to others in the teaching staff, who lived by the old motto 'Spare the rod and spoil the child'.

As Father Time inexorably moved on we went up the ladder at S. Thomas' from the Lower School, to the Middle School and finally the Upper School.

In the College Forms I ended up being taught Botany by Mr. Senerath Warasakoon - young, handsome and an exceptionally good teacher of Botany, making me really fond of this subject.

We didn't know it at the time, as perhaps things were kept below the radar, but Love had blossomed between him and our 'Singing Miss'!

We were all surprised and delighted when this happened, after all, S. Thomas' of all its reputation as an excellent seat of learning and its formidable reputation in Sports, was not a place where romance blossomed often.

Through my time overseas working in England, New Zealand and Australia My wife Priyani and I kept in touch with this delightful couple.

In fact in his later capacity as Deputy Director of the Katunayake Airport he was most helpful to us when we landed with three young sleepy children.

Whenever we were in Sri Lanka, we visited them and our visits were enjoyable rolling back the years, enjoying many laughs together.

If we visited towards the tail end of our stay Doreen would cheekily ask 'Is it only now that you thought of us?!' She was always good fun.

I have been in touch with Mr. Warasakoon from the onset of Doreen's sudden illness and heard on the phone her steady decline, despite his very best valiant efforts, getting physiotherapy and an attendant at home.

It was my suggestion to have her warded to give her the best chance.

As it happened, she was admitted to Sri Jayawardenapura under a neurologist, who told me I was one of his Examiners at Med School. He was most helpful but was concerned of her decline despite best efforts.

My abiding memory of this wonderful lady was when she kindly agreed to my invitation to join us in the Lower School commemorating our 50th year of entering College - a memorable occasion when we went down Memory Lane, graced by the Warden, Sarath Seneviratne and Ronnie Pieris.

The grand finale was a rousing session with Doreen at the piano, with us singing lustily, out of tune, as always, the old favourites such as Polly Wolly Doodle all the way, one more time.

Doreen never seemed to age, just like her dear husband, making me more embarrassed each time I met them, for I was looking more and more like THEIR teacher, while they looked well with youth and good looks preserved.

Her passing, yet again underlines the unreliability of Life, a Law which will account for us all.

However, be that as it may, in the eyes of all those she taught she will remain vivacious, evergreen and will not be forgotten.

Our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences to Mr Warasakoon.

May she rest in Peace.

by Deepal Lecamwasam

Courtesy: STCOBA (ML) website

**SPECIAL
OFFER**

OBA Merchandise

**50th Anniversary Commemorative
Key Chain and Lapel Pin Set**
\$25.00 (incl. postage)

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Title	Name	Telephone	Email
President	Peneeth Goonawardena	0404 213 166	peneeth@gmail.com
Vice Presidents	Saman Liyanage	0407 358 415	saman.a.liyanage@outlook.com
	Asfan Thajudeen	0416 877 788	asfant@hotmail.com
	Rayendra Karunaratne	0416 350 244	rayendra_karunaratne@hotmail.com
Secretary	Mark Nanayakkara	0408 990 146	markstcoba@hotmail.com
Asst. Secretary	Niral Fernando	0419 368 671	fernando.niral@gmail.com
Treasurer	Shehan Jayetilleke	0421 878 057	Shehan17@hotmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Milinda Liyanage	0458 998 850	milinda.liyanage@gmail.com
Editor	Vasikaran Ratnarajah	0408 866 272	vasidaisy15@gmail.com
Committee	Chris Varney	0407 630 351	chrisvarney10@gmail.com
	Rayesh Gunasekera	0410 047 088	rayesh_g@yahoo.com
	Navodh Fernando	0452 209 102	navodhfernando@gmail.com
	Upali Gooneratne	0449 024 294	fgooneratne@iiec.org
	Rajindra Bibile	0426 924 097	rajindrabile@yahoo.com
	Amesh Fernando	0411 492 747	ameshf@gmail.com
	Praveen Bandaratilleke	0448 259 644	prayadrian@gmail.com
Immediate Past President			
	Mahes Heenetigala	0418 182 707	maheenet@gmail.com

New Members of the OBA: 2022

Name	Branch	Period
DE SILVA, Lahiru	Mount Lavinia	2004 - 2007
KOSGODAGE, Lakshitha	Mount Lavinia	1990 - 2003
WIJESINGHE, Malinda	Mount Lavinia	1993 - 2006
RAJASINGHAM, Naresh		
NATHANIEL, Elmo	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1969 - 1981
PERERA, Shenal	Prep / Mount Lavinia	2004 - 2018
GUNARATNE, Dulith	Mount Lavinia	2005 - 2019
WEERAKODY, Anouskha	Mount Lavinia	2005 - 2018
KANAGANAYAGAM, John	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1969 - 1981
MUNASINHA, Kishan	Mount Lavinia	2007 - 2021
LIYANAGE, Chamit	Mount Lavinia	1979 - 1993
DUNUWILLE, Sanjaya	Mount Lavinia	1984 - 1997
DE SILVA, Ravi	Mount Lavinia	1985 - 1997
PARANAVITANE, Shehan	Prep / Mount Lavinia	1984 - 1988
DHARMAWARDENA, Dilanka	Mount Lavinia	1993 - 2000
NANAYAKKARA, Niveyn Rauhul	Mount Lavinia	2008 - 2022



UPCOMING EVENTS - 2023

February

Friday 10th

Annual General Meeting (AGM)
6.30pm
Waverley Youth Centre
Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley 3139

March

Sunday 5th

Royal – Thomian Cricket Matches & Family Day
9.30 am onwards
Venue: To be confirmed

Friday 10th

Royal - Thomian Live Broadcast
7.00pm
Waverley Youth Centre
Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley 3139

June

Saturday



Thomian Ball - 2023
6.30pm
Venue: To be confirmed

August

Sunday



Transfiguration Service
Venue and Time: To be confirmed

Sunday



Members Lunch
12.00 noon
RSL Club
23 Osborne Ave, Springvale, Vic

September

Saturday



Nineties Night
6.30pm
Venue: To be confirmed

November

Tuesday 7th

Melbourne Cup Sweep
2.00pm

December

Saturday



Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Venue and Time: To be confirmed



IN MEMORIAM



They remain in our memories forever



Amitha Abeynaiké – Former student at Mount Lavinia, Amitha was a School Prefect and member of the 1st XI Hockey team. He also represented Sri Lanka Schools in Hockey. He was also a Server at the College Chapel. After leaving school, he was fully involved in sports activities at College. He is the son of the late Orville Abeynaiké (teacher and Sub Warden) and the youngest of four brothers, Mohan, Ajith and the late Ranil. Later in life Amitha was a well-respected and popular TV and Radio cricket commentator.

Emilio Luis (E.L) Moreno – An Old Boy of STCML and active member of the OBA Australia for many decades. He passed away peacefully on 22nd September 2022. Emilio was an excellent swimmer during his time at College and at the age of 15 years had the distinction of coming 2nd in the prestigious annual two-mile sea swim. Emilio was a senior executive at the ANZ Bank and together with his brother Enrique, assisted the OBA in many fundraising projects in the 80s and 90s.



Edward (Edda) Pereira – Edda was a product of STC Mount Lavinia and a nephew of the late D. N Pereira (teacher and Ex-President of the OBA). He excelled in swimming and water-polo; and was an active member of the Old Thomians Swimming Club and Otters Swimming Club. He held management positions at Fountain House Cold Storage Co, Elephant House and Galle Face Hotel prior to leaving for Switzerland where he lived for over 60 years. Edda is the brother-in-law of Bandulal Molligoda (Ex-Vice President of the OBA).



Cedric. P De Silva – Cedric was in Mount Lavinia in the fifties to early sixties and a boarder (Copleston- Cloughton). He reparented College in swimming and water-polo; and also, a member of the College Choir and was a soloist. He was also in the Drama Society and appeared in many Shakespeare productions. After living in Canada for many years, he bought a property in Bandarawala and spent the days of his retirement there.



C. Vijitha Fernando – Vijitha was at Mt. Lavinia and his services to College was well appreciated following his appointed at the Secretary of the OBA (ML) in 1997, and served in this position till 1999. He oversaw the Swimming Pool Renovation Project changing it to a state-of-the-art 25m pool that opened in 2001. He generously supported many school projects utilizing his own funds and was well known in the Thomian fraternity for his support to his Alma Mater.

Esto Perpetua

PHOTO GALLERY

CAROL SERVICE – 10TH DECEMBER 2022



PHOTO GALLERY

CAROL SERVICE – 10TH DECEMBER 2022





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

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 & Pensioners Concession: \$10.00</i>		
Cash/cheque/MO	\$..... enclosed (in favour of S Thomas College OBA)		
Bank Transfer	I have credited STCOBA's account online at CBA, Mount Waverley BSB 063-151, Account No. 1002-9468 , 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 PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley Vic 3149 Enquiries: Upali (Pancho) Gooneratne Email: fgooneratne@iiec.org Tel: 0449024294	Committee Use Only	
		Application Approved	
		Payment Recorded	
		Member Notified	

Subscriptions for 2022 were due on 1st January. If you have not already joined or renewed your membership, please use the above form.

ALLISON MONKHOUSE FUNERAL DIRECTORS

**FOR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN
KEEPING WITH SRI LANKAN AND INDIAN TRADITIONS**

Please Call: Harvey Schuiling

1 300 024 664

or

(03) 97644387 / 0418946468

