

Old Peterite Newsletter



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION

Volume 01 | Jul – Sept 2019

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear Fellow Old Peterites,

On behalf of the editorial team, it gives me great pleasure to present you the 1st quarter e-newsletter of the St.Peter's College Old Boys' Union (SPC-OBU) for the year 2019/20, covering the months of July to September. It has been an eventful 1st quarter for the OBU, beginning with the OBU's farewell to Rev.Fr. Trevor Martin 11th Rector of St.Peter's College in July, our much-anticipated annual dinner dance "Golden Gleam 2019" in August and the "Retro Nite" organized by our energetic OBUH team in September. The Football Foundation and Rugby Foundation also held their AGM's during the quarter. The batch groups and branches have also been active during the quarter and details of these events are included in this issue. Also included in this issue is an article by Mr.Desmond Kelly (Editor-in-Chief of elanka.com.au) as he reminisces on his time at St.Peter's(the article is reproduced at the request of Mr.Roshan Dharmaratne and with the permission of Mr.Kelly).

In news on College affairs, Rev.Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo assumed duties as the 12th Rector of St.Peter's College and College bid a fond farewell to its 11th Rector Rev.Fr.Trevor Martin. Fr.Rohitha has been a live wire reaching out to all sub committees, batch groups and foundations of the OBU to discuss his vision for St.Peter's and agree steps on fostering a better working relationship between college administration and the old boys in their respective areas.

The editorial team has been working hard to bring you the latest updates of the OBU and College on an ongoing basis through the website (www.stpetersobu.com), Facebook (www.facebook.com/obuofstpeterscollege/), twitter (www.twitter.com/obuofstpeterscollege) and SMS alerts (registration details in this newsletter). We hope you will make use of these services.

The 2nd quarter(Oct-Dec) promises to be as exciting as the first with the Saints Quadrangular tournament , the planned OBUH events at the Lounge and the events planned round the December season. We look forward to seeing you at these events and hope you will rally round to "Lend a heart and lend a hand and lift the flag on high!"

Shiyan Jayaweera
Hony. Editor
SPC-OBU 2019/20

Editorial Sub Committee



Shiyan Jayaweera
Hony. Editor
SPC-OBU & Sub
Committee
Chairman



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Asst. Editor SPC-OBU



Irfan Amirdeen



Dayan Georgesz



Johann A. Perera



Praveen Fernando

OFFICE BEARERS OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION 2019-20

St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union held its 91st Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 30th June 2019, at the D J Nicholas Perera Hall. Mr. Asela Lihinikaduwa was re-elected President for the year 2019/2020.

Following are those elected to the Committee of Management for the year 2019/2020

Patron	: Rev. Fr. Trevor Martin (Patron/ Rector)
Vice Patrons	: Rev. Fr. Felician R. Perera (Ex-officio)
	: Rev. Fr. Travis Gabriel (Ex-officio)
	: Mr. Francis Madiwala (Ex-officio)
	: Rev. Fr. Srian Ranasinghe OMI
	: Vidyajothi Prof. Willie Mendis
	: Mr. Kumar Paul (Snr.)
	: Mr. Mano Chanmugam
	: Air Chief Marshal Roshan Goonetilleke
	: Dr. Ananda Soysa
	: Vidyajothi. Prof. Rohan Jayasakara
	: Mr. Nivard Cabraal
	: Mr. Ranjith Weerasena
	: DIG. Camilus Abeygoonewardena (Ret)
President	: Mr. Asela Lihinikaduwa
Immediate Past President	: Mr. Romeish de Mel
Nominated Past Presidents	: Mr. Gerry de Mel
	: Mr. Roshan Dharmaratne
	: Mr. Harin Gunawardena

OFFICE BEARERS OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION 2019-20 Contd.

Vice Presidents	: Mr. Ashley Fonseka : Mr. Navin Perera : Mr. Kumantha Ranasinghe : Mr. Dilshan Hareen Perera : Dr. Shivaji Felix : Mr. Kevin Edwards
Hony. General Secretary	: Mr. Ravika de Silva
Asst. Secretary	: Mr. Johann Perera
Hony. Treasurer	: Mr. Haariz Rahman
Asst. Treasurer	: Mr. Sanjeev Dabare
Hony. Editor	: Mr. Shiyan Jayaweera
Asst. Editor	: Mr. Sydney Downall
General Committee	: Mr. Dushantha Gunewardene : Mr. Ksham Ranasinghe : Mr. Mangala Dharmapriya : Mr. Asela Perera : Mr. Lashan Ranasinghe : Mr. Praveen Fernando : Mr. Suren Perera : Mr. Algi Wijewickrema : Mr. Randy Roche : Mr. Ramesh Rayappan : Mr. Lakshan Nanayakkara : Mr. Irfan Amirdeen : Mr. Pradeep Edwards

OFFICE BEARERS OF ST. PETER'S COLLEGE OLD BOYS' UNION 2019-20 Contd.

- : Mr. Dayan Georgesz
- : Mr. Lyndon Jayasinghe
- : Mr. Pramoda Karunatileka
- : Mr. Vinoshan Richard
- : Mr. Trevin Fernandopulle
- : Mr. Shamal Perera
- : Mr. Sanushka Perera

The proceedings began with Holy Mass concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Trevor Martin, Rev. Fr. Srian Ranasinghe, Rev. Fr. Chrispin Leo, Rev. Samith Rangana Fernando, Rev. Fr. Chandanalal Fernando, Rev. Fr. Samantha Fernandopulle and Rev. Fr. Thilina pathum Fernando, followed by the traditional breakfast, courtesy Rev. Fr. Rector. The AGM thereafter was followed by an “after party” for fellowship amongst the members.

Ravika de Silva

Hony. General Secretary

THANK YOU FR.TREVOR – A FAREWELL TO OUR RECTOR



A farewell to the 11th Rector of St. Peter's College, Rev. Fr. Trevor Martin, titled "Thank you Fr. Trevor – A farewell to our Rector" organized by the OBU of St. Peter's College was held on 25th July 2019 at the Grand Ballroom, Galle Face hotel amidst a gathering of over 268 old boys' and well wishers. Fr. Rector was welcomed by the OBU committee of management and led in procession into the hall. Following the lighting of the oil lamp, the welcome address and keynote address were delivered by Dr. Nirmal De Silva and OBU President Mr. Asela Lihinikaduwa respectively. Fr. Trevor was clearly emotional, as he watched a video specially prepared for the occasion covering the highlights of his tenure at St. Peter's. The incoming Rector Rev Fr. Rohitha Rodrigo then addressed the gathering.

The formalities concluded with a vote of thanks by the Gen. Secretary Mr. Ravika de Silva.

A special highlight of the evening was a farewell messages video from the different OBU branches across the world, all of whom had personal interactions with Fr. Trevor, and also that the entire event was live streamed on the OBU Facebook page for the benefit of its members.

To feature your event in the newsletter, email editor@stpetersobu.com

GOLDEN GLEAM 2019



Golden Glean 2019 :“ The Grand Circus Spectacle “ was held at the Colombo Hilton on the 3rd of August 2019 in a grand scale. This year the project was co-chaired by Mr Navin Perera & Mr Duaine Peiris along with the enthusiastic dance committee. The event was hosted by our very own ring master Gehan Block backed by Misty and Black , two of the leading bands in the entertainment industry in Sri Lanka.

The Golden Glean dinner dance is the main fund raiser for the OBU and this year too it was a full house, with the ballroom packed from wall to wall.

The success of this event has been the sheer commitment and the dedication of the dance committee and the generosity of our sponsors who have supported this event wholeheartedly to maintain its position as the best schools' dance in the country. Our special thanks to all who supported this endeavor and look forward to your continued support for Golden Glean 2020 as well.

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RETRO NIGHT'19



The Peterite Lounge yet again was abuzz with the “Retro Night” event in September which saw a sizable gathering. A new food menu and mocktails saw the crowd enjoying their food and drinks. The colorful lighting and nostalgic pictures of 70’s and 80’s decorated the lounge to add an “old school” touch.

SPC OBU SYDNEY BRANCH

A big "Thank You" to all who attended the remembrance service that was held to celebrate the lives of our school-mates and teachers who are no longer with us.

Old Peterite Rev Fr Isuru Weliwatte *mgl* was brilliant in the way he engaged with the large congregation from different faiths during his homily. Fr Isuru was also encouraged by the attendance at this year's mass too. He said "I had set aside about 90 hosts for communion and the line of people who "received" never seemed to end -- they kept coming and coming. Finally, I had to get more from the Tabernacle".

It was great to see the HCF-SPC community support this Service. I hope this tradition will continue.

The Choir led by Harsha & Nipuna and accompanied by Dinease (wife of Dinuka and niece of old Peterites Claude, Edgar and Vernon) sang like angels and had the entire congregation participating in the singing.

Thank you also for the generous donations and the Food, it certainly made the fellowship a great success.

Amal Wahab



BATCH OF 2008

The annual general meeting of the Batch of 2008 was held on the 26th of June 2019 at the OBU Secretariat with many batch members in attendance. Mr. Kamil Hisham was appointed as the President and Mr. Marlon Mirando as the Secretary for the year 2019/20.

The focus of the batch is to create engagement and networking amongst its members. The batch continues to have regular informal gatherings at the Peterite Lounge which started to see more new members patronizing. 7 new members obtained membership of the OBU.

Further, the batch group initiated a fund raising project, producing a limited edition lapel pin of the St. Peter's College Old Boys' Union which was initially sold at the "Golden Gleam 2019" dinner dance. The Batch plans to use this project to help the OBU as well as College. The idea behind creating merchandise is to create a range of products which can be worn at any OBU event or elsewhere to proudly display our Peterite identity.

Kamil Hashim
President 2019/20



The image displays the St. Peter's College crest at the top. Below it, three items of merchandise are shown: a blue suit jacket with a gold and blue striped tie, a blue suit jacket with a white shirt and a blue tie, and a grey briefcase. The items are arranged in a row, with the first two showing the lapel pin on the jacket.

Be a proud owner of a
LIMITED EDITION LAPEL PIN OF
ST. PETER'S COLLEGE

Call now +94 773 448 142, +94 701 717 007

FROM OUR MEMBERS:

“OUR ALMA MATER” – BY DES KELLY

As we quickly approach yet another Mothers' day, here in Australia, my thoughts naturally fly to my own Mother, who, with my Dad, is resting in peace perfect peace, in the most beautiful “Botanical Necropolis” in Melbourne.

As everyone should know, a “Mother” is, by far, the most important person in this World of ours. “Mater” is the Latin word for her, so where does the term “Alma Mater” fit in?

Generally, folks, it is indeed a Mother who accompanies her children to School for the first time (as it was in my case), the term “Alma Mater” therefore is considered to be your first School or College, your “Nourishing Mother” is yet another endearing term (in Latin), simply because your place of learning takes over from your biological Nourishing Mother, to hopefully teach you the facts of life, among other things. So, the next time anyone speaks of their “Alma Mater,” you will know exactly what they mean.

This writer has been blessed with FOUR Alma Maters.

From my very own Mother, I started School at the Convent of Our Lady of Victories, in Moratuwa, at age 5, in 1941.

From there, at age 8, I attended St. Sebastian's College, still in Moratuwa, but left, when we shifted back to Colombo Central, to join my main Alma Mater, St. Peter's College, Bambalapitiya, a College that had proudly served as a hospital, during the 2nd World War. As I remember, it was in 1947 that I became a proud Peterite, already very much into my “music”, stage, & showbiz., which I began, practically as a toddler. So, here I was, quite old now, joining the Music, Art & Drama Society at St. Peter's College, ably run, at the time, by the Rev. Father Noel Cruz. In my eyes, there was nothing I wanted more, than to sing “on-stage” in the huge, beautiful main College hall, and this, I am proud to say, I did, many times, once, as the “back-up” act, for the famous Blue Diamonds from Netherlands, many other times, at concerts staged by Father Cruz, and our Art Master at the time, (we used to call him “Papa de Niese”). He used to carry this short rattan cane, hidden up the coat sleeve of his right hand, and woe betide the man, who either sang a wrong note or made some error with the lyrics. OUT!! would come this short cane, and although I was lucky enough not to ever feel it, the wincing of some of my College mates around me, were plain to see. Why they joined our choir, I'll never know.

It's been nearly 70 years since I left College, so, for the best part, names elude me, but I remember that when I joined St. Peter's College, either he already was, or shortly after, became the Rector. This was Fr. Basil Wiratunga or was it Wijetunga? we also had a young, handsome Priest, who was our Prefect of Discipline, we boasted Fr. Mervyn Weerakkody, or “Jive-boy” as he was fondly known, because he loved music. We had several experienced “Masters”, one of whom was Basil Ambrose, (or Apple-John), another, always well-dressed & smart History Master, Mr. Jayasekera, various other equally experienced teachers of Science, Religious Studies, Papa de Niese of course, was our Art Master, I cannot remember the English, Master's name, but our Sinhala Master was unkindly, but fondly known as “Hoona”. He was very thin & tall, but no-one seemed to know his real name.

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Among the “students” of note, were Senior boys like our Cricket Captain & superb wicketkeeper H.I.K. Fernando, who was reputed to have “stumped” the World’s best W.K. of that time, Englishman Don Tallon, at some match. Then, of course, there was Clive Inman the record-breaking batsman who got his name by scoring the fastest half-century at the time. I think he was the first Peterite to get his name into the Guinness book of Records.

Clive was in the same form as I was, BUT I am proud to report that I was the Monitor of the most notorious “Junior D” form in the entire College. Why? I’ll never know.

People like Clive Inman, Ray Forbes, & Basil Ambrose’s son, who were all well-behaved studious “good guys” were separated from myself and my “Prayer-Monitor” Denis Roberts, who, in my humble opinion, was one of the very best Vocalists in Ceylon, at the time. You closed your eyes, and you were listening to Frank Sinatra or Nat King Cole.

Also, in class with me was Elmo Mulholland, another Musician who went on to become one of the BEST Bass guitar players in the Country. Then, there was Mohan Lalvani, the son of one of the Lalvani Bros. Mob. of Colombo, who was also in Junior D., one of the biggest mischief-makers at College, getting himself & others into a lot of trouble, often. He was a dear friend of mine.

Also, in class, with me, was one of my “heavies” Roger Van Dort. I was a 7 stone weakling, at the time, always getting sand kicked into my face, at the beach, but if anyone was getting on my nerves at College, I would call Roger aside and tell him who was annoying me. Roger would then accost the culprit outside the College gates and give him a sound beating. Roger was tough, but his older brother Clinton who was also a Peterite boxer was even worse than Roger. One only had to LOOK at Clinton, the wrong way and the “beating” they would get, was something to behold.

They were a tough lot, those Van Dorts. There were many other “crazy characters” at St. Peter’s too. One was another good pal of mine. His name was Carl Jansz. Many of these good friends of mine are at peace, now, yet, as I remember it, there was absolutely no evil in anything we did. We were all simply classified as “Rebels”.

Many old Peterites were, and, are still not aware, I suppose that there was this huge concrete “bokkuwa” drain, running the length of the Peterite grounds, from the bottom of Lorensz Road, thru to the Wellawatte Canal, on the other side. One fine day, Desmond Kelly organized a few mates, including brother Ian, Dennis Roberts, Carl Jansz, & a couple or three others, whose names I cannot remember, to CROSS the grounds “underneath” & end up in the Canal.

We had to make the entire journey on our haunches, feet astride a thin lake of running water, pitch darkness, except for one dim torch carried by Carl, bats whizzing past our ears, which we had not expected, and Denis wanted desperately to turn back, but it was too late, we were already halfway through, and then Carl suddenly spotted a manhole, probably in the center of the ground. Of course, he went to this manhole cover, and just wanting a bit of fresh air for all of us, lifted it with a bit of difficulty, only to see the ground Curator not far away. I cannot remember

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this Curator’s name, he was not a young man, and the SHOCK he got, seeing this ragged individual’s head poking out of the manhole, could have even shortened his life, but Curators are tough too, and he came rushing to this “head”, with some gardening tool in his hand, and Carl promptly brought the cover down with a bang. If there was anything that got us to the other end of the drain, that was it!

These were some of the crazy things that we Peterites did, in the old days. Nothing wicked or evil, just CRAZY.

There was also the usual BULLY at College. He was in the Senior Prep., or might have even been in the Senior Form, but got his kicks bullying the younger kids, and I was one of them. I would try to fight back, but to no avail, so, this time, I went to the 2nd “Chandia” at College, my brother Ian Kelly.

Three years younger, but always “bigger” in build (he still is, and I am now around a hundred kilograms), so, Ian says to me. “Don’t worry, Des, we’ll catch him after College and teach him a lesson”. We then found out the “route” home, for this bully, hid in the bushes, along this same Canal bank, and our bully had to pass us on his way to High-level Road, the bus-stand that would take him to Nugegoda, where he lived. So, he comes into view, whistling tunelessly, and Ian confronts him as though he wanted to chat. In the meanwhile, on a signal from Ian, I crawled around the back of this brute and knelt down immediately behind the bully.

Ian then gave him a mighty push and of course, he lost his balance and fell over me, to the ground. Ian yelled “let’s get him, now,” and this is exactly what we did. We got him, alright. Both of us “bullied this bully” and gave him the beating that he richly deserved. He got home, alright, but NEVER tried his bullying tactics at College again.

Finally, it was 1952, there was a Circus Family in Town, The Jenkins & Schumanns, under contract to Donovan Andree. This is a completely different story, folks, but loving Showbiz better than studying to be a Doctor or Lawyer, I left St. Peter’s College, (and home), at 15 and a half years of age to “run-away” with this Circus Group, touring Ceylon for about 6 months, before coming home again. The Jenkins wanted to “adopt” me, but mum refused to sign the papers to let me go, resulting in my joining the Royal Ceylon Navy.

I will never forget St. Peter’s though, My Alma Mater, and I am also very proud to have received a welcome certificate for “Entertainment” from this very special College. I might not have excelled in everything I was taught there, but I always loved “Reading” and, right now, I have begun to love “Writing”, as well, so I am grateful to God, for this talent that HE has afforded me.

I would like to congratulate each & every member of all our “Old boys’ Unions” around the World for the tremendous work that they do, on behalf of St. Peter’s College. “LEND A HEART & LEND A HAND, guys, we are all so proud of you.

Desmond Kelly.
(Editor-in-Chief)— eLanka.

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“OUR ALMA MATER” – BY Des Kelly

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“OUR ALMA MATER” – BY Des Kelly

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PETERITES IN THE NEWS

- **Mr. Isuru Perera** appointed as the Assistant Coach of the Sri Lanka Under 19 Football Team.
- **Former SL Air Force Commander Roshan Gunathilaka**, a distinguished Old Peterite and Vice Patron of the OBU, has been conferred the rank of Marshal of the Air Force.
- **Mr. Rumesh Ratnayake** appointed as interim head coach of the Sri Lanka national cricket team
- **Mr. Kevin Edwards** appointed to the Board of Arbitrators of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce
- **Mr. Kevin Edwards** appointed as Vice Chairman of the Sri Lanka Maldives Business Council
- **Mr. Sudesh Mendis** appointed Treasurer of the Sri Lanka Maldives Business Council
- **Mr. Mario Joseph** represented Sri Lanka Masters Men's Hockey team at the Masters World Cup in Barcelona
- **Mr. Godwin Solomons** represented Sri Lanka Masters Men's Hockey team at the Masters World Cup in Barcelona
- **Mr. Vinothan John** appointed to the National Cricket Selection Committee
- **Mr. Anil M.G. Perera** appointed as the Team Leader of Rural Road Project by Asian Development
- **Mr. Mahinda Saranapala** received the Sri Brands LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2019.
- **Mr. Ashan Ransilige** received the HR Leadership Award 2019
- **Mr. Gerard Victoria** was elected as the Chairman of the Sri Lanka Association of Airline Representatives (SLAAR)
- **Mr. Pradeep Edward** appointed as the Secretary General of Asia Marketing Federation.
- **Mr. Jerome de Silva** received the honor Kala Keerthi for his contribution to the theatre.
- **Mr. Chandrashan Perera** conferred the title of Kreedha Bhushana
- **Mr. Anuradha Herath** represented National Rugby team at the Asian sevens series.
- **Mr. Nishon Perera** represented National Rugby team at the Asian sevens series.
- **Mr. Kevin Dixon** represented National Rugby team at the Asian sevens series.

EVENT CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- **06th Dec - Batch Get Together 2008**
Fairway residencies Rajagiriya.
- **08th Dec - Battle of the Saints Cricket Carnival** (organized by the Batch of 95-2000)
College Grounds
- **14th Dec - OBU Sing Along**
Rev. Fr. D.J. Nicholas Perera Hall
- **15th Dec - College Carol Service**
Rev. Fr. D.J. Nicholas Perera Hall
- **21st Dec - Hockey Evening**
Rev. Fr. D.J. Nicholas Perera Hall
- **25th Dec - Christmas Midnight Mass**
College Chapel



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Best wishes

from the

OBUS Editorial Team 2018/19