



Surprise Dinner to fete Sriyan Jayasekera convenor of the Class of 59 at S Thomas College Mount Lavinia in Sri Lanka, Circa 2002 for his dedication and consistent efforts to help us celebrate and renew our friendships forged in the school by the sea.

The hearts and minds of the class of 59 felt that it was time to do a “Sriyan” on Sriyan

TIGER, tiger, burning bright
In the forests of the night,
What immortal hand or eye
Could frame thy fearful
symmetry?

Sing, sing, sing – sing
mother sing...can mother
sing? Mother can sing...

I knew such a man once, a hunter and a tracker of
game, a little man with hunched up shoulders and
peering, cunning little eyes, and a small dark face all
pinched and lined, for he spent his life crouching,
slinking, and peering through the undergrowth and the
trees.

I knew But look as we would, we could see no signs of
Flossie and her donkey, so at last we had to come down
disappointed. On reaching the veranda I found Umslopogaas
sitting there, slowly and lightly sharpening his axe with a
small whetstone he always carried with him.
'What doest thou, Umslopogaas?' I asked.
'I smell blood,' was the answer; and I could get no more out
of him.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,
The lowing herd wind slowly o'er the lea,
The plowman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.
Now fades the glimm'ring landscape on the sight,
And all the air a solemn stillness holds,.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

"For my part I don't see why men who have got wives
and don't want 'em, shouldn't get rid of 'em as these
gipsy fellows do their old horses," said the man in the
tent. "Why shouldn't they put 'em up and sell 'em by
auction to men who are in need of such articles? Hey?
Why, begad, I'd sell mine this minute if anybody would
buy her!"

And I had done a hellish thing,
And it would work 'em woe:
For all averred, I had killed the bird
That made the breeze to blow.
Ah wretch! said they, the bird to slay,
That made the breeze to blow!

'Please, sir, I want some more. 'Please, sir,' replied Oliver,
'I want some more.' The master aimed a blow at Oliver's
head with the ladle; pinioned him in his arm; and
shrieked aloud for the beadle. The master was a fat,
healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in
stupified astonishment on the small rebel for some
seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The
assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with
fear. 'What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice.

Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.
The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones;
So let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus
Hath told you Caesar was ambitious:
If it were so, it was a grievous fault,
And grievously hath Caesar answer'd it.

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

For e'en though vanquish'd he
could argue still; While words of
learned length and thund'ring
sound Amazed the gazing rustics
rang'd around; And still they gaz'd
and still the wonder grew, That
one small head could carry all he
knew

"What writest thou?"—The vision raised its head, And with
a look made of all sweet accord, Answered, "The names of
those who love the Lord." "And is mine one?" said Abou.
"Nay, not so," Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low, But
cheerly still; and said, "I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."

The college bell it controlled our lives from morning till lights out at night following the same routine, day in day out, it never missed a peal.

Behind the bell the lower school where we were taught the College song and learnt about Thomian spirit.

Me gase boho Pani dodan
athe pahila idila bimata
nemila barawela athu
nangitai matai Gedi dekak
athi Wediya kadana Naraka
lamai hema nowe api

2018

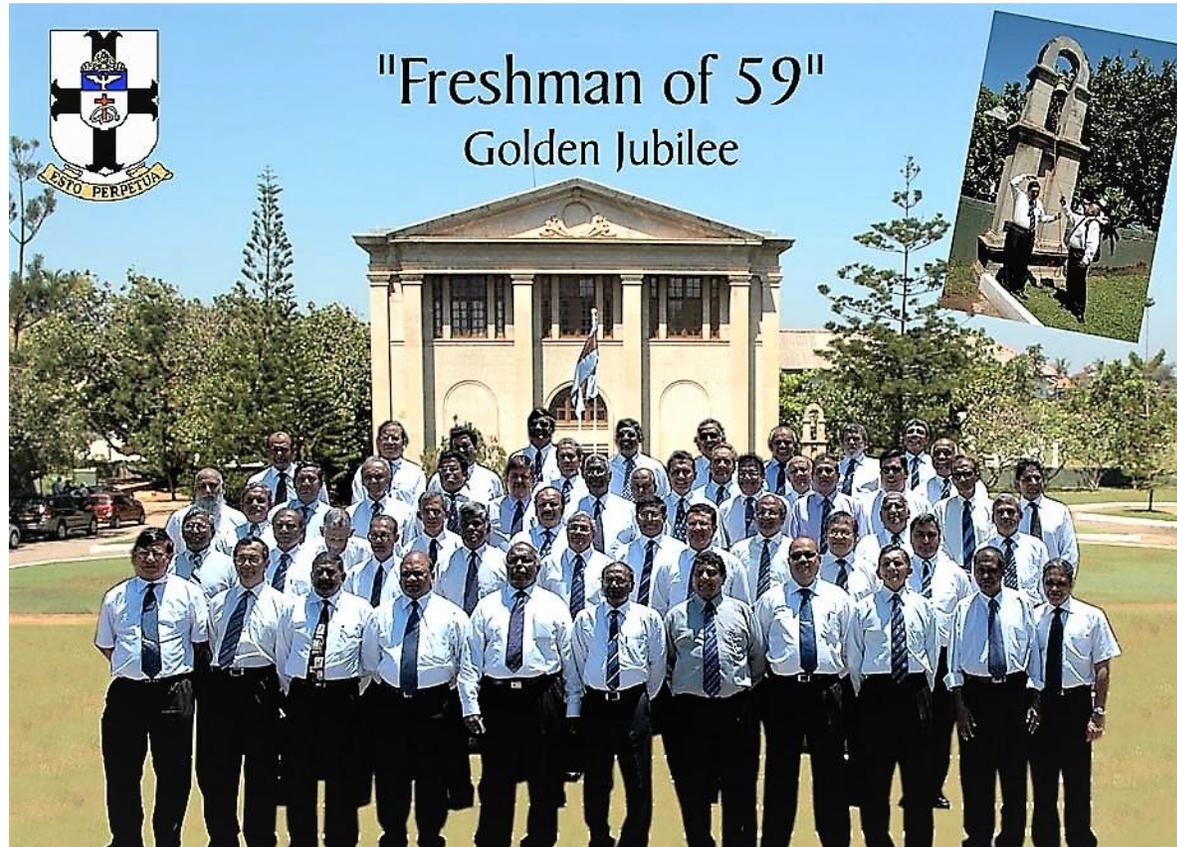
The conspirators who managed to attend bar one they also represented many who could not attend



Standing Left –Right: Venura Atapattu, Chandana Atapattu, Nicho Dias Abeyasinghe, Dr. Gamini de Silva, Milinda Hettiarachchi, Maneth Jayasinghe, Romesh Samarakkody, Gemunu Abeysekera, Tissa De Silva, Lakshman De Phillips, Arun Bandaranaike, Mohan Abeynaike, Anil Wijewardena, Nihal Madurapperuma, Edward Perera, Fazal Hameed, Mahadi Marzook, Ashroff Razack, Drupatha Rodrigo, Rohantha De Silva, Jayantha Waidyaratne, Laksen Salgado, Aninda Atapattu, Nandalal Ranasinghe, Vasantha Jayasooriya, Rohan Rajakaruna, Wimal Heenetigalle.

Seated L-R: Dr. Nalin Jayasuriya, Amitha Gooneratne, Anura Gunasekera, Dion Jayasuriya, Ajit Algama, Lalith Amarasekera, Sriyan Jayasekera, Niranjan Kodikara, Suraj Fernando, Lal Dias, Arul Gnanam, K Ravindran, Themiya Hurulle.

Around 2002 two of my classmates **Niranjan Kodikara**: (1963-1970 Stone House) and **Lalith Amerasekera**; (1959-1968 Copleston - Claughton), - it happens that Lalith was a past Secretary of the OBA of Mount Lavinia- voiced an opinion to try to re-group those of us who had joined the Thomian fraternity in 1959. I was invited by the two of them to help with locating long lost classmates who had not been in touch since our leaving school about 30 years ago.
(Sriyan writing for the STCOBA in New South Wales Annual Dance Souvenir)



From Front Row left to right:

H.N.R.Perera; Gemunu Abeysekera; Ashroff Razak; K.R.P. Rodrigo; Arul Gnanam; B.G.S. de Silva; KTRS de Silva; Hiran Cooray, J.B.Pieris; S.L. Fernando; Sarath Abeykoon.

2nd Row:

G.Y. De Silva, J.Rudra; Ajith Algama; V.K. Jayasooriya; Jayantha Fonseka; A.M de Silva; Lakshman Rajakaruna; Niranjan Kodikara; Nandalal Ranasinghe; A.D.S. Gunasekera; Milinda Hettiarachchi;
Nalin Jayasuriya; John Attygalle; Fazal Hamid; Mohan Abeynaike

3rd Row:

Habib Jafferjee; Sriyan Jayasekera; S.P.F. Wijeratne; Jayantha Waidyaratne; Sunil Wijesekera; Terrence Pendigrast; C. Ramachandra; Rohantha de Silva; G.L. de Phillips; P.R. Dias; Anil
Wijayawardene; Suraj Fernando; Aninda Atapattu; Dian Jayasuriya; R.G.A.Perera; S.Tissa.B.Jayasinghe ; Niranajan de Silva

Back Row:

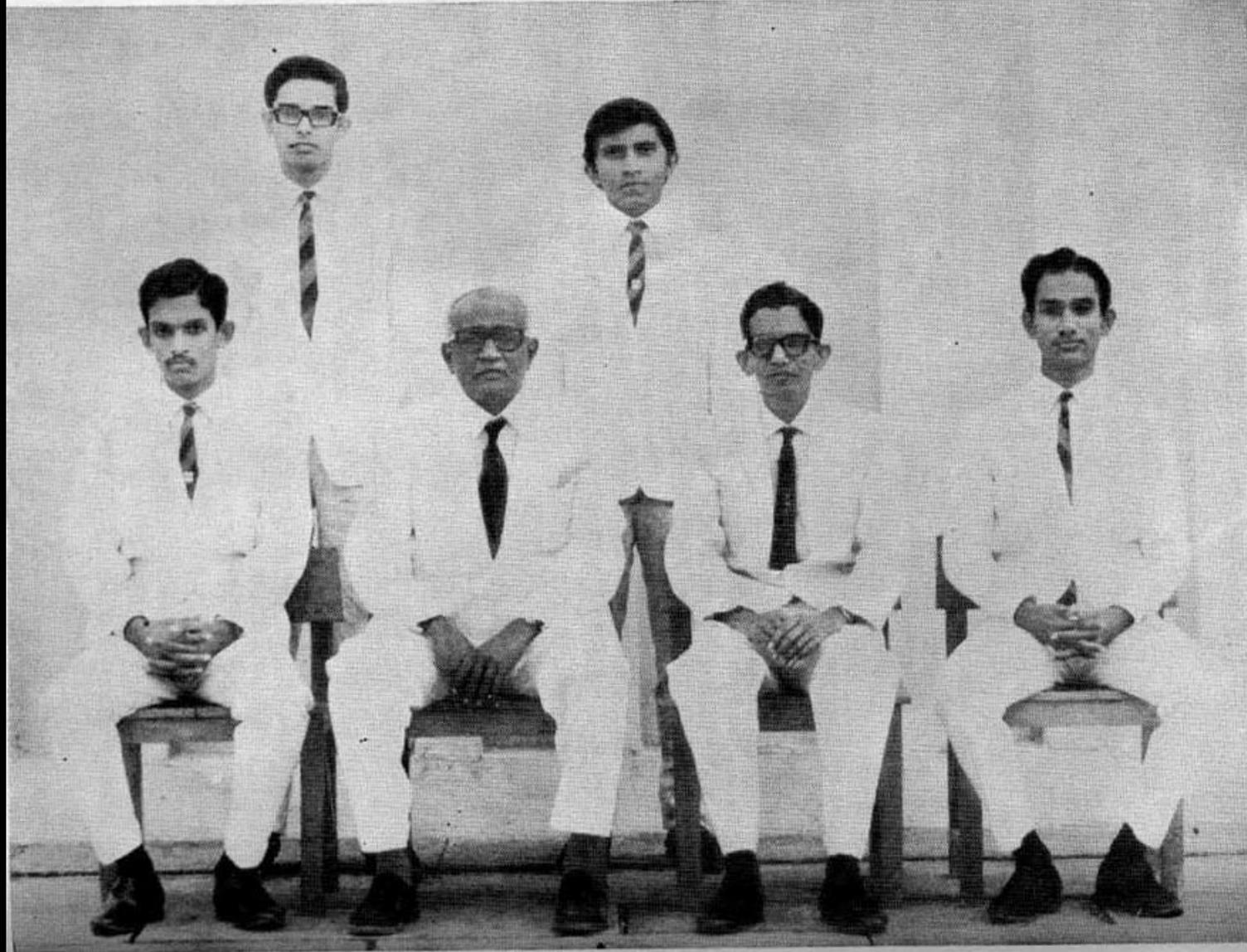
Neomal Wijesooriya; K.R.Ravindran; Nalaka Colambage; J.L.C. Salgado; D.E.W.Perera; Drupatha Rodrigo; Mohan Selvaratnam; Tyrone Graham; G.D.V. Perera; Arun Dias Bandaranaike.

Inset: R.G.A.Perera & John Attygalle



The Greenfields of our youth

SINHALA DEBATING TEAM 1971

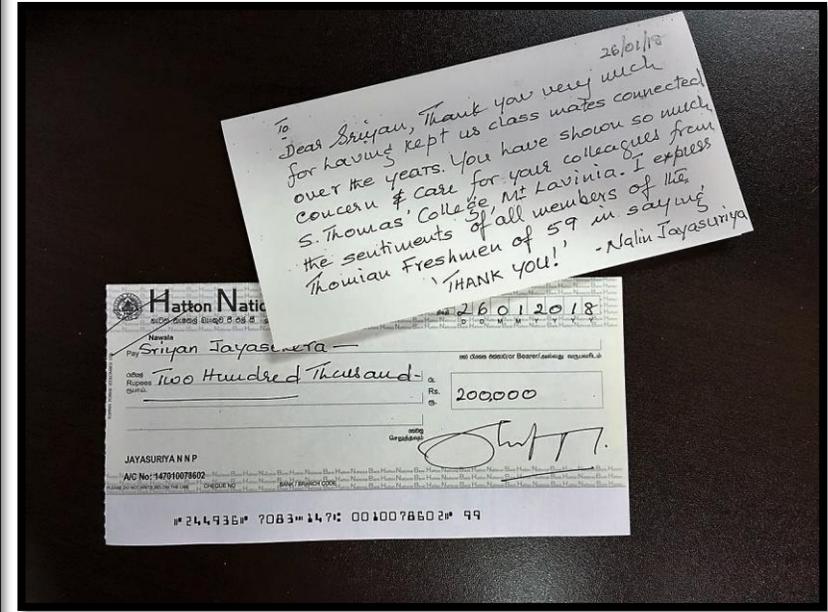


Standing (L. to R.): D. M. Ranasinge, V. K. Senanayake
Seated (L. to R.): S. I. Jayasekera, The Warden, Mr. D. S. Jayasekera, W. D. N. Perera



Sriyan is blissfully unaware of the real reason for the gathering and sitting opposite is Ravi who seems to be finding it 'difficult' to keep his composure...

“My dear class mates, the members of the Thomian Freshmen of 59, I wish to first raise my glass in a toast to Niranjan Kodikara, Lalith Amarasekera and Suraj Fernando who decided to action the getting together of our batch.” (The toast was proposed and the audience, except Niranjan, Lalith and Suraj stood up and raised their glasses to express their gratitude to these three.)“ Now, I need to lay bare the genuine reason as to why we are gathered here in numbers. Well, it is to appreciate all the good work that Sriyan Jayasekera has done voluntarily to keep our classmates connected, updated and informed. Sriyan, this night is yours and we are gathered here to felicitate you. Whatever reason that I gave you to lure you to this place was done in order to give you this big and deserving surprise. Thank you Sriyan for what you have been and are to all of us here and overseas and, just as excited as we are here, are our overseas classmates who are waiting breathlessly for this moment to unfold as they too contributed generously to make this event possible.”



Dear Nalin and Themiya,

This is a note to tell you how much we appreciated your efforts to put together the event at the Golf Club for Sriyan. I am sure I am expressing everyone's sentiments at what I say.

The thoughtfulness was commendable, the sincerity of action remarkable, the nobility of the deed praiseworthy and the fun that emanated memorable. That you had such a good response is a true indication of the appreciation everyone had for Sriyan only translated into a tangible expression of deed by you and Themiya. As I said Themiya conceptualized it and you Nalin delivered it.

Arun Dias, who is such a iconic member of our class added lustre to the evening and was the icing on the cake. We are so fortunate to have ownership to someone of his calibre.

Congratulations for the way you had kept the accounts — so meticulously — so worthy of emulation. No wonder Nalin that you are such a successful business leader. The organizing of this event was a demonstration of the adage that a beautiful heart can bring into our lives what all the money in the world could not.

Everyone who came to the Golf Club felt good — at the fellowship, at the camaraderie and at the sentiments expressed to Sriyan. The letters read from Milroy and Leca were expressive and profound.

I have to say that for a person who was kept in the dark with the whole event Sriyan delivered a surprising response to the remarks of felicitation directed at him. No doubt all his old debating skills came to the fore!

Thank you again. We are all obliged to you. Please thank Lal for making available such a fine venue — prestigious, convenient and perfect.

Regards.

Ravi



Dear Ravi,

Your words expressing your sincere appreciation was alike to the soft dew resting gently on the meadow livening the flora and blades of grass with lustre and beauty. I felt so good reading it as the first email for the day and, my day has been brightened.

I am sure Themiya too joins me in feeling good knowing that we did what was needed and did it well without sparing pains or looking for glory to ourselves. It came from a deep calling within to get it right and put all effort to make it memorable. Your sentiments expressed which represents the feelings of our classmates is manifestation that we achieved what we set out to achieve for Sriyan.

Thank you Ravi. Your erudite use of the English vocabulary is remarkable and is truly befitting a 'Global icon' and a true spirited Thomian!

I wish you and your family all success in your endeavours.

Nalin

Dr. Nalin Jayasuriya DBA(California), MBA, BBA(Hons.), FITD, FCPM, FIMS(UK), MMA(USA), MIPM, MSLIM
Chairman, McQuire Rens Group







1959



2018



The Felicitation accorded Sriyan Jayasekera on February 26th 2018

There had been a ‘plot hatched’, and indeed the sequential actions and activities bore the hallmark of a proverbial *coup d’état*, although, distinctly of a breed apart from the aborted aberration that occurred when we were but mere lads in school, back in 1961, when such was hatched within the *cognoscenti* among the defence forces and of the then Police Service, against the state and Crown, and which was the only *coup* that we had ever heard of!! The plot, in *this* instance, was eminently Thomian and benign in kind, and, of course, was filling a long felt need among our community of fellows of The Class of ’59.

As is known by now, the equally proverbial task of the ‘belling of the cat’, was accepted by the redoubtable Dr. Nalin Jayasuriya. Nalin had driven the enthusiasm of the wider spread of our class in the different corners and clefts on the planet. It was a mission that was soon, well on a trajectory towards success. Sriyan was definitely not going to be aware of anything, until the event proper. Everyone else was urged to preserve the ‘secrecy’ of the affair, and how they all responded magnificently! It was a winsome display of camaraderie and more, especially when it was deemed seemly to also offer a memorial plaque along with a cash award symbolising deepest appreciation, there was such a generous response from all over- which served to validate the rationale for this exceptional event. However, it was to be hosted ‘under the name’ of Nalin Jayasuriya, himself a member of the Royal Colombo Golf Club.

The aura of ‘veiled intent’ was manifest all through and even up to the time of our gathering on the evening of February 26. Lakshman de Phillips had been ‘recruited’ to make certain that Sriyan would be present, and would arrive at the time allocated for his entry. Phillips was ‘needing a lift’ in accepting an invitation that Nalin J had extended to his classmates, to join him for evening refreshments at the RCGC. Sriyan too was similarly extended and invitation, and of course, when Phillips had indicated that he needed a ride to and from, Sriyan was willing to oblige. (continued)

Was Sriyan curious as to the reason for this gathering? Of course he was. But he was told that there was going to be a surprise for classmates, and that on the particular evening, Nalin would share what it was. Ostensibly, this was some 'initiative' on the part of Nalin J. Was there to be a contribution for the fare to be served up at the RCGC? Sriyan was led to believe that this was a social event under the sponsorship of Nalin. Thus was the ground laid for what took place.

The fellows in the class who would attend had been requested to arrive ahead of Sriyan; he had been told that about 8.15pm would be the good time to assemble at the RCGC, that is, in time for dinner. In the meantime, the fervent activity behind scenes had been effectively conducted, and, as is now known, the funds were collected, noted, ratified, listed and even from overseas was this heart-warming response with sums of money trickling in surely and certainly to the designated bank account. This is part of the organizational history as regards this felicitation event. That, alone, deserves some consideration on its own merits!!

That it all happened with nary a hiccup only establishes the esteem with which Sriyan must be held by his cohort at school.

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The 'paying at the gate' was happening avidly and urgently, even as Themiya Hurulle was filling the role as teller and comptermetrist. All under control! This was about 7 pm and afterward. Care was taken to fill in the names of the attendees and affix their signatures, and there was a specially created sheet for that. The bar was open and there was 'business' conducted there. All meticulously arranged under the aegis of the incumbent president of the RCGC, who also is in our cohort, namely P.R. 'La' Dias. We had our own space allocation in order that there will not be any rude intrusion over the quietude of the Club, even as other members of the Club and their friends entertained and availed themselves of the just use of the RCGC premises. The décor was unashamedly in shades of Blue and Black, and there they were festooned wherever the eyes were cast! All quite jolly!!!!

By 8pm, the men who were due to attend, had, by and large, all arrived. Now, all we had to do was to wait for Sriyan to turn up. Nalin had arranged for a person to give the tip-off at the entrance to the club, when Sriyan, with Phillips in tow, would arrive, and they did, about 8.15 or a bit later.

By then, the cash desk mastered by Hurulle was sans any evidence of funds collected or lists or any of that. Thoughtfully, arrangements had been made for a professional photographer to be present to record the details. Great idea! Not a move was missed....in fact, some were too close for comfort! But, such a gentleman photographer as we had was not obtrusive in the least, so Sriyan may not have really been aware that his entrance was captured or anything like that. It was like Thai air...smooth as silk.

After a few minutes, the general consensus was that it would be appropriate to 'start', and that is what we did. Dining spaces were all arranged, and so there were tables and chairs as needed for the number present. All were quickly invited to be seated, after Nalin gave me (Arun) the signal that we should begin.

There was a speakers' lectern provided and an excellently functioning public address system in place, again, within the privacy of the space allocated, and none too raucous a rattle would have been heard elsewhere in the club. At the said lectern, I addressed the persons, now seated. Sriyan may not yet have had a hint as to what this clearly 'Thomian function' was. That is very much the way the secrecy pattern was meant to uphold. The audience was told that on this very day, 100 years previous, the organization and institution which we are so familiar with, migrated, lock stock and barrel and with desks and chairs from its previous home and lodging next to the Cathedral (for that is what the Mutwal church was referred to at that time), and arrived at the present day campus in Mount Lavinia. The morning of the 26th February 2018 had seen much activity in celebration of this memorial date at our School premises. We at the RCGC could very well have been summoned by Nalin Jayasuriya to add our own brand of class of 59 flair to this signal date, at his behest. That was a plausible reason!!!

But, even though that idea was a good one-that was NOT the *raison d'être* for our convivial assembly at RCGC.

On the other hand, it might conceivably be said, and rightly, that Nalin Jayasuriya was wont to make an announcement among his Class, of some earth-shatteringly important fact that would, forever, affect the lives and destiny of our fellows, or, even that Nalin was going to deliver on some amazing discovery or accomplishment that he just HAD to share with his class ahead of any others in the world knowing it! But that, is NOT the reason we had gathered. So, we ask, what is it that rests most temptingly up Nalin's metaphoric sleeve? [Some wit from the audience shouted out that it was not up the sleeve but up his trouser leg!!!!]

The enigma congruent with the moment begged that it would only be proper to have Nalin explain the reason for his summoning of the members of the Class of 59. [Now...it would be appreciated, that all were *well aware* as to why we were there, save for Sriyan, and, Phillips had kept his end of the bargain saying nothing *en route* to the venue.

He too behaved as if this was some curious idea of Nalin to host a dinner for some of his classmates, and there was going to be something 'revealed']

Nalin was then invited to address the audience at the lectern. He walked up, and kept up the deceptive cast of the endeavor even more, by saying that he was very glad that all the people had accepted his invitation. It was difficult to persuade many of the guys to attend a function like this, and guys like Fazal Hameed have traveled from Kurunegala [at the best of times, apparently, it was impossible to even speak with Fazal on the phone, because he is so busy], and here is, having made the effort to be present and on time. Nalin continued and said that it is possible that people may have thought that he had some vital things to announce or maybe own up to some thing or even announce his impending divorce.....but...that was not it. He said that it was time to recognize the sterling events of some years ago, in fact, more than two decades ago, when it was decided that our classmates should form themselves into a cohesive group, and that it was Lalith Amarasekere and Niranjan Kodikara who took the

initiative to gather as many of our cohort as they could muster, and Nalin asked them to remain seated as the others were asked to raise their glasses in a toast to the two of them [Lalla and Kodi were both present].

However, the two men protested and said that the REAL IDEA to form ourselves into a band of classmates had emanated from Suraj Fernando [who was also present at the RCGC that night]. So, Nalin then requested that Suraj also be seated, and then went on to toast the three of them for the sterling efforts made to form the 'Mandarin Group', which name was inspired by the venue that was selected for the initial meeting more than two decades ago, that is, the Mandarin Palace which was a Restaurant under the ownership of H.A.'Anil' Fernando. That was the first group among the class of 59, which became known as such only later. But the 'founding' efforts were by these named, and they were to be appreciated and recognised. That was the toast done. The true intent remained still 'under wraps'.

There was a speakers' lectern
Then....

Nalin changed gears and changed course. This was with a clear announcement that THIS evening had everything to do with our fellow Sriyan, convener and fulcrum of everything to do with the connectivity, which now is pretty much a part of our scheme of things. How did Sriyan respond? Perhaps the photographer's record may offer the best recourse as to how the man took that announcement. We have reason to believe that he moved quickly from a Nano-second of shock and awe to, possibly, an inwardly febrile moment of delight.

Nalin continued with expressing how Themiya Hurulle had first proposed the idea and how it took flight. In time, a vast number were as enthusiastic as these fellows in Colombo, and as we know, the international response was also most winsome and wholesome. Why else would anyone bother about one classmate in Colombo some 40 years after having left school, except that the man had profoundly touched us all? Nalin then requested me to share with the audience, a sampling of two messages that well represent

the feeling of us all, and these two messages expressed, most appropriately, what needed to be said, and represented the view, also of those who were unable to be present at the RCGC and of those overseas.

I have attached the two messages separately, in the form that they were read to the audience and meant for Sriyan. The first was by Dr. Deepal Lecamwasam in Adelaide, Australia and the second from a noble scribe in Sydney in NSW Australia, Milroy Berenger. All present listened with much interest at the recollections and sentiments contained in the written messages. Laughter was much in evidence as called for, on hearing of some of Leca's fruity memories.

Then, we invited Nalin once again, and it was explained that words may just not suffice, but rather, there must be a tangible token of the appreciation of all. As is also now known, a plaque with a message engraved upon the glass panel was handed to Sriyan. Nalin said that it would serve to let others among Sriyan's family come to know that this man was valued and appreciated.

Even at a time in the future, if and when Sriyan becomes incapacitated and cannot recall, then his children and their children could well bolster the man's spirit with reference to this very trophy. The accompanying photograph shares with all the moment of that handover.

Then, we invited Themiya to hand over another token of deep appreciation, and this was a sum of money, of which Nalin has been able to share the details of, in his audited account, and this was handed to Sriyan.

We invited a distinguished Thomian present with us on the occasion, in the shape and form of the first ever Lankan and the only Thomian to have adorned the office of World President of Rotary International for a period of a year since 2015, K.R.Ravindran, and this was to propose a toast to Sriyan, which he did with much flair and goodly words spoken.

The formality of the engagement for the evening was concluded with the singing of the College anthem. However, since this was a 'surprise' none of us felt moved to ask Sriyan to speak unprepared.

Thankfully, he approached us and said that he would like to speak. How well he did!! He brought to bear all of his training and skills built upon from his days as a member and leader of the College debaters. This has been remarked on by no less a person than Ravindran, marveling at how Sriyan 'rose to the occasion' with appropriate words and *bon mots*.

Sriyan began with a paraphrase from the speech given to Mark Anthony by William Shakespeare in his historical drama "Julius Caesar"; the intent was to help all appreciate that rather than give vent to praise and the offering of an accolade over the remains of an individual, it makes greater sense to have the person celebrated in life.

One soon came to realize that with Sriyan, the matter of Thomian-ness, and maintaining an affinity with what has long passed into the annals of history or faint memory, was not merely a sentimental wish. For Sriyan it was a combination of passion and philosophy, actions prompted more by the inner spirit, than in filling the form or filling the tummy.

This, conceptually, was and is most profound....and, that fact registered well with all in attendance, for, they paid him heed in 'pin-drop-silence'!!!

The speaker helped us realize that the foundation that was laid when we were schoolboys, have defined the men we are. Because of the fact that those class mates have seen and known us the 'way we were', they will also, by and large, have an idea of the way we are, and are able to form and establish an instant rapport one with the other, from wherever they may hail, from here or from overseas. This, he believes, forms the firmest foundation for "being there" when help is needed, for when succor is sought, for when gloom demands a lifting of the cloud. With that same ethos the Class has been able to set up a fund, which now supports a scholarship fund managed by the Warden in offering tuition to a deserving student at STC.

He referred to some of the men with who he had chosen to spend time, quality time, so that they will not feel bereft even when their own and their family may have not been able to offer meaningful help. He alluded to specifics where one of our

number was ailing, most severely, and the family had been completely at a loss to know how to cope. Even as the son in school was unable to have his fees paid, Sriyan, with the necessary action taken to offer help, was able to secure the provision of tuition fees all through the academic life of the son of our mate, even after his father's untimely passing. Sriyan had been able to 'harness' the support of others of our class to tide over these cruel times on behalf of our mate's family.

He indicated that more was due, and beyond our class, to include the teachers. Those very men and women who had everything to do with our nurture as Thomians. And since it was too much for a few of one class group to have been able to organize an even to effectively and to meaningfully offer thanks and gratitude to the teachers, Sriyan explained, how he went on to form the DSA Group. The mysterious or not so mysterious initials refer to the era of Davidson-Selvaratnam-Anandanayagam, three of the Wardens of College whose composite tenure was equal to ours. With a wider group of Thomians encompassed in the DSA era and with their generous responses and

active participation, we had had a chance to offer our mite in gratitude and tribute to the teachers. Sriyan reports that they (the teachers) have never forgotten that gesture of goodwill- to them, it was a huge lifting of the spirit and a bolstering of their self-esteem in the September of their years or even the Winter thereof, dependent on their individual ages and circumstances.

Another valued enterprise that Sriyan thought to establish and which, again, has proved a winner in the case of all those involved, was the "Thomian Prefects' Group". This group too, maintains the ethos and the system of values and references that have meant much to all. This is not a specific age group that is included but involves a larger number of different ages. They too meet regularly and have been able to 'be there' when the need was great for such noble interventions.

Sriyan said that he never felt compelled to engage in this work, voluntarily at that, for the sake of seeking kudos or even a promotion into some sort of elevated position (that does not exist!), rather, he did it

because of conviction. The conviction that Thomians matter to Thomians, even more than in the case of other people we may have as friends, and/or relatives. This dignity that Sriyan has bestowed upon our group of scholars, is to be seen for what it is!

Sriyan repeatedly expressed his deepest gratitude for being 'recognised' for things he had, anyway, decided for himself, are actions just and proper. He said he was very very happy. Since Leca had mentioned that Sriyan's wife Shama may well wonder what his engagement with 'his mistress' [the Class of 59] was and why he was missing from home and preoccupied so much with chasing after the ephemeral figures of past acquaintance and almost forgotten memory, Sriyan said that Shama has much in the way of having to cope with indisposition in her respiratory system, and is unable often to be out and about. But, he said that she is always supportive and even though some of the men have not met her, she knows them by name and when they call, she would answer the phone and knew who they were.

This was because Sriyan would share with her the experience of his meetings and associations with the Class. She has missed not a beat. She recognizes that for Sriyan, the Thomian connections are what make him happy and give him a sense of worth that he is there to be 'with them' and be of service to them, when the call comes. With the many get togethers that he has arranged, he has missed none but two. The recent one for meeting Bo Chin Shu, Jiffy and their families he was unable to attend, because it coincided with the homecoming reception for Sriyan's son!

With all this today at the Golf Club reception, Sriyan says that he now feels that it has been worth it. His efforts are appreciated. He urged the others to really value the connections and not miss out on the meetings and opportunities for camaraderie. He felt, deeply, that the time may well come when we need the support which may slip us by, had we not been in touch and been connected and aware of how each one was doing and faring. With your classmates, says Sriyan, you have loyal friends who have known you and grown up with you over sixty years.

They are the ones who have had the longest communion with our individual spirits and even though there have been lapses in time, and geography has set us apart, all things become 'normal and one-in-unity' the moment we meet as classmates. Time and geography disappear!

His closing words, again, were that while he was so happy with the effort made by Themiya and Nalin and all who were drawn into this scheme, he would like the class of 59 to continue to make the effort to remain united.

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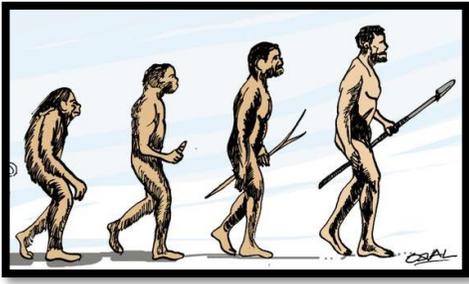
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The evolution of our group has many fathers perhaps that is what underpins our success

Seven classmates met at CR & FC and they were Niranjana Kodikara, Lalith Amarasekera, Suraj Fernando, Dhamitha Perera (G.D.V), Ajith Gunewardena, Ajit Algama (1964 to 1969 Buck House) and Nalin Jayasuriya.

Niranjana Kodikara (1963 – 1970 Stone House) and Suraj Fernando (1960 – 1970 Stone House), during the time they were Director, Hayleys Advantis and Managing Director Browns Group, respectively, used to meet for lunch. At one of these meetings Suraj suggested to form a group exclusively with our classmates. Niranjana loved the idea and got Lalith Amarasekera (1959 – 1968 Copleston Claughton), Dhamma Perera (1959 – 1971 De Saram House), Ajith Gunewardena and Nalin Jayasuriya (1963 – 1971 Wood House) involved in collating the names and getting the project started. The first gathering to launch comprised of 08 class mates, i.e., Suraj Fernando, Niranjana Kodikara, Lalith Amarasekera, Nalin Jayasuriya, G.D.V. Perera, Ajith Gunewardena, who met at the CR & FC in the early part of 1998...the rest is history. The first social get-together of the class mates who were located up to that time numbering 33 classmates, met at Mandarin Restaurant, Havelock Road owned by another class mate, H.A.F. Fernando, on 05th July 2003. We thus, adopted the name 'Mandarin Group'. Subsequent to this, as time rolled by, in 2012, Dion Jayasuriya (1959 – 1970 Buck House) suggested the name "THOMIAN FRESHMEN OF 59" based of the year that most of us entered Lower School to 1A or 1B. All those who joined from S. Thomas' Prep., Kollupitiya, S. Thomas' Prep., Bandarawela, S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa or any other College into our batch and who should have sat the GCE (O/L) in 1997, were entitled to become a member of this group. The descriptor 'Thomian Freshmen of 59' has stuck to date.

Previous to this, Nalin Jayasuriya, J.B. Peiris (1959 – 1973 Buck House) and G.R. Pathmaraj (1963 – 1968 Miller Chapman) started the "Class of 68" which included our batch, one batch higher and one batch lower. We organized three Annual dances at the Mount Lavinia Hotel titled "OCTOBER BREEZE". Leon Jansz designed the cover pages of the Souvenir that were printed by K. Ravindran (Ranco Printers) and given to couples at the entrance.

Sriyan, I am sorry I'm unable to be among those present for your felicitation this evening-I hope we have taken you by surprise!
I have known you from standard 2 days in College-1959 -an association of(yikes!) nearly 60years.

I got to know you firstly as 'Jakale' your enduring nickname-the class busybody and 'action man' My earliest memories of you were those of high energy,always getting involved-you attracted attention ,from beautifully reciting Sinhala Kavi(you and the late NW De Silva of BUGGS fame were the best)to organising the long awaited end of term tennis ball cricket matches,you were always in the thick of the action.

I honestly can't remember your batting (you probably didn't last long enough) but your bowling action is one of the indelible memories of those days-the long menacing run up (perhaps even longer than Balasingham's) building up to the mighty effort in the delivery stride, with arms and legs all over the place, like malfunctioning windmills .In fact ,your run up may have been actually quicker than your deliveries!



However the fact was that yours exemplified the energy that contributed to College's proud cricketing culture at the time we produced our invincible team of 1964 and beyond.

It has been said that' the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton' and many of us who played sport on the Big Club and Small Club grounds can reflect on the many battles of Life and how we honed our skills based on our sporting experience.

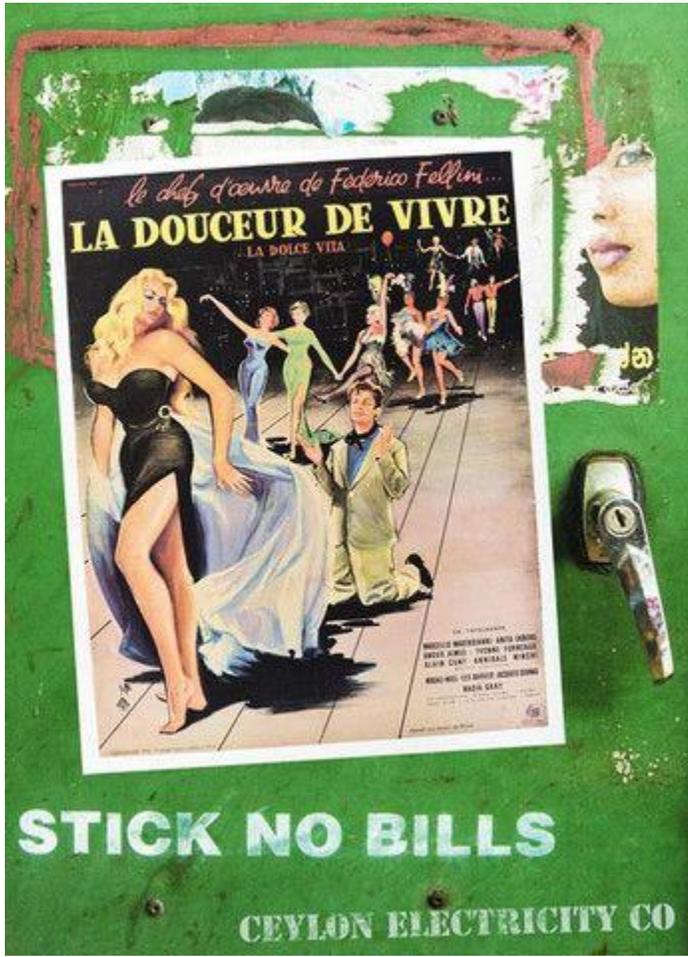
With your many achievements at College, sport was **not** one of them though you gamely tried many, representing your House- and yet, from the earliest years you made a strong contribution in organising cricket matches along with many like JB, culminating in organising Sri Lanka's premier game of cricket, the Royal Thomian Match, as Tent Secretary.

This ability to be trusted and take charge and organize has endured to this day for which we classmates are very grateful. At this gathering of classmates I needn't dwell on your achievements in College. You are perhaps best remembered as a debater of no mean skill equally adept in Sinhala and English making mincemeat of the opposition arguments in your summing up.

You were the face of Wood House , first as a House Prefect and then as a College Prefect and finally achieving your crowning glory being appointed as Head Prefect of the finest school of all! In fact, it is worth mentioning here that our classmates produced not one but TWO Head Prefects. Your predecessor was our dear friend, never to be forgotten, the iconic late Dr.Sarath Abeyakoon whose quiet ways and unassuming demeanor belied a life of amazing sacrifice and achievement for which we classmates and S.Thomas' are VERY proud of.

You are both unique. Since leaving College, Sriyan,you have been the ever enduring persistent glue that has kept our classmates connected, whether we be in Sri Lanka or overseas.

Along with JB, Nalin(currently Sri Lanka's foremost Motivational Speaker-NO dear friends, HE didn't say this!) and myself you formed the nucleus of the ' Class of 68' in 1976 which has nurtured and fostered links between us and made us the close knit Thomian family that we all are. Speaking for myself , whether I was in Ratnapura, in England, in New Zealand or now Australia I always felt connected to College and classmates, more recently in cyberspace, mainly to the stalwart efforts of those like Sriyan, and also Milinda Hettiarachchi , who has been quite amazing in keeping me informed, virtually on a weekly basis, of College cricket scores and other outstanding sporting results and College activities, since I left Sri Lanka in 1980!. All this despite their successful and busy lives, which is truly remarkable. Sriyan, you are the inspiration and leading light in our wonderful group of classmates who have achieved distinction in so many fields.



You have celebrated our successes and mourned our losses. You have been the principal channel, nay, the very umbilical cord, to stay connected and to help College, a most important role. Finally ,last but not least whenever an overseas classmate revisits Sri Lanka you organize a gathering of classmates, warm and fond reunions which are hugely appreciated by those in distant shores.

As evidenced ,by the numbers who have turned out ,quoting the College Song, 'from near and far' to celebrate what a special, precious commodity you are ,we salute you and wish you continued good health, much energy and happiness in the years to come.

We would be remiss if we didn't collectively also sincerely thank Shama, your dear wife, who clearly must be most understanding and tolerant of your very demanding 'mistress ', your classmates, which surely must be taking up a lot of your time and energy!

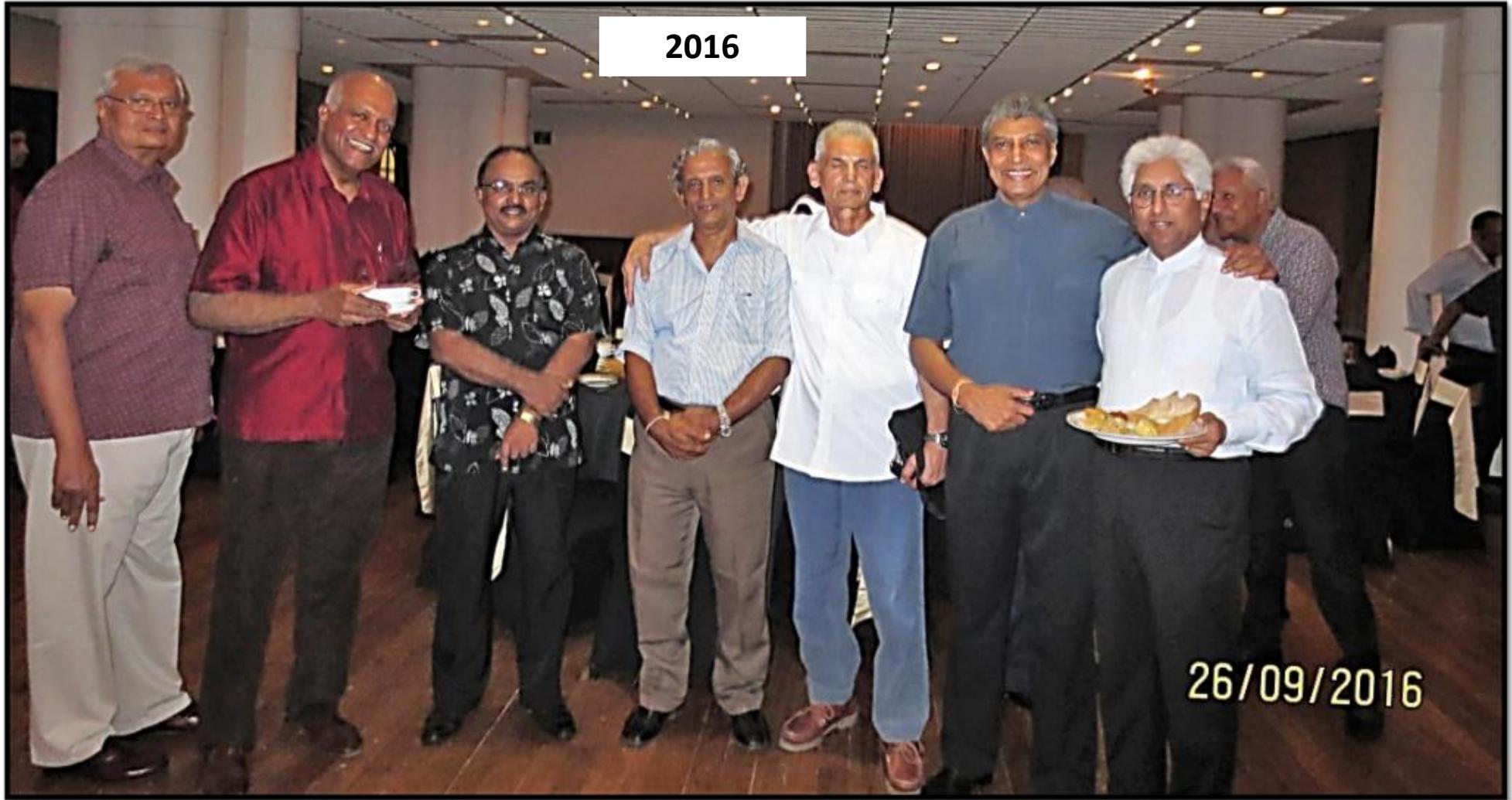
In conclusion, very best wishes from across the miles, Sriyan, on this our special day for you. You are surely living a life of good energy and sacrifice that would make your dear father and our beloved teacher Mr.Jayasekera VERY proud.

Jakale, Sriyan you have become a LEGEND in your time!

Esto Perpetua!

Leca
Adelaide, Australia





L:R Donald, Arun Dias, WCP, Sriyan, Jeremy, GDV and Jayantha

Dinner to meet Malvina & Glynda Berengas at the
 Moon River Chinese Restaurant Thombigayyan Colombo.
 on 17th June 2010.

VISITORS

DATE	NAME	NIO	ADDRESS	Subj. House REMARKS
17.6.2010	Anona Samarathilay		1/11, Seelaw Manath	DANS Home (nick)
17.6.2010	G.Y. DE SILVA	6A, 1 st lane, Kalampong, Thombigayyan		De Saran
17.6.2010	Chammai Ramachandra		49, Horton Place, Col 7	GRACE HOUSE (nick)
17.6.2010	Dean Jayasinghe			Buck's house
17.6.2010	LAKSEN SALONDE		No 62, De Soysa Road, Ramanayake	WOOD HOUSE
17/6/10	Thomiya Huruella		17 Galle Street, ^{MORAYTOWN} Col 7	Mika - Up to 40 + wood.
17/6/10	Rohantha de Silva		118, 1 st Street, Circular Road, Jayawardenepura, Nallamulle	De Saran
17/6/10	John & Lynn Reddy	Oxford	5, Thomas College	2nd, Jayawardenepura UK
17/6/10	Lyn Reddy		3, Thomas College	Horsham High School Aust.
17.06.10	Chaga Graham		20/4, 2 nd Ln, ^{Medawakkumbura Rd} Medawakkumbura Rd	De Abrejo Musayya (nick)
	Tyrene Graham		— do —	Catherine - Cloughin, Wood
	Milkin Dias Eriestaminda		14, Rosemead Place, (5) 7.	Pompa - St. Bridget's Lane, UK
	Arundhan Paulavanah		"	UK
	Glad Berengas		42,1, Hanwys Ave, Westmeath	Melgan - St. Bridget's
	Milroy Vithalick		6 ^A Undercliff St, Northey	Mika - Up to 1960-1970
	Janini de Silva		27, Wiggan Road, Col 7	Mika - Up to 1960-1970
	Nalin Jayasinghe		4, Temple Rd, Nawala	WOOD
	C Ramachandra		49 Horton Place, Col 7	Buck
	Romesh Samarathilay		1/10, Seelaw Manath	Buck
	Bathiya Ranawansa		Rosemead Rd, Col 7	Mika - Up to / Wood
	Rohan Bogoda		Flower Rd, Col 7	Buck
	Mohan Abeyaratne		1/10, Church Rd, Col 7	Wood
	Sriya Jayawardena		20/40 Church Lane, NIO	Wood

The register that documents all our events

Dated 17th June
2010 Colombo



Sriyan Jayasekera's desire to bring people together seems to be an extension of his Father's life work, where generations of Thomians were taught about the building blocks of a good life – respect, consideration and dignity.



Dr.Gamini De Silva, Rohantha De Silva, Arun Dias Bandaranaike, Dian Jayasuriya, Laksen Salgado, Mohan Abeynaike, C. Ramachandra (obscured), Nalin Jayasuriya, Rohan Bogoda (obscured), Romesh Samarakkody, Milroy Berenger, G.Y De Silva, Sriyan Jayasekera, Warden Puddefoot and Themiya Hurulle

Fund target was set at Rs 1 million. It was oversubscribed to the tune of Rs 1.5 million and earned interest of Rs 90,000, At inception in 2010 it had Rs 1,590,000.00

	48 Underwriters	
Rajendra AG	Fernando SKR	Gnanam Arul
Jayasuriya Dian	Ravindran KR	Rodrigo Ranmal
De Silva AP Prof	Mohotti Tissa	Abeynaike Mohan
Abeysekera Ranjan	Tudawe Wasantha	Jayasekera Sriyan
Samarakkody Romesh	Jayasuriya Nalin	Wijesinghe Alex
Arumugam SK	Abeykoon Sarath	De Silva BGS
Ramachandra C	Ranasinghe Nandalal	Rudra J
Weerasinghe VM	Hameed Fazal	Parameswara S
Algama Ajit	Pendigrast Terrence	Bandara Ranasinghe
Bandaranaike Arun	De Alwis Naomal	De Silva RHR
Dias PR	Gunaratne Amitha	Perera GDV
Rajakaruna Lakshman	Seneviratne Upali	Wijewardena Anil
Hurulle Themiya	Hillman Jeremy	Berenger Milroy
Attygalle John	Abeysekera Gemunu	Atapattu Venura
De Silva Mahinda	Maduraperuma Nihal	Masefield Graham
Peiris DC	Perera DEW	De Silva GY



The Warden explained the importance of trying to keep a child in school throughout his schooling career.

Sadly, at times, a parent's circumstances could suddenly change for the worse. It was at times like this that the school would like to have the means to step in with a scholarship to help the family.

The fund set up by the group would give STC the financial means to offer 3 scholarships based on current interest rates.



In 2018 when we look back we can appreciate and understand why the members of the class of 59 have such high regard for Sriyan Jayasekera. He took it upon himself to be the glue and embarked on what has turned out now to be a 20-year mission to keep us united in mind, body and spirit. Sriyan does not intend to retire from his role as anchor, and therefore it is conceivable – God willing – that we will have the opportunity to celebrate more milestones in the years to come. While much of our meetings are about the celebration of our friendships from our school days we often pause to reflect on those dearly departed friends. While we reflect on aspects of their lives, we are also reminded of our mortality in life. Thanks to Sriyan and a small nucleus of active supporters we can meet fairly frequently and enjoy the same spiritual ambience and freedom of our youth sans regard for caste, creed or religion. While many of us bemoan the ‘absence’ of such a culture in the wider world when we meet we seamlessly tend to slip into this era without even realising that we do. Our joys shared are multiplied many times over, and our worries when shared are halved even quartered or just wiped away. We repeat the same stories, recount the same old escapades for the nth time, and we listen like we are hearing these tales for the first time in our lives. We never tire of laughing at the same old jokes with an intensity that would make an onlooker feel that we are hearing these tales for the first time in our lives. The Group of 59 has a simple and now robust operating procedure. When Sriyan or a member of the group hears about an old Thomian who is living abroad intends to visit Colombo a date is nominated, and the call goes out. Those who can attend do so and help enhance our history. Thanks to the traction that has occurred and consolidated in Colombo the same process and model has been adopted overseas. In the next few pages, we share with you events that are based on the class of 59 operating model. A model that has been ‘socially engineered’ largely by Sriyan. As the observer will see Sriyan’s model has been replicated as far back as 2004 in many venues some far away from the Greenfields of our youth. At the end of proceedings Thomians always stand tall (some with difficulty) to sing the college song. It is a ritual dear to every Thomian heart.

**Attendance at the Stag Fellowship Rudie's
Roof Top on 13th March 2009.(35)**

- 1.G.D.V.PERERA.
- 2.Johnny ATTYGALA.
- 3.NAOMAL WIJESOORIYA
- 4.G.Y. DE SILVA.
- 5.E.G.ABEYSEKERA.
- 6.ROHANTHA DE SILVA
- 7.AJITH GUNAWARDENA.
- 8.NANDALAL RANASINGHE.
- 9.ANINDA ATTAPATTU.
- 10.ALSTON RANMAL RODRIGO.
- 11.LAKSEN SALGADO.
- 12.TERRENCE PENDIGRST.
- 13.ARUN DIAS BANDARANAIKE.
- 14.R.G.A.PERERA.
- 15.DRUPATHA RODRIGO.
- 16.R.L.RAJAKARUNA.
- 17.J.M.WAIDYARATNE.
- 18.A.D.S GUNASEKERA.
- 19.H.R.COOREY.
- 20.M.A.ABEYNAIKE.
- 21.LAL DIAS.
- 22.BHATIYA RANAWEERA.
- 23.SURAJ FERNANDO.
- 24.JAYANTHA FONSEKA.
- 25.H.N.R.PERERA.
- 26.MAHAN SELVARATNAM.
- 27.DIAN JAYASURIYA.
- 28.C.RAMACHANDRA.
- 29.SARATH ABEYKOON.
- 30.ARUL GNANAM.
- 31.K.R.RAVINDRAN.
- 32.J.RUDRA.
- 33.NALIN JAYASURIYA.
- 34.SRIYAN JAYASEKERA.
- 35.ROHAN BOGODA.

**Thanksgiving Service & Lunch at College on
15th March 2009.(73)**

In attendance Archdeacon Rev.Chrishantha Mendis.
Chaplain Rev. Rebecca Mathew.
and the Thomian Choir.

- 1&2. VASANTHA & NILMINI JAYASOORIYA.
- 3&4. JAYAMPATHI & VIRGINIA PEIRIS.
- 5&6. GEMUNU & PATRICIA ABEYSEKERA.
- 7&8. ARUL & JANAKI GNANAM.
- 9&10. SUNIL & DHARSHINI WIJESEKERA.
- 11&12. RAVI & VANATHY RAVINDRAN.
- 13&14. DAYANTHA & SHEAMI PERERA.
- 15&16. DHAMITA & RIYANJANI PERERA.
- 17&18. AJITH & RUDRANI ALGAMA.
- 19&20. ASHROFF & AYESHA RAZAK.
- 21&22. NANDALAL & NIRUPA RANASINGHE.
- 23&24. LAKSAN & ERANDATHIE SALGADO.
- 25&26. ANIL & SHYAMA WIJEWARDENA.
- 27&28. DIAN & SCHEROUZA JAYASURIYA.
- 29&30. TISSA & MALA JAYASINGHE.
- 31&32. TERRENCE & CORINNE PENDIGRST.
- 33&34. TYRONE & CHAGA GRAHAM.
- 35&36. NALIN & RANJINI JAYASURIYA.
37. HIRAN COOREY.
38. DRUPATHA RODRIGO.
39. RAJA DE SILVA.
40. NIRANJAN KODIKARA.
41. JAYANTHA FONSEKA.
42. NALAKA COLAMBAGE.
43. SRIYAN JAYASEKERA.
44. R.G.A.PERERA.
45. M.FAZAL.HAMEED.
46. [G.L.DE](#). PHILLIPS.
47. A.K.ATTAPATTU.
48. JOHN ATTYGALLE.
49. K.R.P.RODRIGO.
50. MILINDA HETTIARACHCHI.

**Thanksgiving Service & Lunch at College on
15th March 2009.(73) Contd**

51. NAOMAL WIJESOORIYA.
52. R.L.RAJAKARUNA.
53. ROHANTHA DE SILVA.
54. GAMINI DE SILVA.
55. MAHINDA DE SILVA.
56. J.M.WAIDYARATNE.
57. SURAJ FERNANDO.
58. MAHAN SELVARATNAM.
59. LAL DIAS.
60. A.D.S GUNASEKERA.
61. MOHAN ABEYNAIKE.
62. G.Y. DE SILVA.
63. ARUN DIAS BANDARANAIKE.
64. J.RUDRA.
65. H.N.R.PERERA.
66. HABIB JAFFERJEE.
67. C.RAMACHANDRA.
68. SARATH ABEYKOON.
69. SUNIL WIJEYARATNE.
- 70 & 71. NIRANJAN & KUMARI DE SILVA.
- 72 & 73. S.L.FERNANDO & SON.

Gala Dinner Galadari Hotel California Grill 15th March 2009.(106) 50th anniversary celebrations

- 1.& 2. DAVID & NIRA PONNAIH.
- 3.& 4. HARASHANA & MRS. PERERA.
- 5 & 6. YOHESAN & CHYSANTHI CASIE CHETTY.
- 7.& 8. ARUL & JANAKI GNANAM.
- 9.&10. ROMESH & ANOMA SAMARAKKODY.
- 11&12. RAVI & VANATHY RAVINDRAN.
- 13&14. ANURA & MANIQUE GUNASEKERA.
- 15&16. DIAN & SCHEROUZA JAYASURIYA.
- 17&18. TISSA & MALA JAYASINGHE.
- 19&20. TERRENCE & CORINNE PENDIGRST.
- 21&22. SURAJ & SHYAMALI FERNANDO.
- 23&24. LAL & ANUSHA DIAS.
- 25&26. JEYA & SARO RUDRA.
- 27&28. JAYAMPATHY & VIRGINIA PEIRIS.
- 29&30. WASANTHA & VENITIA THUDAWE.
- 31&32. NALIN & RANJINI JAYASURIYA.
- 33&34. DHYANTHA & SHEAMI PERERA.
- 35&36. ARUN & JULIAN DIAS BANDARANAIKE.
- 37&38. ROHANTHA & GISELLE DE SILVA.
- 39&40. AMITHA & CYANTHI GOONARATNE.
- 41&42. GAMINI & THUSITHA DE SILVA.
- 43&44. GEMUNU & PATRICIA ABEYSEKERA.
- 45&46. DHAMITTHA & RIYANJALI PERERA.
- 47&48. NIRANJAN & KUMARI DE SILVA.
- 49&50. TYRONNE & CHAGA GRAHAM.
- 51&52. MAHAN & MENAKA SELVERATNAM.
- 53&54. VASANTHA & NILMINI JAYASOORIYA.
- 55&56. CHANDRAKUMAR & CHAMINI RAMACHANDRA.
- 57&58. KANTHI & SAROJA RATNAYAKE
- 59&60. NANDALAL & NIRUPA RANASINGHE.
- 61&62. JAYANTHA & RAMITHA FONSEKA.
- 63&64. SUNIL & KOSALA WIJERATNE.
- 65&66. G.Y. & KUMARI DE SILVA.
- 67&68. SRIYAN & SHYAMALI JAYASEKERA.
- 69&70. UPALI & LATHIKA MORAWAKA.
- 71&72. LAKSAN & ERANDATHIE SALGADO.
- 73&74. JAYANTHA & ROSHINI WAIDYARATNE.
- 75&76. SUNIL & DHARSHINI WIJESEKERA.
- 77&78. ANIL & SHYAMALIE WIJEWARDENA.
79. MOHAN ABEYNAIKE.
80. MILINDA HETTIARCHCHI.
81. LAKSMAN RAJAKARUNA.
82. NIHAL MADURAPPERUMA.
83. ANINDA ATTAPATTU.
84. LAKSHMAN DE PHILLIPS.
85. NAOMAL WIJESURIYA.
86. SARATH ABEYKOON.
87. HIRAN COOREY.
88. R.G.A.PERERA.
89. K.R.P.RODRIGO.
90. JOHANNY ATTYGALE.
91. AJITH ALGAMA.
92. NIRANJAN KODIKARA.
93. SAHASIKA PUESSEGODA.(J.B.P.)
94. HISHANI PUESSEGODA.(J.B.P.)
95. DHASHIKA GOONAWARDENA.(D.T.G.)
96. DIMITHRI JAYASURIYA.(D.N.J.)
97. MINURI JAYASEKERA.(S.I.J.)
99. PRASANJITH DE SILVA.(G.Y.)
100. NUWANATHA GUNASEKERA.(G.Y.)
101. NATASHA WIJESEKERA.(S.C.J.W.)
102. MANIK WIJESEKERA.(S.C.J.W.)
103. HARINDI MORAWAKA.(U.R.M.)
104. MALAKA MORAWAKA.(U.R.M.)
105. ISURU MORAWAKA.(U.R.M.)
106. THEMIYA HURULLE.

2005
Colombo



Habib, Mahinda, Niranjan, Nalin, GDV, Mahadi and Arun Dias,
Sriyan, Dayanthamal, KTRS, Razack, Ajith and Lalith - seated
Seated Sarath and Milroy

Absent – B.S.H de Silva (left early), Maurice Wambeek (gone to get more food).

In Sriyan's wake since 2002 many gatherings have occurred around the world organised and conducted by ex students from the class of 59



Samarakoddy, Milroy, Upali and Masefield - 2009



Kari - donning his Greece lightening jacket, Suraj, Geoffery, Lalith Gunasinghe, Tissa, Milroy, Ronald and Somesh Somasundaram



L-R Somasunderam (No relative as far as we know) Copleston House AKA as Small Soma, Jebanasam (Buck) AKA as Jumbo, Milroy Berenger (Miller Chapman) and Somasunderam AKA Chukkity (Buck).



L:R Tissa, GY, Milroy, David, Upali and Ramesh



L:R Upali, Sanga, Suraj, Raga, Tissa, Graham and Karu
Standing GM de Kretser and Milroy



L:R Raga, Graham, Jeremy, Upali and Milroy



SPECIAL DINNER TO WELCOME DR NALIN JAYASURIYA TO SYDNEY



L:R Ramesh Abayasekara, Yasmine Abayasekara, Dr: Nalin Jayasuriya, Tissa Mohotti, Umanga Seneviratne, Graham Masefield, Upali Seneviratne, Gladys Berenger & Milroy Berenger

“While your label is the class of 59, you have never been restricted by it. When you have had an opportunity to unite other generations of Thomians you have done it generously, efficiently and in fitting style.”



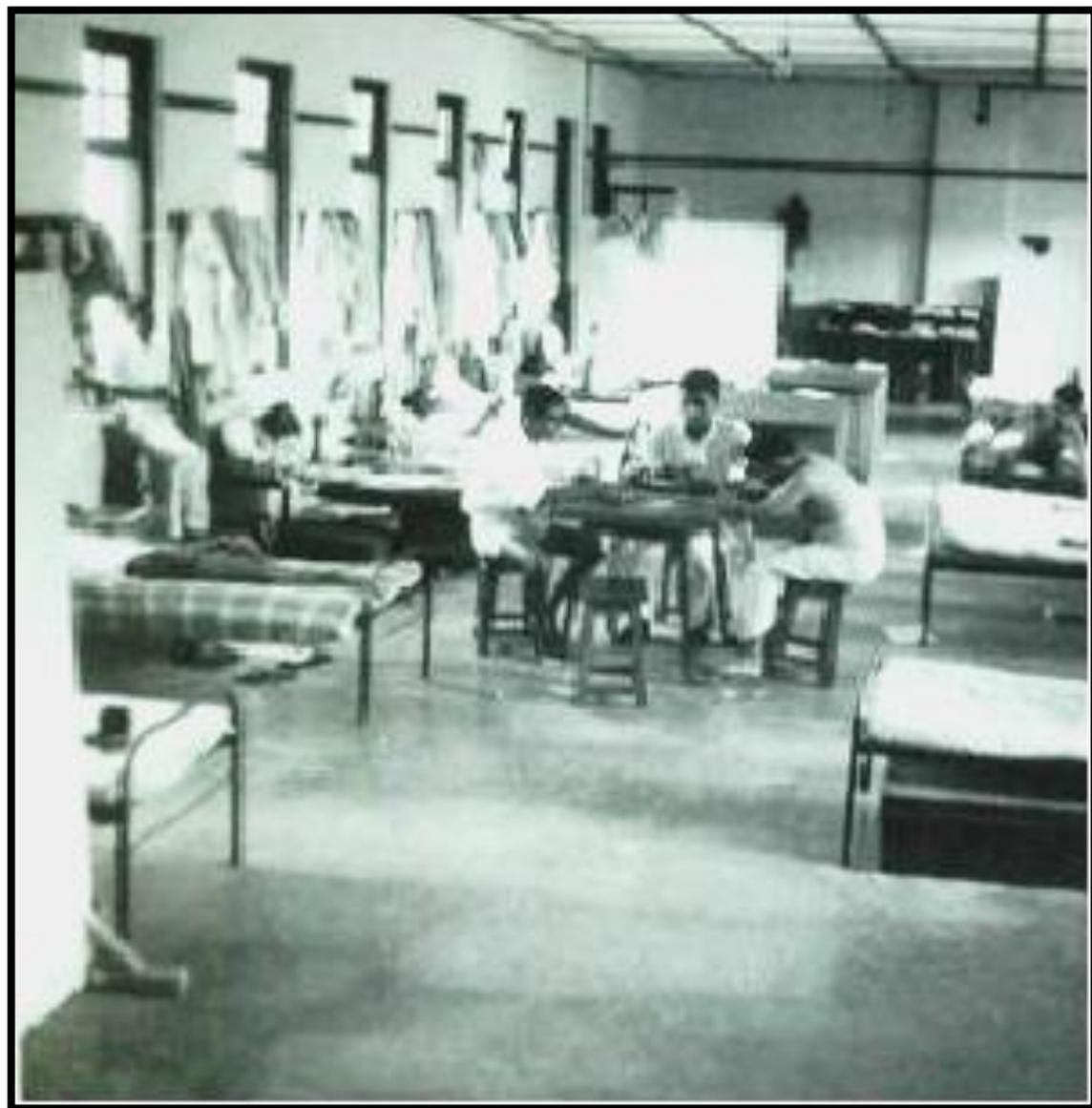
Standing L:R Mevan Peiris, Anura Tannakoon, Professor G.L Peiris, Ramachandran, Priantha Serasinghe, Dr S Ganatilakan, MuthuKumar, L.M Wickremasinghe, Maxwell Paranagama, Sriyan Jayasekera and Mrs Nelum Tennakoon

2004 - Melbourne



24 Happy Campers....

Fifth row	L - R :	Michael Thiedeman, Naomal Wijesooriya, Roger Thiedeman, Denis Ferdinands
Fourth row	L - R :	G.D.V. Perera, Trevor Meares, Maxi Gerlach, Odath Weerasinghe, Arasu Saravanamuttu, Sarath De Mel, Cedric Vanderwert, Shihan Rahim
Third row	L - R :	Godfrey Senaratne, Roderic Grigson, Leon Layman, Jeremy Hillman, Richard Roberts
Second row	L - R :	Bandula Karunatileke, Milroy Berenger, Rev. Baldwin Daniel, Mr. Bertie Ferdinands
First row	L - R :	Denis Ingram, Mark Nanayakkara, Sri Bawan

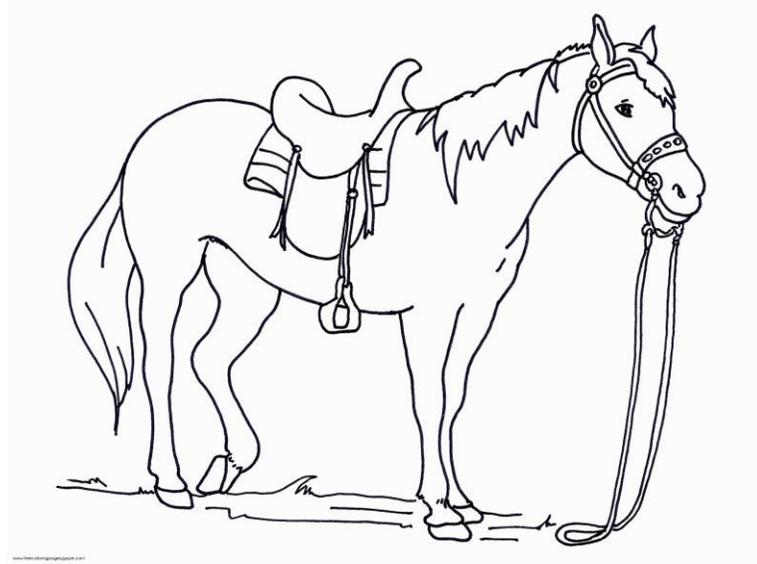


Campaign commenced on Jan 03 2018 – completed and executed 23 days later on Jan 26 2018

Local Attendees		
Local Sponsors + Total		
Overseas Sponsors + Total		

1. Karunaratne Chrishantha
2. De Silva Everard
3. Thabrew Vijith
4. Gunatilleke S.P
5. Mendis N.T.
6. Dias R.K.
7. Samuel D.M.K.
8. Yoganandan R.
9. De Silva N.W.
10. Vetharanium B.J.R.
11. Nanayakkara Romaine (the Buddhist priest)
12. Sri Pathmakumar K S
13. Jamaldeen P.M.
14. Sirimanna Rohan
15. Wanigasekera Sarath
16. Kotalawela Lakshman
17. Jayasuriya K.R.
18. Amarasinghe Jayantha
19. Bulankulane Keerthi
20. De Mel Rohan T.

The dearly departed and we know we will all
make the list one day...the horse will get
smaller as the list grows longer...



21. Liyanage E.
22. Gunawardena Dayanthamal T.
23. Rodrigo S.J.
24. Galaboda Y.L.
25. Loganandan Kathiesan
26. Weerasingham Suriyakumar
27. Thigarajah C. Nesan
28. Coorey Ranjith
29. A M De Silva
30. V K Senanayake
31. R Y Manukulasooriya
32. Rohan Karunaratne
33. Riley De Silva
34. D P Rodrigo
35. J B Peiris
36. Russell G Vandersay.
37. Nalaka Colambage.
38. R C Mendis.
39. Ramesh B Weeratunga.
40. Sarath Abeykoon.

A balance sheet of effort and nurture – Sriyan's achieves reporting from Colombo

SriyanJayasekera <stc.freshmen.of.59@gmail.com> (142 email addresses in the group)

1st get together 5th July 2003 as Mandarin batch.

15th annual get together 2nd Sep 2017

21 other dinners were held when overseas members visited us.

This includes a dinner for Mr Godfrey Senaratne with our teachers.

Sriyan jayasekera <stc.prefects.group@gmail.com> (981)

1st dinner 31st July 2009

9th annual dinner 6th March 2017

6 other dinners were held when overseas members visited us.

Dinner was also hosted by the Prefects Group for the Gnanam Brothers who donated a 90 million building to college. The largest donation to a school in Sri Lanka

Sriyan jayasekera <stc.librarians.group@gmail.com> (1,889)

1st dinner 12th Nov 2012 for Mr G K Mandawela.

dinner for Mr G Tambiturai with our teachers on 19 th June 2016.

Sriyan jayasekera <stc.dsa.era.group@gmail.com> (2,952)

Teachers felicitation in 2006 & 2007

STC tyretracks <tyretracks1851@gmail.com> (1,088)

1st post 11th July 2009 to date 3309 posts.

Managed and set up by the expertise and goodwill of Old Thomian Imtiaz Issadeen



Dear Sriyan,

This is indeed a momentous occasion, and I am delighted to share a few snapshots of the impact and affect your work has had on those of us who live far away from the Greenfields of our youth.

Your consistent efforts to be inclusive is commendable. Reminds us of our days at college where caste, creed or religion never mattered. Having identified the class of 59 as your base, you have been persistent in a friendly way of trying to come into our lives almost 60 years later.

Thanks to your efforts along with some longstanding pillars who help you in Colombo a platform that did not exist now spans the globe to celebrate success, marriages and births and enables us to come together as friends in death.

Important events in the journey we call life.

While your label is the class of 59, you have never been restricted by it. When you have had an opportunity to unite other generations of Thomians you have done it generously, efficiently and in fitting style. The moment you know of a Thomian who intends to visit Colombo you spring into action to make him and his family welcome by enabling him to meet as many of his batchmates as possible.

This platform may well exist within other Thomian generations, but I have not heard that it does. Those of us who live overseas who are the beneficiaries of your efforts, are grateful to you and your team for many warm and memorable welcomes now spanning almost twenty years of our lives.

Sadly, along the way we have lost some of our dearest friends. When we do, we are often comforted by the fact that

somewhere along the line we have met at one of your many gatherings. It binds us and bonds us under flags of rekindled friendships which is good for heart and soul.

In an era where numerous studies globally point towards the growing number of older men who suffer by being alone, Thomians seem to be outstanding in their ability to create many pleasant memories in their old age by meeting with their boyhood friends periodically to reminiscence with pleasure.

Your story is unique, and we are delighted that you were kind enough to write about how you and a few fellow batch mates envisioned and started the class of 59 group. May the footprints that you have planted in the sands of time grow ever larger. It gives future generations of Thomians many examples how the class of 59 choose to build goodwill, by rallying around the call you made almost twenty years ago.

Today we have the privilege to thank you for your excellent work in your living years. It was mostly your thought bubble that set in train so many enjoyable meetings amongst old friends.

Dear Nalin & Themiya,

I am deeply touched, humbled and honored by what you did last evening.
In my wildest dreams I never expected anything of this sort from my classmates.
We had a fantastic crowd, I know very well that it is not easy to assemble our classmates together.

At times I have to send several emails and sms to get them to come for dinners.

Nalin, when you met me at the lobby and mentioned that no one had come, like at Anura's house the previous evening I thought that they will come around nine. Then to see the full house was a surprise.

After Arun read out the two messages and the two speeches by you and Ravi

Friends, Freshmen lend your ears, Sriyan is going to speak, was your introduction.

*I come not to bury Sriyan but to praise him.
The evil that men do, is oft interred with their bones.
The good men do lives after them.*

*This is what had happened many centuries after Julius Ceaser.
I am so grateful to my classmates for what they have done today.
I am happy that you know how to show gratitude.*

I am unable to remember the rest of the speech.

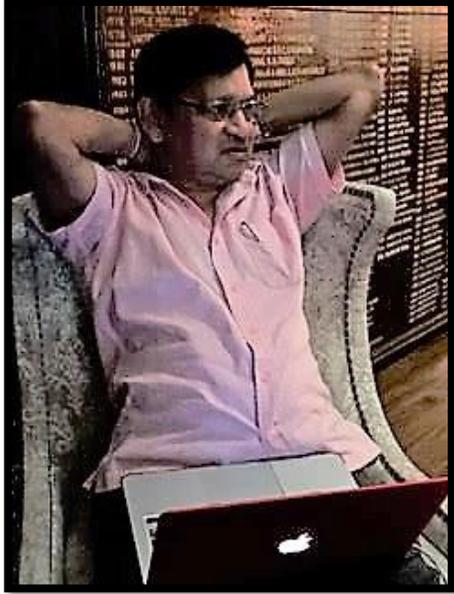
Thanks Nalin and Themiya for all what you have done to make me happy.
I will treasure this marvelous event until my dying day.
I too love to show gratitude to others as explained during my speech.
My sincere thanks to all the classmates who made this a memorable event.

Thanks

Kind regards

Sriyan

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Dear Class Mates & members of the Freshmen of 59,,

Ranjani joins me in wishing each and every one of you and your wives all the very best in good health and happiness throughout 2018.

Themiya, Marzook, Terrence (Pendi) and I thought that the time is opportune to show our gratitude to Sriyan (Jakale) who has taken upon himself to be the pivot of the Thomian Freshmen of 59. He has been the glue that kept us together, updated and informed.

Let us felicitate him at the Golf Club or SSC or any other attractive venue except GOH. We also thought of making a presentation of a gift to him as a token of our appreciation. I will let you know of the Bank Account for your voluntary deposit, after I have checked with Rama (our perpetual Treasurer).

We will fix the last Friday in the fourth week of January 2018 (just my suggestion only)

If any of you know the email addresses of the list given above, would you kindly forward this message to the respective person.

PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION AWAY FROM SRIYAN AS WE SHOULD MAKE IT A SURPRISE FOR HIM.

I thank you to acknowledge receipt of this mail

Best regards,
Nalin

Dr. Nalin Jayasuriya DBA(California), MBA, BBA(Hons.), FITD, FCPM, FIMS(UK), MMA(USA), MIPM, MSLIM
Chairman, McQuire Rens Group