



BLUE WHITE & BLUE



Newsletter of the Old Josephians' Club of Australia

Mid Year 2016

Message from Rev. Fr. Rector



Another year has gone by and yet another dance is around the corner. I am certain it will have all the trademarks of Joes Australian Dance. This event has always borne the hall mark of good and wholesome entertainment.

Looking back, I observe that it has also served as an occasion of renewing old friendships and making new ones. I am thankful that some of your proceeds from this main event on the Joes calendar will be channelled towards projects in the pipeline, at St Joseph's. We were in the midst of the full fury of a country lashed by heavy rain in which 70 odd lives have been lost, 135 persons missing and countless thousands homeless and destitute.

I am certain that the membership will as usual put in every effort to make the event the usual success that it is. I wish the President and Committee all success. Please thank your spouses, well wishes and friends of our grate school for their valuable assistance and support. Please know that all your efforts are not in vain!

Hope you will have an enjoyable evening and the best of many enjoyable Joes events!

Thank you and God Bless each of you.
REV. FR. TRAVIS GABRIEL

President's Message

Warm Greetings to you in this cold season.

I'm sure most of you are preparing your dancing shoes as the days are fast approaching for **"Mystic Colours 2016"**, our flagship event of the year. As in the past years we look forward to an enjoyable Gala Dinner-Dance to be held at the Springvale Town hall, on the 30th of July 2016. I trust that all of you - our old joes, valued supporters and friends will come together to support our dear Alma Mater and have a tremendous evening.

Continuing our successful endeavors and taking the lead from the big project we undertook in 2015, we continue to work towards achieving our key objectives this year. Contributing to the ongoing success of St. Joseph's College is our main goal. Our dinner dance being the main event in the Joes calendar enables us to achieve this objective by raising much required finances. Additionally, I am sure that this evening helps to further develop the comradery of the Josephian family.

We have had an excellent year of Joes activities such as the Joe -Pete 2016, Joes Feast day and the members evening. Thank you for all your support. I look forward to seeing you at **"Mystic Colours 2016"**

Mohan Perera
President



Joes Committee 2015 — 2016



Patrick Dirckze Vice President	Uditha Vithanage Secretary	Joseph Carvalho Treasure	Sheahan Pereira Social Secretary	Sanath Jayanetti Sports Secretary	Spencer Madhanayake Editor	Dannelle Diaz Gen. Committee	Darrell De Silva Gen. Committee	Gary Gunesakara Gen. Committee	Rayan Ohlmus Gen. Committee	Hilary Felsing Gen. Committee	Hirosha Perera Gen. Committee	Alex Fernando Gen. Committee	Keith Ockersz Gen. Committee	Ravi De Cruze Gen. Committee	Emerson Victoria Gen. Committee
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ST JOSEPHS COLLEGE A BRIEF HISTORY 1892—2005 — *By Mano Ponniah*

In 1892, the idea of a Catholic College emerges with the proposal of the Archbishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Fr. Christophe-Étienne Bonjean.

On 6 January 1892, a pastoral letter was sent to all the priests espousing the desirability of building a Catholic College. ***In April 1892 a meeting with St Benedict's College, Colombo 13 was held and it was decided to function as a Branch of St Benedict's until it was Ready to open independently as St Joseph's College,*** it took 4 years until 1896 for this to happen. This historic fact is detailed in a pastoral Letter written by Archbishop Bonjean dated 6th January 1892. St Joseph's must be eternally grateful to St Benedict's for this selfless act which resulted in the progress of Catholic education in Sri Lanka.

Thereafter 27 acres of Land called the 'uplands' was bought by the Archbishop for this project, from the government. Later however, this land was bought back by the government with compensation, and the Catholic Church bought a land at Maradana in Darley Road from an Egyptian called Arabi Pasha for the College building.

On 12 December 1894 the foundation stone was laid by the Papal Delegate for South-Asia Rev. Msgr, Ladislaus Zaleski. In 1896, on 2 March 1896, St. Joseph's College Colombo was declared open with 211 students in the school proper and 96 students in the preparatory school with Very Rev. Fr. Charles Collin as the First Rector. In November 1896, the College building was formally declared open by Governor of Ceylon West Redgeway and was blessed by Most Rev. Msgr, Zaleski, in the presence of the Archbishop Rt. Rev. Fr. Melizan OMI.

The Rector's office, the College office and the classrooms were all housed in the first building – the Clock Tower building of the College. The College Magazine was started in 1905. The Bonjean Hall was the third building to be completed. Fr. Charles Lytton, the second Rector, planned and supervised the building project of the Bonjean Hall.

Fr. Emil Nicholas OMI was the third Rector appointed in 1910. To Fr. Emil Nicholas goes the credit of primary work on the first Religious Association of the College – the Guild of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1914, there was the appointment of the great educationist, scientist and efficient administrator Fr. Maurice J. Legoc OMI the fourth Rector. In 1933 the present Primary building – originally named "The Maurice Block" was constructed. The exterior facade of this building was an exact copy of the Bonjean Hall was declared open by Most Rev. Fr. Marques.

The next massive building was the (south Wing) a two-storied building to house the classrooms. During Fr. Maurice Legoc's tenure of office, there was emphasis of the science subjects in the curriculum, Fr. Legoc's favourite subject was Botany. His own publication "Tropical Botany" was used as a text book in O' Level classes in

India and Sri Lanka. In 1930, Fr. Maurice Legoc introduced a scheme of scholarships to the under privileged students.

To extend the fruits of knowledge to the students in the outstations, Fr. Maurice Legoc commenced:

- (b) St. Paul's College Waragoda (1935)
- (c) St. John's College, Dematagoda (1939)

On 19 March 1929, the foundation stone for the College Chapel was laid by the Archbishop of Colombo. The College Chapel is a fitting memorial to Fr. Maurice Legoc.

The southern end of the Primary building an exact copy of the Grotto in Lourdes was built. In 1940, the Very Rev. Fr. Peter A. Pillai (fifth Rector) was appointed. On Feb 27, 1947, the College buildings were taken over by the Army, due to the World War 2. The College was in 'exile' from 1942 to 1946, branches of the College were housed in Homagama, Kalaniya, Gampaha and later at Borella.

On 30 July 1952, the swimming pool was declared open by Lord Soulbury, the Governor General of Sri Lanka. after the era of Fr. Peter A. Pillai, Rev. W.L.A. Don Peter (sixth Rector) was appointed as the Rector of St. Joseph's College in 1959. Fr. Don Peter was the first diocesan priest to hold this responsible post.

In 1960, after the take over of the schools by the Government the financial support was stopped by the government. The College became a private, non fee levying school.

To uplift the financial situation of the College, Fr. W.L.A. Peter founded the Welfare Association, and also started a pre-school for St. Joseph's. After the tenure of the Sinhala scholar, Fr. W.L.A. don Peter, Rev. Fr. Mervyn Weekakkody (seventh Rector) was given the task of being Chief Executive of St. Joseph's. after a brief period, Fr. Weerakkody retired as Rector and in 1974, Rev. Fr. Quintus Fernando (eighth Rector) was appointed as Rector. FR. Quintus Fernando was called the architect of the green revolution at St. Joseph's. He gave pride of pace to agriculture. The agro 74 was a great exhibition which displayed agricultural plots and stressed the importance of agriculture in the school curriculum.

The 'Open air stadium' was constructed during the era of Fr. Quintus. The cricket 'Tuft Pitch' became a reality during Fr. Quintus's tenure of office. On 19 September 1977, the Hon. Ranasinghe Premadasa, the first old boy Prime Minister was felicitated by the Josephian family. The work of the Premadasa Pavilion was directed by Fr. Quintus Fernando.

In 1979, Fr. Neville Emmanuel (ninth Rector) was appointed as Rector. During the era of Fr. Neville he tried his best to re-introduce the Catholic atmosphere in the College. Fr. Neville started the scheme of granting incentives to teachers based on punctuality, attendance, good teaching etc. Fr. Neville initiated the sports council, to improve standards in the sports are-

na.

In May 1983, Rev. Fr. B. Stanley Abeysekera was appointed as the 10th Rector of St. Joseph's College.

To provide an opportunity for deserving under-privileged students to study at St. Joseph's, a grade 5 scholarship examination was inaugurated in the College. On the results of this examination these students were give an opportunity to study at St. Joseph's College. In 1987 Thomas Cardinal Cooray, a past student of the College was conferred a very special honour – 'Deva Dharma Keethisiri Uttunga Vidyala Puthra'.

During the era of Fr. Stanley Abeysekera, the following additions and renovations to the college buildings were completed with funds provided by the Welfare Association and Old Boys.

- (a) A two storied building was completed. The top-story for the classrooms, and the ground floor for the sick room, boarders' refectory and modern kitchen.
- (b) An auditorium was built where the Chemistry labs were housed.
- (c) In 1991, a three storied building was constructed for class-rooms and laboratories for the advanced level students.
- (d) The Enderamulla Branch school was inaugurated.
- (e) A sports complex cum auditorium was declared open by Nicholas Marcus Fernando on 19 March 1996, funded mainly by Old Boys worldwide.

The College centenary year was inaugurated. On 30 March 1996, Rev. Fr. Victor Silva (11th Rector) was appointed as Rector of St. Joseph's College.

The Choral singing at St. Joseph's College reached very high standards, with Mr. Francis Almeida as music director. The Bonjean Hall and the College swimming pool were renovated with funds from Old Boys from the country and overseas.

The introduction of the boating facilities were a valuable addition to St. Joseph's College during the era of Fr. Victor Silva, three classroom buildings were constructed for the Enderamulla branch school. The branch-school of St. Joseph's at Kadolkelle – Negombo was inaugurated during the latter days of Fr. Victor Silva.

On 3 October 2005, Fr. Sylvester Ranasinghe was appointed as 12th Rector of St. Joseph's College. A systematic staff development programme was introduced at St. Joseph's by the Rector. He introduced "Rhythm of Joes" concert in school, with the talents of students in College, which was the first time in Sri Lankan schools, a competition with such high standards were done.

This article is published unedited, except for minor changes. Please write to Dannelle (dannellediaz@gmail.com) or Spencer (spencerfelxi@hotmail.com) with any comments.

HARPING ON THE PAST — *By Keith Bennett*



The First Cricket Encounter

In a remarkable encounter at Darley Road, Colombo 10, St. Joseph's College hosted their first ever cricketing opponent Royal College and won a ground breaking Victory by an innings and 314 runs.

Milroy Brohier scored 174 in just over two hours for St. Joseph's.

Much to learn from the past.

Royal 74 and 79

(K. Serpanchy 5 for 18, Roy Perera 3 for 21)

(G. Seneviratne 20, M. Brohier 3 for 8 in 7 overs, K. Serpanchy 3 for 20).

St. Joseph's 467 for 9 dec.

Milroy Brohier 174 - in just over two hours, Roy Perera 92, M. Wanigaratne 50 and Rienzie Perera 65

Back – Roy Perera, Maurice Wanigaratne, Talath Ismail, Shirly Rangala, Chrishantha Fernando, Ralph Brohier, Lester Caspersz, Ralph Bolling,

Front – Malcom Spittel (Coach), Milroy Brohier, Ken Serpanchy (Captain), Rev. Fr. Arthur Fernando (Prefect of Games), Rienzi Perera, Wilson Wimalaratne, E.C. (Christo) Gunsekere (MIC Cricket) Seated on the ground – Mahinda de Silva (left)



Joe—Pete Australia 2016



The Champs 2016
Joes Open team

Richard Gabriel, A Personal Perspective — By Dr. Srilal Fernando



Richard Gabriel's wood carving of Fr. Peter Pillai

Richard Don Gabriel died peacefully surrounded by his extended family on his 92nd birthday. He was the last of the original group of Artists called the 43 Group. Thus ended an era of profound importance in the Art of Sri Lanka. This article is neither an exhaustive exercise about the Group or of Richard Gabriel's Art. I shall leave this to more capable and knowledgeable writers. Mine is a personal perspective.

My earliest memories of Richard was when he was the Art Teacher at St Joseph's College, Colombo. A brand new art studio was built by the Beira Lake and this is where the students attended their art classes. The art lesson was lost on us little kids then. However, Richard could with a few strokes of his brush bring an animal to life.

Many years passed and it was only after migrating to Australia that I developed an interest in collecting and studying Sri Lankan Art. Visits to Sri Lanka would be incomplete without a visit to the Gabriel residence in Pannipitiya. We would be served with a glass of Thambili wine. As with limited means my purchases were restricted to woodcuts. After the death of his wife, Richard moved to Melbourne, Australia. His daughter Rene and son-in-law Hiran, both architects, built a little studio for him in an annex of their house. Richard continued his painting and the occasional wood sculpture there.

His residence was not very far from my consulting rooms. This gave me the time to visit him once every two or three months. This continued for over ten years. His calm temperament, peaceful manner, and his knowledge about painting and the 43 Group made my visits knowledgeable and enjoyable.

Richard had the highest regard for Ivan Peries and Harry Pieris. Ivan had recognised his talent and introduced him to Harry Pieris. Harry took him in as a pupil but waived the fees as Richard could not afford them.

Another story he related was that Fr. Peter Pillai, the rector at St. Joseph's College, Colombo wanted Richard to teach art at St. Joseph's. However, as...St Joseph's was a fee assisted school, the teachers had to have the Government requirements to be on the payroll. Richard did not have a pass in Sinhala which was one of the requirements. Fr. Pillai paid his wage from his own funds till Richard had the necessary requirements to be on the school payroll.

Many years later, I was given a block of wood by one of my sculptor friends. I gave this to Richard as I was very unlikely to have a go at sculpting. Richard kept it for a

few years and I did not ask him about it knowing that an artist would have to do it in his own time. One day he said that he would sculpt the head of Fr. Peter Pillai. He sawed off part of the block to use as a platform for the head. He shaped this platform in the form of a book thus alluding to the scholarly aspect of Fr. Peter Pillai. The likeness of the finished product was remarkable. I was lucky to see the head at every stage and Hiran has a photograph of Richard working on it. The head was sent to Fr. Kuriacose and I believe it is at Aquinas College, Colombo.

When the book on Justin Daraniyagala's paintings came out, Richard and I went through some of the paintings and he was able to interpret the meaning and significance of some of the paintings. He remarked that Justin was widely read and most of his paintings had various symbols which were apparent only to the discerning eye. Justin had done a painting of Anais Nin, a famous feminist author of the time. It is said that she was an artist model for Picasso and Matisse. The painting was in bad condition with the canvas at the bottom virtually in tatters. Richard was asked to restore it. He repaired the canvas and matched the colour to the original colour of the painting.

Richard was not a portrait painter. However, he painted Fr. Peter Pillai, his benefactor, and later Christopher Ondaatje. His portrait was used as the front cover of Christopher Ondaatje's book "The Man Eater of Punani and appears with a leopard next to him.

I, in a fit of vanity, asked whether Richard would paint me. He readily agreed. He painted me in a sarong and shirt holding the reins of a magnificent, ferocious-looking horse, almost being dragged away by the horse. Not knowing the symbolism in the painting, I...exchanged it for another painting of two women with pots on their heads on their way to and from the well. Only later that I realised that the fierce horse was the powerful subconscious forces at play and me the psychiatrist trying to control them, but being almost blown away in the process.

His simplicity was legendary. He once was invited to a function at the Indian High Commission and the invitation stated "Dress - Lounge". He responded saying that he had no suit or even a tie. Some years later he was invited again, but it was written "Dress - Casual". He still did not attend. It was not his scene.

Once the British High Commission sent him a visitor, a distinguished looking tall gentleman who purchased his paintings. He later found out that it was the cricketer Ted Dexter known as Lord Ted. He was sorry he did not recognise this former MCC cricket captain and would have loved to talk cricket with him.

Though the last years of his life were spent in Australia, his painting were all based on memories of Sri Lanka.

He painted rural scenes such as women bathing by a stream, beach scenes, and of ordinary country folk such as fisherman and a farmer tending his animals. He related so much to this time of his childhood. When I requested a painting to adorn the cover of the souvenir for the Sri Lankan doctors in Australia get together, he provided a painting of a Vedarala examining a patient in the veranda of his house.

He lived a simple life with no opulence. He died peaceful and content. When I visited him two days before he died to say goodbye he was very lucid in his mind. He had accepted death and waited for the right moment for it to happen. What a great man, what a great life.

He was the Art Teacher at St Joseph's College, Colombo.

Richard could with a few strokes of his brush bring an animal to life.

This article is published unedited, except for minor changes. Please write to Dannelle (dannellediaz@gmail.com) or Spencer (spencerfeki@hotmail.com) with any comments. WE INVITE YOU TO SEND IN YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER AND WELCOME ANY FEEDBACK.



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



Basket Ball

St Joseph's College beat Vidura College 41 to 33 in the Semi Final of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Under 15 Basketball tournament organized by St Joseph's College, Enderamulla,



Josephian Soccer Team at the Vincent Dias Stadium, Badulla

Soccer

St Joseph's College beat Dharmadutha College, Badulla 5 Goals to Nil in the Kotmale Chox Under 19 Championship match played at Vincent Dias Stadium, Badulla.

Goal Scorers for St Joseph's College were Sachintha Maduranga 2 goals, Jayson Fernando & Asela Madushan 1 goal each and had the luxury of an own goal



Rugby

St Joseph's College beat CWW Kannangara MV 65 to 10 (10 tries, 5 conversions) in the Plate group Rugby match played at Longdon Place.

Try Scorers for St Joseph's College were Gemunu Chethiya 3, Swen Muller 2, Vinul Fernando 2 and Tharindu de Alwis, Devon Fernando, Romesh Priyankara, Malinda Pinto 1 each

THE BEIRA LAKE & ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE — By Sujeeva Nugawila

The Beira Lake has been an icon associated with the City of Colombo where St Joseph's College runs its total southern perimeter alongside its bank. Scenic but treacherous though the lake appears to have derived its name 'Beira' from the Portuguese language where a host of meanings such as 'border / shore / edge / river side / river bank' are in reference. A controversy pertaining to the Portuguese meaning arose in later years when a stone tablet was said to have been apparently unearthed during its dredging in the 1880's which read 'De Beere' and was thought to be the name of a Dutch engineer who was responsible for its design. However, the above 'De Beere' could possibly mean a Dutch reference for 'the Beira Lake' since this was a period prior to public utilities and assets being named after public servants!



This was once a sparkling expanse of water with over 400 acres. However due to urbanisation resulting in land-fill and dumping of garbage during the last 100 years this has reduced it today to its 160 acres. The Fort of Colombo, built by the Portuguese is said to have used the Beira as part of its (natural) defences which in its time was said to have been infested (or even introduced) with Crocodiles. Many islands are said to have existed here, although today only one remains close to Bishops College. However, 'Slave Island' too by its very name confirms the geography of the area.

St Joseph's college built on a land purchased by the catholic church from Orabi Pasha, the 19th century political exile from Egypt, is said to have had its very border too just behind the 'Collin block / memorial' – (the oldest building of the school with its clock tower). The broad corridors of the block with its large doors are in evidence to the cool breeze which may have once flowed across the Beira waters. Waters of the Beira may have reached the edge of the building since a mischievous student once having jumped from the 3rd floor of the building is said to have landed 'safely' in the mud of the Beira lake giving thought where the waters may have ended at the time! Another tale but this time with tragic consequence is of a famous French parachutist who made an exhibition jump in the early 20th century only to have landed in the midst of the Beira and drowned, watched by shocked spectators.

Carnivals held at St Joseph's up to the late 1950's always had aquatic performances on the Beira. However, due to tragedies of student drowning in the Beira particularly during this time compelled the then rector Fr W L A Don Peter to seal the entire area with a fence of metal roofing sheet. However some students improvised another ruse this time to their truancy. A narrow footpath by the lake through the fencing via a large underground drain that exited at McCallum Road behind the former Gamini cinema!

A row of class rooms on the perimeter of the lake are to date known as the **Beira block**.

FAREWELL BROTHERS



Arthur Hakel the Josephian Sportsman of the late 60's. Arthur played Cricket under Lalit de S Wijeyeratne and Brian Obeysekere in 1968 and 1969 as the opening Bowler he played Soccer and Captained the Athletics team of 1968, In Athletics he held the National Schools record for Javelin which was his pet event, in Soccer he played in the last line of defence. He was true sportsman of St Joseph's College and gave his all for Josephian Sports, He was once the Chairman of the Athletic Committee and also a member of the Cricket Committee. He was also the President of the Past Cricketers Association. He was a silent worker and went about his task to see his work bore fruit. A very humble and loveable person, surely will be missed by lots of Josephians.

God Bless you Arthur

You will be missed, and May you Rest in Peace

[Adrian Hakel](#).



The 81 Batch Celebrating Rohan Abhayaratna's 50th B Day in NSW

In a far and distant land as I think of you. The laughs we had, the tears we cried, the memories you left, live on brightly inside.

You're missed so much more than you would ever know. There are memories of you In all places we go. It broke our hearts to lose you. You did not go alone part of us went with you. The day God called you home Our family chain was broken and nothing seems to be the same.

We want you back here but know you can't be The fact that you're no longer here Will always cause us pain but you are forever in my heart.

Until we meet again— LOVE

A SISTER'S TRIBUTE BY — Akki (Sunila De Silva)

JOES EVENTS



SJC OBU Australia Members Night

Date: Friday the 6th May 2016
Venue: Walauwiwa Restaurant, 477 Princes Highway, Noble Park
Time: 7.30pm Onwards
Tickets: \$ 15.00 per person





OLD JOSEPHIANS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA INC PRESENTS

MYSTIC COLOURS

OLD JOES ANNUAL DINNER DANCE 2016

MUSIC BY



MARQUE
MELIZAN
BONJEAN
COUDERT

REDEMPTION

DATE

SATURDAY 30TH JULY

7.30 PM - 12.30 AM

SHERRY & SAVOURIES SERVED FROM 7.00 TO 7.30 PM

VENUE

SPRINGVALE TOWN-HALL

397 SPRINGVALE RD, SPRINGVALE

DRESS CODE

GENTS: **FORMAL** | LADIES: **AFTER 5**

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BY CONTEMPO CATERERS

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& **SOFT DRINKS** PER TABLE OF 10
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