



BLUE WHITE & BLUE



Newsletter of the Old Josephians' Club of Australia

January 2017

Presidents Message—Mohan Perera



Dear Joes, families and friends,

I bring you warm greetings for the new year through our 1st News Letter for the year 2017.

I'm so heartened on the completion of a successful year in 2016, some of the highlights were.

Jan '16 - Becoming the Champions of the Saints Quadrangular Cricket Tournament

March '16 - Had a very successful St Josephs' Feast Day celebration. At this event, we recognized the invaluable contribution made by our associations inaugural committee for its inspiration and their forward thinking. The Inaugural Committee of 17 Members were given an Honorary Life Membership and a Token of Appreciation.

April '16 - Joe Pete Victoria Cricket Encounter, again Joes became the champs

May '16 - Had a fun filled enjoyable even-

ing with much fellowship and making merry Members Night

August '16 - Mystic Colours 2016 Gala Dinner Dance turned out to be a very successful evening with more than 500 guests, 2 live bands, sumptuous buffet and with great ambiance, etc, etc...

October '16 - AGM was held preceded by remembering Joes passing away and followed by fellowship and dinner

December '16 - We had our family Christmas celebration with over 200 in attendance, with Carols and Santa in action.

All these events have created a strong and the close bond among Josephians and their families. All the Past Presidents and their Committees have toiled over the past 3 decades to ensure that this comradeship is built better and stronger year on year. Through this fellowship, we have been able to support our Alma Mater and do our best to continue the good work.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Executive Committee for the strength and support given to me during the year 2016 and the General Membership for the support extended by way of sponsorships supporting and attending the Josephian events with your partners and friends during the year. I look forward to gaining even better support from you to achieve success within the Joes OBU in Victoria and in turn, College.

In closing I thank the General Membership for your confidence in re-electing me as the Hon. President. I pledge that I will continue to do my best along with our strong and resourceful Executive Committee to achieve even bigger and better things in 2017.

Joes Victoria Australia Events for 2017

JANUARY

26th January 2017

Saint Quadrangular Cricket

MARCH

1st week of March 2017

Joe - Pete Cricket encounter

12th March 2017

Festival of Cricket 6 a side Cricket tournament

19th March 2017

St Joseph's Feast Function Lunch @ the Walauiwa

MAY

2nd week of May Members night

AUGUST

12th August

Mystic Colours Dance @ Springvale Hall

DECEMBER

9th December

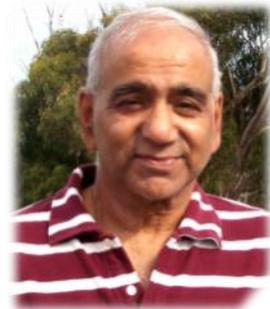
Christmas Function @ Scared Heart hall, Oakleigh

The Emergence of Old Joes in Australia— A historical record, By Errol Amerasekera



Seated: John Wright, Ainsley Bartholomeusz and Stan de Abrew

Standing (L-R): Ivor Bagot, Prof Eliezer, Mervyn Senn, Dr Warwick Bartholomeusz, Vernon Weeraratne, Neville Weeraratne and Cuthbert Schumacher



During this period, the then Acting President Radcliff Nelson, organised a Josephian-Peterite Dinner Dance at St Kilda Town Hall. This was well attended by old boys and supporters of both schools and filled the hall to capacity. It was a great success.

In 1978, the Association was formalised with the election of Brindsley Jansz as President of the Joe-Pete Association supported by a Committee consisting of Old Joes and Old Peterites and included some well known cricketing talent from the early 1950s and 60s. These included Tony Buhar, Ivor Bagot and the Nelson brothers for the Old Joes with De Neise and Patternot brothers from the Old Peterites.

Little was recorded during these early years. However according to our Peterite sources, well known tenor Bede de Zilwa and founding member Ronald Forbes shared the Presidency from 1980-84.

The birth of Old Josephians' Club of Victoria in 1984

Influenced by the arrival of a former Rector, Fr. Neville Emmanuel to Melbourne, the Old Joes identified the need to form our own Association so we could maintain Josephian traditions and have a yarn over a wee dram. (pardon my Scottish) These visionaries still had fond memories of their school days and a burning desire to maintain their strong bonds with their beloved Alma Mater and former schoolmates. Among them were Radcliff and Herbert Nelson, Tony Buhar, Bill Van Rye and a host of other Josephian stalwarts.

Thus in 1984, the Old Josephians Club of Victoria was established with Radcliff Nelson as President, Cletus Ekanayake as Secretary, Michael Simmons as Treasurer, Vernon Davidson as Sports Secretary, Cedric Simmons as Social Secretary and Bill Van Rye as Editor. Other members on the Committee were Darnley de Souza, Dr

Historical Background

The migration of Ceylonese to Australia had remained low up to the 20th century. However following the end of the Second World War and Ceylon's independence from the British in 1948, Sri Lankans started to spread their wings and travel abroad. Many of them, who were descendants of European Colonisers, was the first wave of Ceylonese migration to Australia and in 1960 there was a small population of around 3000 in Victoria. However following the end of the white Australia policy in 1973 and back home, a language policy motivated by political ambitions had influenced some of our countrymen to leave their much loved motherland in search of greener pastures. By 1976, the Sri Lankan community in Victoria had increased to over 9000. Among them were a small community of Old Josephians and Peterites.

Josephians and Peterites revive traditions "Down-under"

Before long these cricketing rivals buried their differences and established a Joe-Pete Association for old boys in Victoria in 1973. This was the brainchild of Josephian

Radcliff Nelson and Peterite Ronald Forbes Rumour has it, the first meeting of this new relationship was held in Nelson "Walauwa" behind

the closed doors of Radcliff's garage in Noble Park (just in case the local Police thought it was a conspiracy to take over the country). Peterites were the dominant group. There is no recorded history of this early relationship other than it was an opportunity for an occasional get-together followed by a "boozy" evening- the emphasis being on the latter.

Old rivalries were once again renewed and the excitement of the "Big match" was transported to Melbourne, and the first Joe-Pete Cricket encounter in Australia was played on Koornang Park in Melbourne. The teams included many of the former First X1 players from the two rival schools. They were once the young gladiators from the two institutions who made their mark on the Colombo Oval during an exciting week-end of cricket. On the pitch, the rivalry was intense. However, **camaraderie and sportsmanship was the highlight of the day.**

The Emergence of Old Joes in Australia — *Continued*.....

Carlyle Perera, Carl Aldons, Anton de Costa, Dr Henry Sathananthan, Keith Ockersz, Charles Jansz, Wendall Newman, Chris Moreira, Bunny Nugara, Jimmy de Souza, Neil Rupesinghe, Chrys Abraham, Asoka Rodrigo and Errol Amerasekera.

The club had a wealth of talented old boys on the Committee from a variety of sporting backgrounds Radcliff with his catering expertise supported by his wife Carmen was the main architect of the traditional Old Joes Annual Dinner Dance. This was the highlight of the social calendar and was well supported by an enthusiastic Committee and their partners. In addition to Cricket, the club participated in Basketball in local league competitions and supported the wives and partners in a netball competition.

During this period, Bill introduced the concept of a Newsletter which kept all members informed of the activities and encouraged the influx of new Josephian migrants to join the tribe. The Newsletter also kept our Josephian brothers in other states in contact with their mates in Melbourne.

Old Josephians Go "National"

The first "changing of the guard" was witnessed in 1986 with Radcliff Nelson stepping down from his position having established the Old Joes Club of Victoria - the first of its kind in Australia. It was time for Darnley de Souza to take over the reins with Errol Amerasekera as Secretary/Editor and the long serving Keith Ockersz as Treasurer, Phil Lobendhan as Social Secretary and Bill Van Rye as Sports Secretary. The rest of the Committee from the previous year were re-elected. Little is known of the common bond between Darnley and myself - we were both passionate athletes and represented St Joseph's in Public School Athletics (10 years apart) and were altar boys at All Saints' Church, Borella - once the breeding grounds for seminarians and candidates for priesthood. Yours truly managed to "slip through the net".

During this time, the club membership was gaining momentum with request from our interstate brothers to join the Association.

Thus it was time to go "National" and incorporate the Club. Darnley, as the ultimate Public Servant drafted the first Constitution of the Old Josephians' Club and together with Errol went over it many times, burning the midnight oil and closing the obvious loopholes, to make it relevant to our unique traditions. After various exchanges with the Department of Corporate Affairs, Victoria, we received the Certificate of Incorporation as the Old Josephians' Club of Australia Inc. on 9th July 1987, We were thus a national organisation with added responsibilities and able to welcome old Josephians from across this vast continent. This was an important milestone in the history of the Club.

As expected, the club experienced a surge in membership including old Joes from Sydney, Brisbane and far away as Perth as we hit the 150 members mark. In addition to the Annual Dinner Dance and Member's Night, the family Christmas Party was taken to a new level. However the highlight of the social calendar was the inaugural Dinner for the Senior Old Boys held on 28th February 1987 in Surrey Hills. This was attended by ten Old Josephians from the 1920s, 30s and 40s, Most senior among them were John Wright (1924-30), Cuthbert Schumacher (1926-34) and Ainsley Bartholomeusz (1927-37).

A subsequent dinner held on 12th December 1987, encouraged more Seniors to participate and meet the Old Joes Committee. Our guest of honour was 92 year old Mr Anthony Mariadason, then oldest member of the Club and former teacher of St. Joseph's College from 1918-54. Once again it was an opportunity for our "Seniors" to reminisce and exchange stories about their life at school by the Beira Lake.

In addition to our social program, the club continued its well established Cricket encounters with the Old Peterites and participated in Open and Over 40 Basketball competitions. Along came the concept of Rugby 7s initiated by the Thomians and Peterites. The Old Joes were invited to participate and happily accepted the challenge. Thus, our first Open and Over 35 Rugby teams (including a few veterans from the late 50s

and 60s) took to the field at Box Hill in September 1988. Both teams performed well but not good enough to bring home the silverware



Tired but Victorious Josephians

Rugby 7s - Open Champions

(L-R) John Mariadason, Errol Amerasekera Jnr, Andrew Mariadason, Yohan Amerasekera, Adrian Symonds, Eraj de Andrado and Anthony Mariadason

However in 1989, our Opens consisting of a team of "young guns" (sons of Old Joes) produced a gutsy performance to beat the more experienced Old Thomians, Peterites, Royalists, Antonians and Issipatana to win the Inter-school Rugby Shield in our second year of participation.



Front: Rocky Dias and Chris Moreira
Standing: Errol Amerasekera, Henry Sathananthan, Cletus Ekanayake, Anton D'Costa, B. Fernando, Ivor Bagot, Winston Nugara, Carlyle Perera (Captain), Lakshman Rasanayagam and Percy Mendis

The Emergence of Old Joes in Australia — Continued.....



1988 - Open and Over 40 Basketball Teams
Team Managers - Vernon Davidson and Charles Jansz

Club Presidents since 1984
 Radcliff Nelson (1984-86), Darnley de Sousa (1986-88), Carl Aldons (1988-90), Dr Carlyle Perera (1990-92), Anton de Costa (1992-94), Denver de Rosairo (1994-96), Phil Lobendhan (1996-98), Vernon de Alwis (1998-99), Bill Van Rye (1999-01), Ajith Jayatilleke (2001-03), Damian Wickremasinghe (2003-05), Cedric Simmons (2005-07), Radley de Silva (2007-09), Darrel de Silva (2009-11), Lester Daniels (2011-13), Gary Gunsekere (2013-15), Mohan Perera (Current President)

The Josephian -Peterite Open and Over 40 Cricket Encounters were played on 1st March 1987 at Koornang Park, Carnegie. In the Over 40 game, Peterites scored 152 runs in 34.1 overs and the Joes replied with 147 runs in 35 overs. Peterites won the Hubert Bagot Memorial Trophy and Josephian, Chris Moreira was awarded "Man of the Match"

The Legend Lives On

The Old Josephians' Club of Australia continues to grow from strength to strength mainly due to the dedicated efforts of the various Committees since 1984 and a loyal following of Old Josephians. We hope the recent influx of younger members will be supported with more innovative programs to encourage their participation while maintaining the interest of the current membership of young and older Josephians.

Due to my interstate and overseas work commitments during the 1990s and later, I am not qualified to continue this story beyond my time with the club. I therefore invite each of the following Presidents (since the late Carl Aldons) to write a brief account of the highlights during their Presidency and email your contributions to the current President Mr Mohan Perera to complete this historical record of the Old Josephian's Club of Australia

Acknowledgement: My sincere thanks to Vernon Davidson, Keith Ockersz and Darrel de Silva for helping me to update my knowledge of three decades of Presidents as listed above

The above article has been based on fact and some witness statements. Every effort has been made to provide you with a reasonably accurate and unbiased account of the early history of the club. I apologise for any oversights and welcome your feedback and suggestions to improve the accuracy of the information. (errolca@bigpond.com)

WE BID FAREWELL



The Membership and committee of the Joes OBU in Victoria, bids Farwell to all our Josephian brothers who have passed away during 2016 and in recent times. A special tank you goes out to the families and the old boys who dedicated themselves and helped in creating and continuing the Joes family in Victoria. We who enjoy the benefits friendships and comradery will always be thankful to you. God Bless the families and RIP our brothers.



JOES SPORTS WRAP UP — *By Susilough de Silva Wijeyeratne*

Joes win the all Island Under 19 Division 1 Soccer Championship after 21 years



St Joseph's College led by Sachintha Maduranga with 9 Mayuraka Perera won the All Island Under 19 Division 1 Championship when they beat Holy Cross College, Kalutara 2 Goals to 1 in the Finals played at the Janaka Ranawaka Football Stadium, Moragasmulla, Rajagiriya. The Joes tasted sweet victory after 21 years.

With Asela Madushan netting one in the 17th minute and Amila Dhananjaya put the issue beyond doubt with an ace in the 64th minute saw that the Josephians conquer the school's football title for the year 2016, Holy Cross reply was an own goal in the 28th minute. Asela Madushan was the Player of the Final and Rasanjana Anuruddha won the Goal keepers award.

Sachintha Maduranga with 9 goals topped the scoring for the Joes in the tournament.

St Joseph's College last won the All Island Championship in 1995 Under Sritharan Peiris when they beat St Joseph's College Trincomalee with the same margin of 2 Goals to 1 with Captain Sritharan Peiris and Lakshan Hettiarachchi netting goals for the winners. The year 1995 was great year for Josephian football as they won the Brazil Cup beating Trinco Joes on a Penalty Shootout 4 goals to 3 after being 4 all at full time and then winning the National School games beating Zahira College Gampola 2 goals to nil.

The Footballers of 2016 have won two all Island Tournaments this year when the Under 15's Clinched the trophy under Lushane de Silva and now the Under 19's following suit winning the championship.



Joes performance wrap up for 2016

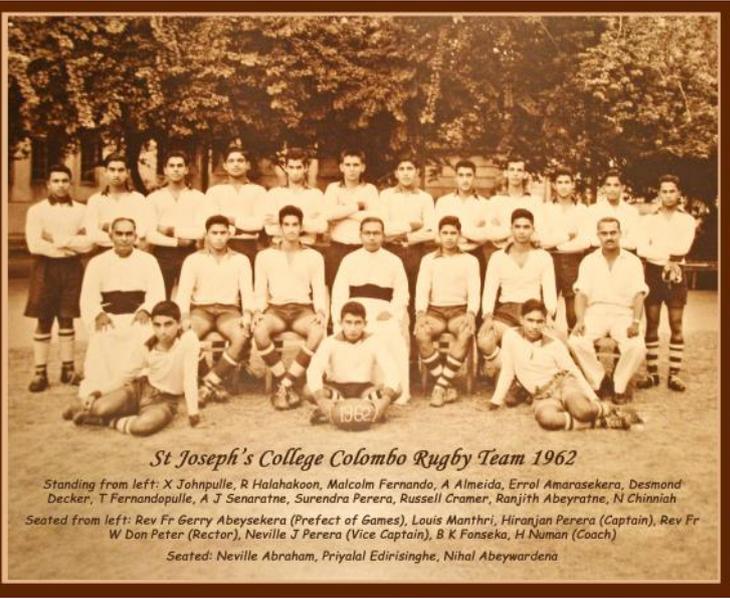
- Rugby :** Under 19 Dialog Super Sevens Runner up, Under 16 : 12 A side Bowl Champions
- Soccer :** Under 19 All Island Champions Under 15 : All Island Champions
- Swimming :** 12 Championships
- Basketball :** Under 19 All Island Runner up Under 15 : All Island Runner up
- Athletics :** Junior Tarbart Runner up
- Badminton :** Under 18 B Division Champions
- Rowing :** Under 14 Sri Lanka Schools Champions

Joes Christmas 2016 — Pics By Merry De La Zilwa



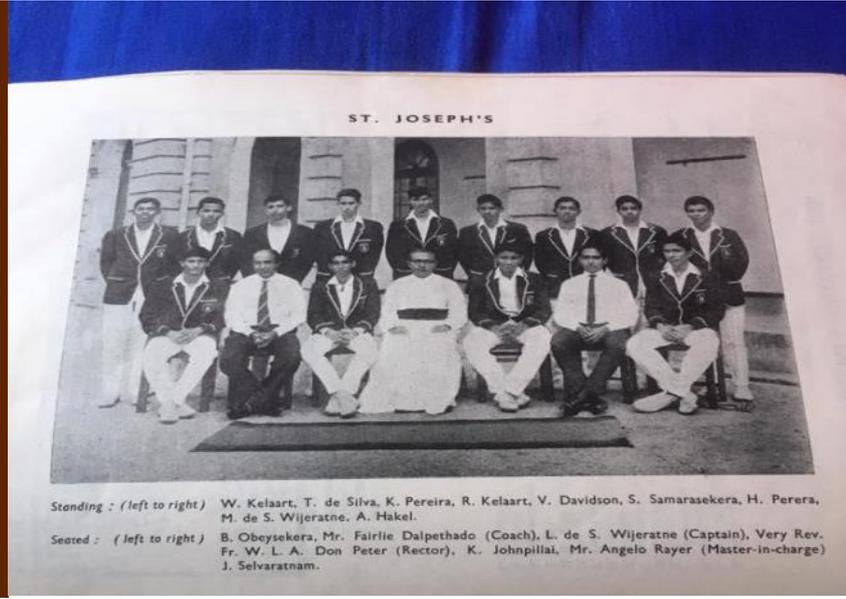
Joes past presidents present on the day

Blast from the past



St Joseph's College Colombo Rugby Team 1962

Standing from left: X Johnpulle, R Halahakoon, Malcolm Fernando, A Almeida, Errol Amarasekera, Desmond Decker, T Fernandopulle, A J Senaratne, Surendra Perera, Russell Cramer, Ranjith Abeyratne, N Chinniah
 Seated from left: Rev Fr Gerry Abeysekera (Prefect of Games), Louis Manthri, Hiranjan Perera (Captain), Rev Fr W Don Peter (Rector), Neville J Perera (Vice Captain), B K Fonseka, H Numan (Coach)
 Seated: Neville Abraham, Priyalal Edirisinghe, Nihal Abeywardena



ST. JOSEPH'S

Standing : (left to right) W. Kelaart, T. de Silva, K. Pereira, R. Kelaart, V. Davidson, S. Samarasekera, H. Perera, M. de S. Wijeratne, A. Hakel.
 Seated : (left to right) B. Obeysekera, Mr. Fairlie Dalpethado (Coach), L. de S. Wijeratne (Captain), Very Rev. Fr. W. L. A. Don Peter (Rector), K. Johnpillai, Mr. Angelo Rayer (Master-in-charge) J. Selvaratnam.

Rev. Fr. Dr. Peter A Pillai OMI— Apostle of Social Justice, by Stanley E. Abeynayake

Peter Alcantara Pillai was born on 19th October, 1904 at Wennappuwa. His parents Jacob and Anna Pillai, school teachers hailed from Kayts, Jaffna. His schooling began in his mother tongue Tamil in the school where his parents were teachers. Later he joined St. Benedict's College, Kotahena, Colombo at the age of nine years. In 1918 he passed the Cambridge Junior with eight distinctions. He was then only 14 years. He passed the Cambridge Senior at the age of 16 years in 1920 also with eight distinctions becoming the first in the whole of the British Empire. Subsequently he became an undergraduate of the then University College of Colombo and obtained the BSc degree with a first class in 1923. In the next year, 1924, he also got through the BSc Hons Mathematics in the first division.

Peter Pillai was most deservedly fortunate to win the annual government scholarship in science awarded to the best student and proceeded to the University of Cambridge where he obtained his BA and MA (Cantab). Thereafter he passed the MSc (London) quite easily. He would have entered the much lucrative CCS (Ceylon Civil Service) - the plum of government service got an academic part in the University. However, he opted to become a Catholic priest to serve his God and man. His elder brother Fr. Cadjetan Pillai, a teacher at St. Joseph's died of plague whilst administering to the sick.

His two other brothers too had already joined the clergy. Armed with PhD and DD (Doctorate in Divinity) - Rome he was ordained in 1934. On his return to the motherland, he was appointed to the staff of St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya and warden of Aquinas Hall, the University Student's Catholic Hall. No other Sri Lankan educationist had such high qualifications. To fight against the twin evils of the day - 1930s - namely, injustice and exploitation, he created two journals, 'Social Justice' (English) and 'Samaja Samaya' (Sinhala). His campaigns and untiring efforts resulted in the

enacting of the Shop and Office Workers' Ordinance, Wages Boards Ordinance, Employees Provident Fund Act, Industrial Disputes Act etc. all in the field of Labour or Industrial Law. He also advocated and expounded the theories of worker participation in management, profit-sharing, better housing and living conditions for the working class. In 1940 Rev. Fr. Dr. Pillai was appointed as the first Sri Lankan Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, the premier, Catholic Collegiate school in the island which post he held with great acceptance and distinction for 21 years till 1961. Highly concerned with moulding the character of youth besides serving in some government commissions, he was the president of the Headmasters' Union, member of the University of Ceylon Senate, founder of the Catholic Students' Federation, the Graduate Federation, the Catechetical Institute, the Xaverian Movement - and the Aquinas College of Higher Studies. Further, as a result of his championing social reforms, it resulted in bringing to statute books such welfare legislation as the National Housing Act, Debt Conciliation Board Ordinance and Land Redemption Act. An extrovert, a great trait of his character was that he was not at all a racist or communal minded - in that he treated Sinhala, Tamil, Moor, Malay, Burgher students alike. He was not only a tower of strength to Catholic students, especially Josephians but also equally to Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic (Muslim) students aspiring for higher studies. When he passed away untimely on September 27th 1964, he was only 60 years of age, 10 years short of the psalmists span of life - three score and ten, which means 70 years. He lived exactly like three score years - 60 years due to ceaseless, unfatigable exertion of his strength in the service of humanity. His excellent services to the country are immemorial



The Batch of '87— By Ikram Miskin & the 87 batch

When I moved to Melbourne in 2014, we had a few of our batch members already here. The casual meet ups become more frequent and co-ordinated as the beginnings of a batch started to emerge. With the initial crew welcoming and assisting every new batch mate that migrated, the grapevine became stronger and the family started to grow. Our batch has come together on many occasions with Shirantha Perera, Farrel Stephen and Jerome Fernando being the cornerstone of many a noble and occasionally clandestine operation, whether it was for a major fund raising drive to help out a mate's child to successfully overcome a major health issue or monthly prayer meetings in support of a family member in need of healing and sometimes just to help a batch mate move house so much so that some of the guys have considered setting up a removalist company when they retire!!

These meet ups have really strengthened the fellowship amongst the batch and our kids have formed a whole new circle of friends amongst themselves with like-minded peers. The annual trips that were organized have always been well patronized and it's been a barrel of fun being part it. A regular and key event is also the monthly prayer meetings hosted by a variety of households and ably led by "Pastor Makka" AKA Mackenzie Perera where the Recital of the Rosary takes place followed by a session of fellowship. We are also blessed with a wonderful group of spouses who ensure that the entire family is part of the activities that take place.

We have made it a mission to meet up with any of our batch mates visiting Melbourne from overseas be it Sri Lanka or elsewhere to share a laugh and reminisce about school years over drink and a bite. The same takes place whenever one of us visit Sri Lanka,

where we attend a batch event over there to maintain old friendships, stay abreast of and support the fantastic work the batch of 87 in Colombo is doing for College.

We have now grown to 12 members just in Melbourne and 18 in total that we know of, in Australia. It has gone a long way in making Australia feel like home away from home for all of us and we are extremely thankful for the unity and mateship we have. The turnout at every annual Old Joes Dance will testify to this. Through our batch we experience true "AUSSIE MATE-SHIP" with a Sri Lankan twist. The friendships formed in a proud alma mater in the late 70's continue to flourish "AS WE GATHER PEACE AND POWER"!!!



St. Benedict's College St. Joseph's College
 St. Peter's College St. Anthony's College

QUADRANGULAR

2017

*Cricket T20 Format matches for Mixed age group.
 *Kids Entertainment.
 *Food Stalls
 *DJ Music.
 Much more.....

Venue: Le Page Park
 Cnr. Argus St. & Herald Street,
 Cheltenham 3192

26
January