



170TH
ANNIVERSARY

Old Antonian Social Club of Australia

Presents

41ST ANNUAL DINNER DANCE



Dance
with
Eagles

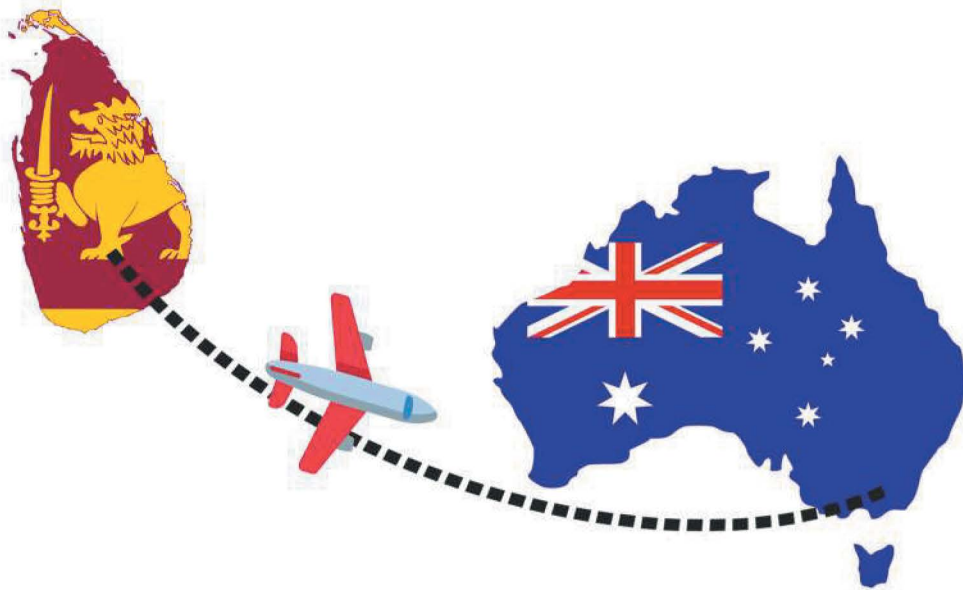


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Message from our President

With immense pride, I welcome you all to this significant occasion as we gather to celebrate the 41st Annual Dinner Dance of the Old Antonian Social Club. From our humble beginnings on the 15th of November, 1981, we have grown and flourished, building a strong community rooted in tradition and shared values.

This year, we also have the privilege of celebrating the 170th anniversary of our alma mater, which has consistently excelled in academics, sports, and a multitude of other skills. This remarkable achievement serves as a reminder of the rich legacy we are part of and the values we continue to uphold.

The year 2024 has been an exceptional one for our club. We have relaunched our club's website and I particularly note with gratitude the efforts of our webmaster Manoj Wijekulasuriya. Our accomplishments in sports have brought us great pride, and we are particularly proud of our scholarship program, now in its 10th year. This initiative has made a tangible difference in the lives of many worthy students with an annual commitment exceeding Rs. 850,000, ensuring they receive the support they need throughout their school life.

I want to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all who are present here tonight, especially those who have travelled from interstate and overseas. Your presence is a testament to the enduring true Antonian bond we share, no matter where we are.

I also want to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our committee members, their partners, and their families. Your dedication has been instrumental in making "Dance with Eagle '24" a grand success.

A special thank you goes to Rev. Fr. Rector of the college for his unwavering support of our club and all the fellow Presidents of Antonian Old Boys Associations who have sent us messages to mark this joyous event. Additionally, I would like to express our deep gratitude to our principal sponsor for tonight, Harvey Norman Dandenong, our co-sponsor, Sri Lankan Airlines, and all our sponsors who have consistently supported us every year.

Let us enjoy this evening together, celebrating our past, our achievements, and the promising future that lies ahead for the Old Antonian Social Club.

Lux De Coelo!

Thank you and May God Bless you,

Ashok Ariyaratnam

President,

Old Antonian Social Club Inc Australia,



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Message from Principal, St Anthony's College Kandy

I am delighted to inscribe a message as the current head of St. Anthony's College, Kandy in the souvenir published on par with the celebration of the Annual Dinner Dance of SACKOBA Australia in this year, too.

It is a happy occasion to see Antonians worldwide gather in unity to share and cherish the brotherhood they developed under the shelter of their Alma Mater. The fragrances in the central hills driven down by the cool breeze from river Mahaweli had given Antonians the powers to be stalwart gentlemen in their character and personality. It is great to see your strength and cooperation in the matters of your Alma Mater locally and globally.

Worldwide SACKOBA branches are highly supportive towards college administration and the development of the standards of the college. You have collectively collaborated to lend a hand in various projects launched by the college. I am proud and feel honoured to send my warmest wishes to this year's committee of the Annual Dinner Dance in Australia and executive committee of SACKOBA Australia branch.

Gladness dawns upon me to see the growth of SACKOBA globally, paving openings for Antonians around the globe, acknowledging each other's potentials and teaming up in both happiness and distress while seeking solace in true Antonian brotherhood.

I fervently believe and pray that the long-preserved traditions of your Alma Mater will continue to thrive into the future in your spirited hands. SACKOBA Australia branch has shown much support and enthusiasm in uplifting the quality of Antonian standards.

As the principal of St. Anthony's College, Kandy, it is a pleasure to witness SACKOBA grow globally with warm affection and sincere loyalty towards your Alma Mater, providing backup to make the standards of the college better.

I wish and pray heartily this venture into build up unity and togetherness among Australian Antonians would become triumphant and may you reach your expected goals of the Annual Dinner Dance of SACKOBA 2024...!

MAY GOD BLESS YOU...!

Rev. Fr. Henry Bernard Wijerathne (O.S.B)

Principal,
St. Anthony's College,
Kandy.



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Message from SACKOBA Parent Body

Greetings SACKOBA Australia,

It is with great pleasure and pride that I extend my warmest greetings to all the distinguished alumni gathered in Australia for the 41st Annual Dinner Dance at the Grand on Princes in Mulgrave, Victoria. As the President of SACKOBA, I am honoured to be present at this special occasion, which brings together the cherished alumni of our beloved alma mater and their friends. It is significant to note this is the very first time the President of SACKOBA is attending this function in an official capacity.

This Dinner Dance is a testament to the enduring strength of the SACKOBA community, spread far and wide. It reminds us that, despite the oceans that separate us, the bonds we forged in the hallowed halls of St. Anthony's remain unbroken. As we gather to reminisce, let us also look forward with optimism and determination to contribute meaningfully to our Alma mater which is celebrating an existence of 170 years. It is also noteworthy to mention St. Anthony's College Kandy is the oldest school in the Central province founded in the year 1854.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organizers, led by my good friend Ashok Ariyaratnam and his dynamic committee, who have worked tirelessly to make this event a reality. Your commitment to fostering the SACKOBA spirit across borders is commendable, and I am confident that this gathering will be memorable, filled with camaraderie, laughter, and the rekindling of old friendships.

In conclusion, I urge each of you to embrace the values that St. Anthony's has imparted to us and carry them forward in all your endeavours. Let us continue to be beacons of light, illuminating the path for future generations of Antonians.

May this Dinner Dance be a joyous occasion, filled with the warmth of friendship and shared laughter. Wishing you all a splendid evening and continued success in your personal and professional pursuits.

Long live our Glorious Alma Mater!

God Bless You All!

Mark Stephen

President,
SACKOBA (Parent Body)



Best Wishes to the Old Antonian Social Club of Australia



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Message from the Deputy Principal

Since its founding in 1981, the Old Antonian Social Club has evolved into a distinguished community characterised by enduring brotherhood, mutual support and shared achievements, from your humble beginnings to the thriving network of Alumni you are today.

As you approach your 41st annual dinner dance, you have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the milestones and celebrate the strength of your community. This event highlight not only your cherished traditions but also the remarkable contributions to your alma mater.

The publication of this souvenir magazine is a significant achievement capturing the essence of your journey and showcasing the vibrant connections you have built. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved organising the dance.

As we celebrate and look forward to the future, let us be inspired by our motto: "Lux de Coelo"- Light from Heaven. This guiding principle reflects our commitment to excellence, Unity and the shared light of our Purpose and values.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication. May this Occasion of Antonian Dance inspire us as we honour our past an embrace the future with enthusiasm and resolve.

With warmest regards and Gods blessings.

Rev. Fr. H N Dushantha Perera, OSB

Deputy Principal
St Anthony's College, Kandy



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Message from SACKOBA Qatar

Dear fellow Antonians in Australia,

It brings me great joy to share this message on the “Annual Dinner Dance 2024,” organized by SACKOBA Australia for the 41st consecutive year. This event celebrates the enduring legacy of St. Anthony’s College, and we are truly inspired by your unwavering passion, dedication, and commitment.

As an affiliated overseas branch of parent body with strong ties to the Sri Lankan Embassy in Qatar since our inception, we maintain close connections with the parent body of the OBA. Our primary goal is to strengthen bonds among associations and contribute to the future needs of our beloved school.

Despite the challenges posed by local regulations and compliance requirements, the old boys residing in Qatar have achieved remarkable success in various activities throughout the year. These include religious celebrations such as Sinhala and Tamil New Year, College Day festivities, Holy Mass with Almsgiving, as well as events like Christmas Carols and the Annual Iftar program. Additionally, we organize a yearly family outing for all members and their families, aligning with Qatar’s National Sports Day.

To our fellow Antonians in Australia, we wish you a successful and delightful night filled with camaraderie, love, and laughter.

Warm regards,

Anurudha Ellepola

President,
SACKOBA Qatar



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Message from SACKOBA UK

Dear Fellow Antonians and Friends,

It's with great pleasure and honour that I write this message of friendship to our brothers in Australia who are organizing and celebrating their annual dinner dance there. Though the idea of being in Melbourne with friends from school seem very inviting, we are unable to attend this prestige event on this occasion. However, we wish to send our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a successful evening to the president Ashok Ariyaratnam and his committee from everyone at SACKOBA UK.

We were all-fortunate to have been educated at St Anthony's Kandy, made lifelong friendships, and any gathering of Antonian's in any part of the world is a worthy cause that needs to be supported and celebrated and SACKOBA UK will always 'rally around the banner' alongside you, now and in future.

So, on behalf of all the OBA members in the UK, we would like to wish everyone at SACKOBA Australia a very successful and enjoyable evening and best wishes for all your efforts in helping our beloved College in the process.

Enjoy your Night

Warm regards,

Niroshan Perera

President,
SACKOBA UK

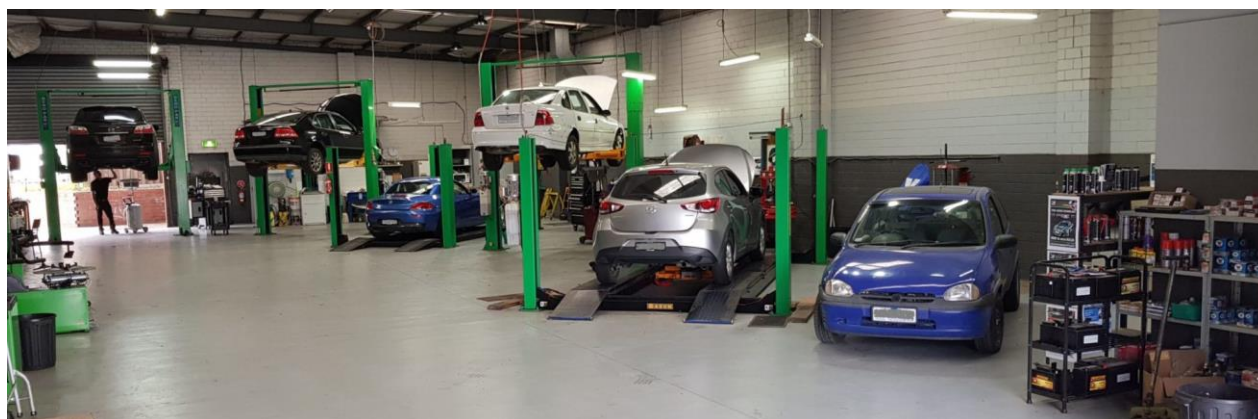




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Message from SACKOBA USA

Dear SACKOBA Family and Friends,

It is with immense pride and joy that I extend my warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the 41st Annual Dinner Dance of SACKOBA Australia. As the President of SACKOBA-USA, I am honoured to be part of this extraordinary global community, united by our shared heritage and deep love for our alma mater, St. Anthony's College Kandy.

This milestone celebration is a testament to the enduring bonds that connect us, no matter where we are in the world. It is a time to reflect on our shared journey, celebrate our achievements, and renew our commitment to the values instilled in us by our beloved school.

I would like to take this moment to commend Mr. Ashok Ariyaratnam, President of SACKOBA Australia, for his outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in organizing this massive event. His dedication and vision have brought us all together tonight, and his work continues to inspire us across the globe.

SACKOBA has always been more than just an alumni association—it is a brotherhood, a network of support, and a beacon of hope for the future. The strength of our community lies in our collective spirit and our dedication to giving back, not only to our school but also to the wider society. Your efforts in Australia are a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together with purpose and passion.

As we celebrate tonight, let us remember that our connection to St. Anthony's College transcends borders. We are part of a global network that continues to make a difference in the lives of many. I encourage each of you to keep the flame of SACK burning brightly and to carry forward the legacy of excellence, service, and leadership that defines us.

Finally, I extend a warm invitation to all of you to join us at the SACKOBA BALLUSA 2024, which will be held on December 14th in Las Vegas, the entertainment capital of the world! It promises to be an unforgettable evening, and we would be thrilled to have our SACKOBA family from around the world come together for this special occasion.

On behalf of SACKOBA-USA, I wish you a memorable evening filled with joy, laughter, and camaraderie. May this 41st Annual Dinner Dance be a resounding success and a reminder of the powerful bond that unites us all.

Long live St. Anthony's College, and long live SACKOBA!

Warm regards,

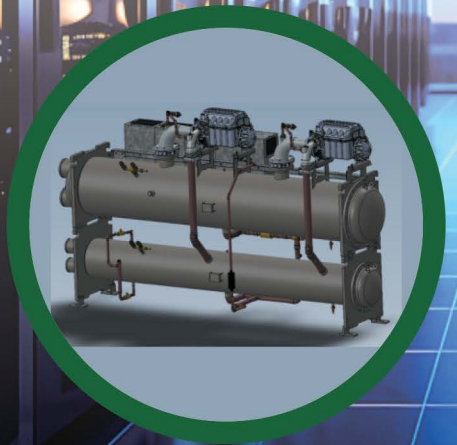
Aruna Abeyakoon

President,
SACKOBA USA



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Message from SACKOBA Canada

It is with great pleasure that we extend our heartiest wishes to SACKOBA Australia on the eve of their Dinner Dance 2024. It is wonderful to see the efforts of our colleagues from Down Under to enliven the spirit of our alma mater, St. Anthony's College Kandy. We are truly proud and feel privileged to have this opportunity to extend our sincerest well wishes to the Antonians in Australia. May you go from strength to strength!

We would like to congratulate the organizing committee on this special occasion. While thanking SACKOBA Australia for extending their warm welcome all the way to Canada, we wish them success in the years to come.

Lux De Coelo!

SACKOBA Canada

Warm regards,

Milinda Ranaweera

Secretary of the Working Committee,
SACKOBA Canada



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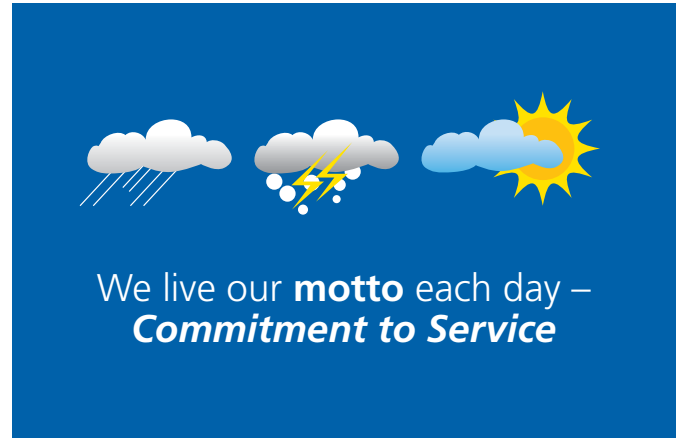
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Our Scholarship Program - continues to deliver

By Ashok Ariyaratnam

In 2014, the committee members of the Old Antonian Social Club came up with a suggestion of a project to help young Antonians who are presently studying at college. Though the club has been continuously supporting cricket, rugby and other activities, we wanted to pioneer in a project specifically supporting the wellbeing of very young Antonians whose parents find it tough to meet the needs of those children due to various personal circumstances.

With the fullest support of the general membership, the club decided to select suitable candidates on strict selection criteria such as educational performance, family background, the potential of the child to perform better in fulfilling his school ambitions. Rationale was simple as it provided a channel for our membership to payback what our Alma Mater had given us during our college days.

Recognizing our genuine efforts, College Principal, Rev Fr Henry Wijerathne appointed a student counsellor to coordinate the scheme on behalf of college. The counsellor shares the students' academic reports and other progress reports on a quarterly basis, to support the

disbursement of monthly payments.

At present 9 young Antonians are benefitted under this scholarship programme. It is very gratifying to see that that few Old Boys from Melbourne and Sydney have come forward to sponsor selected recipients, also we salute The De Alwis Foundation for sponsoring few more students from the inception of this scheme.



In 2014 we started by donating each recipient Rs 5,000/- monthly and at **present the monthly scholarship amount has increased Rs 10,000 per student. Clubs' annual commitment is approximately Rs 861,000 and this support will continue till the student leaves the College.**

Our annual college day celebrations, and specific

donations from old boys and well-wishers have been earmarked as the main fundraisers for the scholarship programme. First time since we started this scheme, we are also very proud to sponsor a young Antonian Seminarian who is aspiring to be a OBS Priest one day. I thank the Deputy Principal Rev Fr Dushantha Perera OSB for giving us this opportunity to show our gratitude to many Benedictine monks who have served the College for many years.

We have already seen the results of this worthy project and extremely proud of the fact that two past recipients got selected to universities and another found employment at Hatton National Bank. One of the university students has volunteered to coach the college chess team.

We thank Rev Fr Henry Wijerathne, Deputy Principal Rev Fr Dushantha Perera, Student Coordinating Teacher Mrs Thushari De Silva and our distinguished old Boy Mr Ranjith Peiris for all the support towards this worthy project.

'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me'



2024 Service Award Recipient – TOM DEEN

By Afzal Laphir

Today, we're here to celebrate a truly remarkable individual, a man whose name is synonymous with sporting achievement and excellence—Antonian Thaj Omar Marikkar Deen, or as we fondly call him, Tom Deen.

Capturing the essence of Tom's extraordinary journey in a brief five-minute speech is a challenge, but let me share some of the most memorable moments of his life.

Back in his college days, Tom was a formidable presence in both cricket and soccer. On the cricket field, Tom was a fiery fast bowler. His amazing performance against Trinity in 1953, where he captured 11 wickets, is still remembered.

Tom wasn't just a phenomenal bowler; he was also a powerhouse with the bat. At just 12 years old, he made a name for himself by scoring an impressive 210 runs in a junior game against Kingswood at Randles Hill.

In 1954, Tom etched his name in history by hitting four massive sixes against St. Joseph's at Darley Road. These monumental strikes are still celebrated in Antonian folklore as they soared into buildings far beyond the grounds, including the Bonjean Hall Tower.

His remarkable talent captured the attention of West Indian cricket legend Learie Constantine, who famously remarked, "If this boy were in England, they would be talking about him." Interestingly, all three of Tom's sons later attended St. Joseph's College.

Despite his cricketing heroics, Tom was more renowned for his achievements in soccer. He earned a spot on the national team as a schoolboy, and in 1957, he was honoured in Russia with the

Gold Medal for being the best Asian footballer.



He had the distinction of leading the Ceylon team on multiple occasions and remains the only Antonian to represent the country in soccer. Additionally, he captained the esteemed club Saunders for many years.

Rev Fr Lancfranc Amarasinghe, during the 1972 Colours Night, summed up Tom's legacy perfectly by saying, **"The mere memory of Tom Deen's outstanding performances in sports will mark him as one of the best all-round sportsmen our school has produced, bringing rare honour and distinction to his country."**

Tom worked at Nestlé for 26 years, starting as a Sales Representative and eventually becoming the National Distribution Manager. He played a crucial role in establishing the first trade union at Nestlé.

In 1983, Tom migrated to Australia with Patricia and his four children, shortly after the riots in Sri Lanka. His passion for sports continued in Sydney, where he started as an assistant cricket coach before advancing to become the director of coaching at Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club. He worked with cricket greats like Tony Greig, Geoff Boycott, Malcolm Marshall, and Kepler Wessels. In the early

1990s, Tom had the honour of coaching a seven-year-old David Warner, who has become one of the greatest all-format batsmen of our generation.

Lending a helping hand to those less fortunate than himself is a passion in Tom Deen's life. Since coming to Australia, Tom has continued to serve the community by joining the Rotary Club of Bondi, influenced by his closest associate Phil O'Sullivan. In 2004, through the Rotary Club, Tom helped raise a staggering \$90,000 for the tsunami catastrophe that claimed many lives, including the wife of one of his closest old Antonian buddies, Joe Madawela.

Tom's first encounter with our club was in 1984, just a year after arriving in Australia, when he was invited as the Guest of Honour at the OBA Big Match in Melbourne. Since then, he has visited Melbourne on many occasions to support the club. Most recently, in 2021, Tom had the honour of being the Chief Guest at the Saint Quadrangular T20 Cricket Tournament.

I have no doubt that Tom's contributions to the Antonian fraternity would have been more visible if he had lived in Melbourne.

Today, Tom resides in Eastlakes, New South Wales, with his wife Patricia. Even in his late 80s, he defied retirement by holding a managerial position at a leading company. Now at 91, Tom remains active on numerous Antonian forums on social media.

Tom Deen's life story is a testament to what can be achieved with dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment. Let's celebrate and draw inspiration from his incredible journey.

2024 Service Award Recipient – **WIJAY BANDARA**

By Spencer Madhanayake and Chris Driberg

Wijayananda Bandara followed another great Antonian, the late Hon. Chandra Bandara (Wijay's older brother) into St Anthony's College. Wijay and his family hail from the hot plains of Anuradhapura where Wijay attended Anuradhapura Central until he moved to St. Anthony's College in 1957 at the age of ten years and finished his education at college in 1962.

Wijay was a hosteller starting at dorm 1 of the Rainbow Cottage, where Rev Fr Leo Nanayakkara was the warden at the time. As we all may know Rev Fr Leo Nanayakkara went on to become Bishop Leo Nanayakkara. Wijay's brother Mr. Chandra Bandara was mainly instrumental in the bold decision taken to construct the Gigantic Bishop Leo Nanayakkara Memorial Pavilion & Gymnasium Complex, providing the necessary inspiration, leadership and guidance to make this dream come true. The Gymnasium has a floor area of 6003 sq. Ft. with provision for conducting Badminton and Table Tennis tournaments, weights and physical training.

Wijay was the quiet one in school and did not get involved in many sports activities and always stayed away from the limelight. His future development commenced immediately when he joined St. Anthony's, influenced by teachers and fellow boarders such as Gerald Eude (who corrected his English) and formed his first nickname "Dhobi cameded". Wijay has always commented on the fact that his knowledge of English was limited. Wijay was also known for his long memory and hence earned the nickname "Aliya". Wijay is blessed with the same memory power today

which has helped with his long Financial Planning career through the years.



The first year in school went past very quickly and he moved to The Mansion, where Brother Macky was in charge. He recollects how he got a caning by Brother Macky for holding a torch in his eyes whilst he was coming down the steps to the study hall during recreation. During his stay at The Mansion, he joined the Double Blues Cadet Platoon, where he was nicknamed "Appey" (Hopper) by Sergeant Michael Joseph. After two years at The Mansion, he progressed to The Villa. He has said that his overall education standard gradually improved due to the guidance of Mr. Barnabus, P. Don Quintus, Mr. Mendis (Master of Discipline) and Mr. B L Fernando.

In December 1961, Wijay passed the GCE (Ordinary Level). He left school in 1962 to continue his education in Colombo and later joined Harrison & Crossfield as a junior Check Roll clerk at the Darley Road Mills in 1964. He started work at the Bank of Ceylon in 1966.

Wijay met the love of his life Marcia that same year at a birthday party of a mutual friend in Mirihana. They got married in September 1967 at St. Mary's Dehiwela. They have 2

daughters, 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

The couple migrated to Australia (Melbourne) in 1973 with their 2 young daughters. Wijay started work at The Victorian Railways in January 1974. In early 1976 he joined Encel Stereo in Richmond as an Audio Consultant. In 1988 he commenced a career in Insurance and Superannuation with Norwich Union Australia. Wijay then progressed to study Financial Planning in 1994 and was awarded Certified Financial Planner in 1998. Entire Financial Services was formed in 1996 to facilitate the provision of client centric financial advice. Wijay retired in 2023 leaving a thriving Financial Planning practice.

Wijay was introduced to the Old Antonian Social Club by Errol Vancuylenberg in 1989 and asked to join their family for his first Antonian Dance. Since then, Wijay and Marcia have been at nearly every dance and brought groups of friends for our dance. For many years Wijay has sponsored our dance tickets and never failed to provide us with an advertisement for our souvenir through his company, Entire Financial Services. They have recently started supporting a needy student of the College through the club's Scholarship Scheme.

Thank you, Wijay. The OASC appreciate your undying support toward the club. Wijay is loyal and his involvement and love for St. Anthony's College and the OASC speaks for itself.

We wish Wijay/Marcia and the rest of their family all the very best and may Wijay continue with the passion he has for his Alma Mater.

Old Antonian Social Club (Australia)

Committee – 2023/2024



Seated L-R: Mohan Gomez., Afzal Laphir, Dhammika Jayasekera (Treasurer), Ashok Ariyaratnam (President), Robin Koelmeyer, Jayantha Peries and Chris Drieberg

Standing L-R: Denver Pereira, Brian Rumesch, Titus Peter, , Junius de Silva, , Manoj Wijekulasuriya, Sujeewa Amarasinghe and Indika Kaluarachchi



Absent L-R: Nadeesha Ratnayake (Vice President), Dumudu Rambukwella (Secretary), Naomal de Alwis, Senaka Amerasinghe, Martin Pereira and Chanaka Waidyaratne

2024 FUTURE EVENTS

1. **DANCE WITH EAGLES '24** - Date: Saturday, 7 Sep 2024: Venue: Grand on Princes
2. **Kingswood Rugby 7s** - Date: Saturday 16 Nov 2024, Venue: Box Hill Rugby Union Football grounds
3. **43rd Annual General Meeting** - Date: Sunday 17 Nov 2024, Venue: TBA
4. **Inter house Softball Cricket followed by Christmas BBQ and Carols** - Date: 8 Dec 2024; Venue: TBA



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We're thrilled to unveil the latest addition to the SACK OBA Australia family: our brand-new website! Designed with our vibrant community of alumni in mind, our website is your ultimate hub for connection, inspiration, and growth.

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Menu

WELCOME DRINKS / CANAPES

Champagne/ Orange Sunrise
Chef's choice of Canapes.

★ ENTREE

Bread rolls
Devilled beef
Vegetarian platter

★ SALADS

Tuna pasta salad
Beetroot salad

★ MAIN

Chicken biriyani
Sri Lankan style noodles (vegetarian)
Steam rice (on request)

Roast Lamb in rosemary sauce
Pepper pork
Coconut crusted prawns

Gamei batu moju (cold dish)
Green pea and *Kaju sudata*
Roasted mix vegetables with Parmesan cream

Coriander raita
Malay pickle
Peanut & sprat *baduma*

★ DESSERT

Biscoff tiramisu
Red velvet "Eton Mess"



Programme

06.30 pm - 07.30 pm	Guest arrival, meet & greet, Welcome Drinks and Entree
07.30 pm - 08.15 pm	Take to the dance floor to the melodious tunes from Band Mystery
08.15 pm - 08.20 pm	President's welcome
08.20 pm - 08.35 pm	College anthem and group photos
08.35 pm - 10.00 pm	Dinner is served while Band Mystery and DJ Naz are back with more entertainment
10.00 pm - 10.20 pm	Much anticipated raffle ticket draw Desserts will be served to the tables
10.20 pm - 12.15 am	dance till you drop with Band Mystery and DJ Naz

Thank You

Drive safely and see you again at our next dance

Dance
with
Eagles





PAST PRESIDENTS, SECRETARIES & TREASURERS OF THE OLD ANTONIAN SOCIAL CLUB INC.

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1981	Tony Schrader	Chris Drieberg	Deryck Barthelot
1982	Tony Schrader	Chris Drieberg	Deryck Barthelot
1983	Andre Titus	Ralph Barthelot	Deryck Barthelot
1984	Gordon Cooray	Leyrisse Vandervert	Deryck Barthelot
1985	Merrick Poulier	Ralph Barthelot	Tony Schrader
1986	Chris Drieberg	Leyrisse Vandervert	Tony Schrader
1987	Robin Koelmeyer	Merrick Poulier	Bertram Rulach
1988	Leyrisse Vandervert	Chris Drieberg	Bertram Rulach
1989	Ralph Bartelot	Bernard Vancuylenberg	Jayantha Peries
1990	Tony Schrader	Mohan Gomez	Jayantha Peries
1991	Tony Schrader	Bernard Vancuylenberg	Jayantha Peries
1992	Leyrisse Vandervert	Mohan Gomez	Peter Corteling
1993	Jayantha Peries	Evan Bartholomuez	Peter Corteling
1994	Merrick Poulier	Ralph Barthelot	Peter Corteling
1995	Mohan Gomez	Gordon Cooray	Martin Pereira
1996	Gordon Cooray	Walter Ludowyke	Martin Pereira
1997	Walter Ludowyke	Mohan Gomez	Martin Pereira
1998	Martin Pereira	Walter Ludowyke	Jayantha Peries
1999	Martin Pereira	Mohan Gomez	Gordon Cooray
2000	Jayantha Peries	Adrian Dunuwille	Tony Schrader
2001	Marlon Von Hagt	Sujith Dunuwille	Deryck Barthelot
2002	Derrick Jordan	Adrian/Sujith Dunuwille	Martin Pereira
2003	Meri Guneratne	Shane Bayley	Martin Pereira
2004	Jayantha Peries	Shane Bayley	Martin Pereira
2005	Robin Koelmeyer	Shane Bayley / Adrian Dunuwille	Meri Guneratne
2006	Chris Drieberg	Ralph Barthelot	Martin Perera
2007	Mark Schrader	Ralph Barthelot	Peter Corteling
2008	Martin Pereira	Ralph Barthelot	Peter Corteling
2009	Marlon Von Hagt	Adrian Dunuwille	Lester Hearthge
2010	Marlon Von Hagt	Adrian Dunuwille	Lester Hearthge
2011	Marlon Von Hagt	Adrian Dunuwille	Lester Hearthge
2012	Marlon Von Hagt	Roshan Edirisinghe	Martin Pereira
2013	Afzal Laphir	Keith Mahamooth	Jayantha Peries
2014	Afzal Laphir	Keith Mahamooth	Jayantha Peries
2015	Afzal Laphir	Ashok Ariyaratnam	Jayantha Peries
2016	Meri Guneratne	Naomal de Alwis	Nadeesha Ratnayake
2017	Naomal de Alwis	Adrian Dunuwille	Nadeesha Ratnayake
2018	Naomal de Alwis	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Ashok Ariyaratnam
2019	Naomal de Alwis	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Jayantha Peries
2020	Senaka Amerasinghe	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Dumudu Rambukwella
2021	Senaka Amerasinghe	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Dumudu Rambukwella
2022	Senaka Amerasinghe	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Dumudu Rambukwella
2023	Senaka Amerasinghe	Nadeesha Ratnayake	Dumudu Rambukwella
2024	Ashok Ariyaratnam	Dumudu Rambukwella	Dhammika Jayasekera

Basketball Revival in College

By Jayantha Peries (SACKOBA Australia)

Basketball, perhaps the most popular sport in the world after Soccer, was unknown for at least two generations of Antonians between the years 2010 and 2022. However, with our current Principal Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne, BB became a reality once more in 2022.

My earliest recollection of Basketball (BB) at St. Anthony's (college) was in the early 1960s when V. S. K. Ranasinghe was the captain, and the team was coached by Mr. F. B. R. de Silva. This was during the time of Rev. Fr. Thomas de Silva who was the Prefect of Games. The major boost for BB happened in 1962 when college hosted the Public Schools' BB tournament in Kandy. Much effort went into preparing the facilities, including a major overhaul of the BB court which was given a new layer of bitumen and line markings. It was an exciting time for our players and gave much needed publicity for the sport in the Central Province.

Although college did not fare too well in the tournament, we were recognized as a potential force in BB among the schools in the country. Our BB standard climbed rapidly, and we became noticed by the national BB officials through the 1960's and 1970's for our competitive performances against other major BB schools in the country. We had several of our players in the Central Province team and being noticed by the national selectors at the Public Schools' tournament.

Sadly, BB in college was suspended from about 2010 to enable erecting a new building on the site that previously had

two Tennis courts adjoining the BB court. The BB court became a convenient thoroughfare to transport materials for the construction of the building, which dragged on for several years, sending BB into oblivion in college. The responsibility for seeing the building to completion fell on the shoulders of our current Principal, Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne. On his visit to Australia in 2012, Fr. Henry committed to resurrect BB in college as soon as the building was completed. The building has now been completed, and a new era for BB has dawned with plans being drawn for a new BASKETBALL COMPLEX like we have not seen in the 170-year history of the college.



Fr Henry declares open the new Basketball Court

Fr. Henry found the perfect ally he needed in Rohan Wijesinghe, the President of the Colombo branch. Together they kickstarted the program. Rohan himself was an excellent BB player, having played for college and the Central Province team. Rohan sent out a circular to the College of Presidents of SACKOBA in March 2022, to announce the proposal to build a BB Complex in college. This project was designed to make it the premier BB venue in the

Central Province and bring back the enjoyment of the sport to college. Most importantly, the students were given the opportunity to expand their choice once again in selecting a universal sport.

The proposal for the BB Complex includes the following:

- A New BB Court with:
 - A - Grade Bitumen surface
 - Fiberglass, transparent shooting Backboards and Rings of international standards, attached to concrete pillars
- Another full court of lesser quality Bitumen for practices in the adjoining land
- A concrete Half court with a portable backboard and Ring (with adjustable height) **for the Primary school**
- Players' change rooms, and Washrooms
- Viewing gallery for VIPs
- Electronic or Digital scoreboard
- Five Flag posts
- Concrete Terrace seating for Spectator viewing
- Floodlights for main court
- Car parking which can be used as a staff car park on school days

This Proposal was presented by Rohan to the Prior of the OSB Order, Rev. Fr. Shamindra Jayawardene and was approved without reservation. The project commenced in March 2022 with the financial support from The Access Group of companies in Sri Lanka, who sponsored the construction of the main BB court.

The Main BB court is Opened

The main Court was completed in July 2022 to the agreed specifications, at a cost of approximately Rs.4 million. This was a significant achievement against the obstacles that were faced mostly by the Covid pandemic. The new BB court was opened with “muted fanfare” in September 2022, where the focus was mainly to give thanks to God for getting the first part of the project completed and the doors opened for playing Basketball. Rev. Fathers Shamindra Jayawardene, Henry Wijeratne, Dushantha Perera (then Director of the Primary school, and now Deputy Principal), Rohan Wijesinghe Project leader, the Senior prefects and other distinguished personnel attended the “soft” opening of the new BB court.



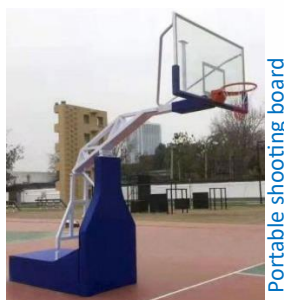
Opening Ceremony

What was most significant was the participation of 80 students who turned up to train to be future BB players for college. The joy that rang out from their short

game of BB must have resounded in the heavens loudest of all.

Work in Progress

The immediate stages to follow in this mammoth project are the construction of the “practice court”, the Half court in the Primary school and the Change Rooms. Quotations have been obtained for the Primary school Half court and portable, “height adjustable” Shooting Board. The standard height of the Rings in BB is 10 feet from the ground. In Australia, children in the ages of 10 and 11 have Rings that are 9 feet from the ground. The Rings for those below that age are at a height of 8 feet. This initiative to start BB in Primary school was a brilliant idea, and augurs well for the future of BB in college. The current quotation received for the adjustable and foldable Shooting Board and Ring is Rs. 685,000 plus transport costs. In addition, a further Rs.500,000 is estimated for the concrete half court.



Portable shooting board

Funding for and Returns from the Project

The Investment in this BB Complex is not financial alone. It is an investment in the future BB

skills of our students who will bring glory to college through BB, which is priceless. Financially, the overall cost of the Basketball Complex project is currently estimated at between Rs.15 and 20 million. An Electronic scoreboard is a standard equipment even in the humblest of schools in Australia. Basketball is a fast game where the points scored, and “fouls” committed by each team need to be updated in real time.

This Basketball complex project has been brought to life not as a one-off investment. Whilst the initial financial investment is significant, the “Returns” from this project will be enjoyed by students for many generations to come. This BB complex will be the most complete project of its kind ever done in college, or anywhere in Sri Lanka. Apart from the sports and recreational benefits for our students, BB will be a Self-funding sport through hosting of tournaments and renting of courts to nearby schools for practice.

On behalf of SACKOBA Australia, I wish to thank Fr. Shamindra, Fr. Henry, Rohan Wijesinghe and all those who are involved in the BB Complex project. I want to exhort all past Antonians in Australia and around the world to support them in this venture to bring it to a successful completion.



First training session in new court



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Dimitri Peries

P a r t n e r

Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and
Bachelor of Commerce
(B.Com) (Monash University)

ROBERT JAMES LAWYERS

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0413 010 476

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Melbourne VIC 3000

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Dimitri has a broad legal advisory and dispute resolution practice. He has been a trusted advisor and problem-solver for over 20 years.

His expertise includes contracts, real estate, tax, intellectual property, business and shareholder disputes, insolvency, unpaid debts, trusts, commercial leases, building/construction issues and franchising-related problems.

Dimitri integrates his technical legal knowledge, negotiation skills and risk management expertise to achieve results which are always in the best interests of his clients. He develops strong working relationships with his clients to help them grow their businesses and take advantage of opportunities.

Dimitri has a special association with the Old Antonians through his father Jayantha, and is proud to support the 2024 Dinner Dance.

Robert James Lawyers

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Good News Stories from College

Compiled by Afzal Lahir (*Graphics courtesy Antonian Media Unit*)



Antonian **THEJANA HERATH** was selected to represent Sri Lanka at the 8th Asian School Badminton Championship that was completed last week at Semarang, Indonesia. Previously, Thejana brought more glory to college, when he won Gold medals for Under-17 Men's single and Mixed Doubles and Silver medal for Under-17 Men's Doubles event at the South Asia Regional Junior Badminton Championship 2024 held in Islamabad, Pakistan in March this year.

Old Antonian Thushira Amarathunga was selected as the Head Coach of the team.



Antonian **ROCHANA RATHNAYAKE** was selected to represent Sri Lanka at the International Youth Basketball Championships (IYBC 2024) that was held in Thailand during the first week of August.

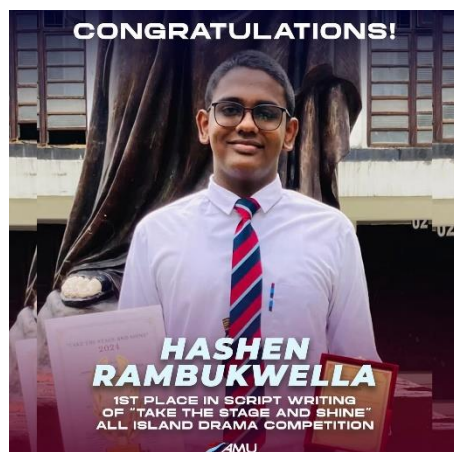
The IYBC 2024 was an open platform for 600 – 800 young basketball players between the ages of 12-18 years old from Thailand and other countries around the globe to participate in this exciting and challenging competition. It was conducted under the rules of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA).



Antonian **IMADH NAZMI** bagged a Bronze medal at the International Earth Science Olympiad 2024 (IESO 2024) hosted by China in August 2024.

Imadh participated in the International Team Field Investigation (ITFI) competition.

The IESO is an educational event for secondary school students globally, and It is one of the twelve International Science Olympiads. The first IESO was held in Daegu, South Korea, in 2007, and it has been held annually since, attracting over 200 students from more than 40 countries and regions each year.



Antonian **HASHEN RAMBUKWELLA** brought credit to College by claiming FIRST place in SCRIPT WRITING of "Take the Stage and Shine" at the All-Island Drama Competition held recently

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Annual General Meeting – 19 Nov 2023

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Christmas Party – 2 Dec 2023

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Antonian Cricket in Good Hands

By Afzal Laphir

Antonian Cricket enjoyed another outstanding year, filled with impressive performances at both the senior and junior levels. To top it off, a former Antonian was honoured with a rare national cap, adding to the year's triumphs.

In the Schools Division 1 U15 and U17 tournaments, our boys advanced to the Semi-Finals but were unfortunately eliminated due to technicalities after rain caused their games to be abandoned. As I write, there remains some uncertainty about the final outcome of our U15 team's semi-final match against St. Peter's College.

Our First XI boys secured an impressive SIX outright victories in 16 two-day games and clinched a spot in the top 8 of Division 1 (Tier A) schools. Notably, we finished ahead of esteemed institutions such as St Joseph's College, Nalanda College, and S Thomas' College Mount Lavinia. Finishing in the top 8 has also ensured our automatic qualification to remain in Division 1 (Tier A) for the next season, which is particularly commendable, considering that schools like St Peter's College, Ananda College, and Royal College are competing in lower leagues compared to us.

Our six wins this season were registered against Dharmaraja College, Ananda College, St Sebastian's College Moratuwa, St Benedict's College, Nalanda College and Gurukula MV Kelaniya. We lost outright to Mahanama College and DS Senanayake College. Despite our successes, a victory against Trinity College continues to be elusive, at least for now!

Chamidu Wickremasinghe emulates Murali

Our 2022 skipper Chamindu Wickremasinghe (aka Chamidu) became the first Antonian since the legendary Muthiah Muralitharan to represent Sri Lanka at the highest level, when he made his T20I debut against India at Pallekelle in late July.



Following some notable contributions for SL U19 side, where he opened both the batting and bowling, Chamidu secured a regular place as an all-rounder at Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC). Most recently, he rose to the limelight at the Lankan Premier League (LPL), representing Dambulla, where he earned the Emerging Playing of the Season Award for his exceptional performances with the bat and the ball.

At school, Chamidu made a name for himself in his debut season in 2019 when he achieved the rare feat of scoring a century in both his maiden First XI game as well as in his debut Big Match against Trinity.

Thisara Ekanayake makes national U19 Debut

Thisara Ekanayake, our 2024 skipper, made a promising debut for the Sri Lanka U19 team against England U19, leading his side to a convincing 65-run

victory in the first Youth ODI at Chelmsford in late June.

Thisara, who opened the batting with Rajan Pulindu Perera, scored 13 runs and then took two of the first three wickets, stalling the home side's run chase. He bowled his full quota of 10 overs, finishing with figures of 2/48.

In the 2023/24 school cricket season, Thisara was outstanding with both the bat, scoring 964 runs in 24 innings at an average of 48.2 with 4 centuries and 4 fifties, and capturing 54 wickets including 3 five-wicket hauls and one 10-wicket match bag.



Just in the last three years, no less than seven Antonians have represented SL at U19 level, a remarkable feat that is unparalleled in the annals of our history. Along with Thisara, we had Chamidu Wickremasinghe, Trevin Mathew, Lahiru Abeysinghe, Anjala Bandara, Asitha Wanninayake and Kaveesha Piyumal donning the national cap at U19 level.

If the performances of our junior cricketers are any indication, our success is bound to extend into the future, provided they continue to grow as well-rounded players. However, it's important to remember that achieving this will require ongoing support from the Antonian community towards the school and the Cricket Wing.

Best Wishes to the Old Antonian Dinner Dance



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Celebrating 50 years of Badminton Excellence

Building a Legacy for the Future

By Murali Prakash, President of Antonian Badminton Club (ABC)

Having begun the sport in 1974, badminton at St. Anthony's College has stood the test of time over the past 50 years. In 2024, the college will celebrate its Golden Jubilee under the name "Golden Shuttle, with a commemorative event planned for 28 September 2024."

During the first 15 years, we proudly produced our first Sri Lanka No. 1 player, Udaya Weerakoon, exemplifying the spirit and dedication to the sport at our college. Since then, many national-level players have emerged from our ranks.

As with any sport, badminton has evolved in coaching, playing, and overall approach. Recognizing the need to uplift our current process, we have focused on developing players who excel in the game and embody true sportsmanship. The Antonian Badminton Club (ABC), one of the college's oldest sports bodies established in 1994, has recently

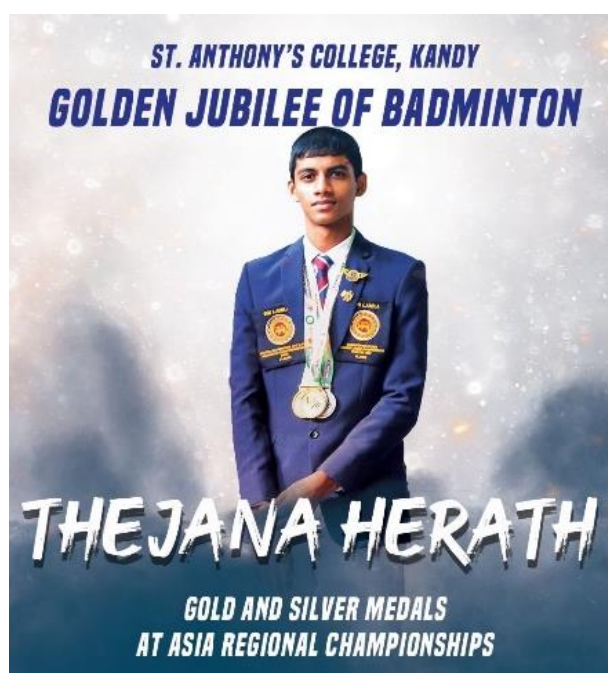
renewed its commitment to this mission. Under the guidance of Mr. R.N.A. de Silva, who was instrumental in establishing the game at the college and forming the ABC, a new team has come forward with a vision to elevate the sport.

Over the past 9-10 months, this team has established new strategies and actively assisted the college authorities in enhancing coaching and other facilities. Since mid-2023, several key achievements have been posted, including Sihile Abhishek representing Sri Lanka at the Junior Championships in Indonesia, Hasaranga Sooriyarachchi becoming the runner-up in the Northwestern Province Open Tournament and eventually becoming Sri Lanka's No. 1, breaking barriers once again. Furthermore, both Hasaranga and Thejana Herath were selected for the Sri Lanka National Pool. Our U-15 team became the summer season

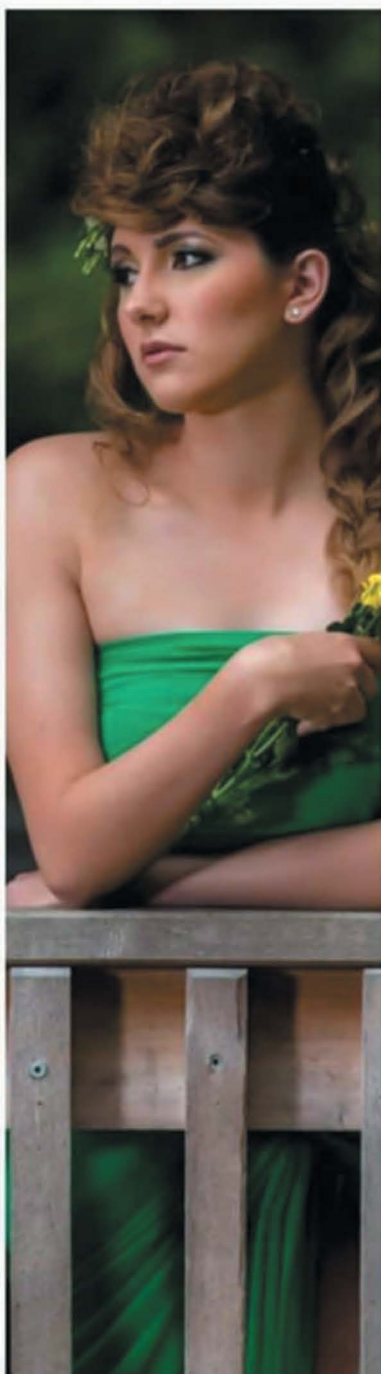
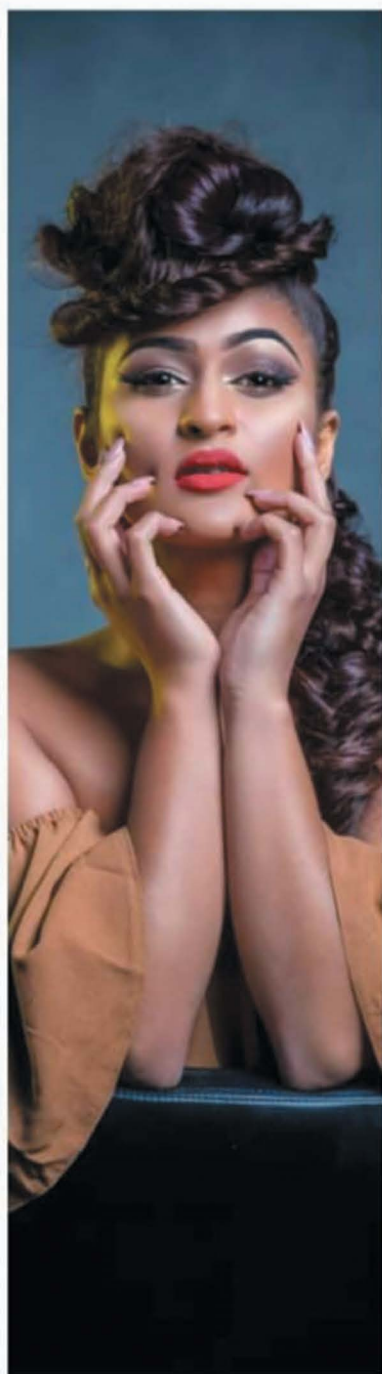
champions, and Thejana Herath won gold in the U-17 boys' singles, silver in boys' doubles, and silver in mixed doubles at the South Asian Junior Championships in Pakistan. Additionally, our U-17 team became the runner-up in the A Division U-17 team championships. A brief list of some key achievements.

These accolades and achievements are part of our journey to make SACK badminton the best among schools and to establish a strategic regime that will secure the future of the game, bringing honour and prestige to our Alma Mater. With the support of SACK old boys and well-wishers, we are confident of this glorious future.

Note: this article was first published in the OBA Australia newsletter, AntoNEWS June 2024.



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Saints Quadrangular – 26 Jan 2024

<https://www.sackobaaustralia.org/gallery>



Antonian team at Saints Quadrangular T20 tournament.



OBA Big Match – 3 Mar 2024



Antonian team – OBA Big Match (Over-40 Game)



Antonian team – OBA Big Match (Open Game)



Steven, Charlie and Michael – Brothers in Arms

By Group Capt. (Retd) Tilak Pananwala



STEVEN



CHARLIE



MICHAEL

During the 1950's there were several sets of brothers at St. Anthony's College, like the Josephs, (Steven, Charlie and Michael) the Doranegamas, (Upali, Saliya, and Ranjit) the Premaratnes, (Wijepala, Samson, Buncho, and Totti) and the Fernando's, (Raymond, Guy, Nihal, Ian, and Robin) who were prominent in sports. But the most outstanding were the Joseph Brothers.

All three were hostellers and members of The Double Blue House. They were tall, well built with well-rounded physiques and blessed with inborn skills at ball games. Thus, they excelled at any game they chose. But each of them had another special asset which endeared them to everybody who enjoyed the pleasure of their company, and that was humility. (Sportsmen of today please take note!!). Their behaviour was exemplary. They had a strong code of ethics, were extremely courteous, unassuming, and never lost sight of the human element. These virtues made them gentlemen par excellence.

"They had a strong code of ethics, were extremely courteous, unassuming, and never lost sight of the human element. These virtues made them gentlemen par excellence."

STEVEN JOSEPH

Steven who was the eldest represented college in cricket, athletics and cadeting. In cricket he formed a formidable "New Ball Partnership" with Adrian Berenger. Adrian had a classic bowling action while Steven had an intimidating run up with high knees and a rhythmic pumping of the right hand. He made the ball rear up from a good length making it very difficult for batsmen to cope! This pair's finest performance was against St. Joseph's college at Darley Road in 1956 when they skittled the Josephians out for 51. The next day the sports section of the "Ceylon Daily News" carried the following headline "BERENGER AND JOSEPH BOWL WITH

VENOM - JOES ALL OUT FOR 51!" Both were good batsmen too and Steven opened the innings in 1955 in the match against St. Peter's. He fared even better in athletics and was one of the finest athletes produced by St. Anthony's College.

In an era of several outstanding athletes like R.A.F. Perera, (100m and 200m) Ranjith Samarasekera, (Javelin) Jeeva Weerasinghe (100m Long Jump), Lesley Jayabandhu, (400m) W.B. Rajaguru, (800m) A.H.B. Rajaguru, (800m) Ivan Boteju, 200m and 400 m) and Edmund Cooray, (100m and 200m) Steven was the best, winning the 100 and 200 metres at the Central province Schools Meet where St. Anthony's annually swept the board.

At the Public Schools Meet in Colombo he came second in the 100m being pipped at the tape by Samuel of Wesley college. He went on to represent Ceylon at these events and won the 100 m in India at an international meet. His tall frame was an advantage at the High Jump and he had a close battle with Ranjit Samarasekera at

the College Annual Sports Meet before winning the event. Apart from cricket and athletics, Steven was a senior cadet, a Prefect and a member of the college choir.

CHARLIE JOSEPH

Charlie excelled at cricket from a very young age and represented college from 1956 - 1961. He captained the side in 1959 and 1960 and won the coveted trophy for "The Schoolboy Cricketer of the Year" Award in both years. Charlie possessed a superb text book batting technique and was by far the best batsman in schools during these years.

He scored centuries against all the schools he played. Some of the finest were against St.Peter's at Bambalapitiya, St.Benedict's at Kotahena, and Trinity and Dharmarajah at Katugastota. But perhaps two of his greatest mini innings were two which were below 100. One was against Ananda college at Campbell Place in 1957 when he was just 16 years old.

St. Anthonys were in a bad way tottering on 104 for 7 when Charlie and a little-known Heen Banda rose like the Phoenix from the ashes salvaging a partnership, which took the total to 210. He was unbeaten on 80 when the innings ended.

Quoting an extract from the College Magazine of the time, Afzal Laphir states " Charlie Joseph then sizing up the situation pinned his faith on aggression and took the bowling apart with a superb 80...." When Ananda batted it was their turn to collapse and they were 45 for 7 at the close of play. However, the next day they staged a recovery and managed to force a draw.

His other great 'mini innings' was the 73 he scored against St.Joseph's at Darley Road in 1960. St.Joseph's had one of the best opening bowling attacks with Peter Liyanage and Ranjit Malawana and the famed spin duo of Priya Perera (off spin) and Raja de Silva (leg spin) taking over with the old ball. We managed only 135 runs out of which Charlie scored 73, 55% of the total. Running out of partners he lashed out and was caught at the boundary by a superb catch taken by Victor Wickremasinghe. Had the latter missed, it was a sure six!

In his first year in 1956 the team was labelled "The Anthonian Batting Machine" by the Press and comprised batsmen of the calibre of W.Premaratne, Ranjit Doranegama, Anton Rambukpotha, Srilal Seneviratne, Ranjit Samarasekera, and Thirunavakarasu. Charlie batted down the order and never had the chance of batting for long. But he did very well as an off spinner. If Ceylon had test status, Charlie would have been an automatic choice. Apart from cricket he was a member of the pioneering rugger team started by Reverend Brother Macky, and also represented college in Athletics. At the Central Province Schools Group Meet held in Asgiriya, he was a member of the winning U19 4 x 100 relay team in record setting time. As mentioned, Charlie would have excelled in any chosen ball game being blessed with inborn skills. He also played football tennis and basketball with equal skill. Charlie was also the Head Prefect in 1960 and was much admired by his fellow students, the staff, old boys and well-wishers.

MICHAEL JOSEPH

Like his brothers, Michael had a natural skill for ball games and excelled in cricket. He scored a glorious century in a partnership

with Charlie against Dharmarajah college in 1961 when the chips were down. At this particular stage of the game we were in dire straits not just facing a freight train coming in the opposite direction, but facing a bullet train, in the form of T.B Kehelgamuwa!! The wonder of this century is that he scored it before he had scored a half century in any of the previous matches. But this was a harbinger of things to come.

Michael made many more big scores including a scintillating 81 against a strong Royal attack in 1962. Later he also became a good medium fast bowler and had an outstanding big match performance against Trinity in 1963 when he captained the team. In that match he had a haul of 5 wickets for 67 runs. Trinity were on the verge of defeat at Asgiriya when a sudden downpour came to their aid snatching them from the jaws of defeat. It seemed the weather Gods favoured Trinity whenever the "Big Match" was played at Asgiriya because they were also saved from defeat in 1952 when the heavens opened up! Michael also represented college in rugger and was a Senior Prefect.

St. Anthonys was blessed with outstanding cricketers in the latter half of the 50's. But it is very sad to state that among them, Ranjit Doranegama, (Captain in 1957) Anton Rambukpotha, (Vice Captain in 1957) Srilal Seneviratne, (Captain in 1958) Charlie Joseph, (Captain in 1959 and 1960) and Thirunavakarasu, all passed away at a relatively young age. And we who are left to grieve, will always be grateful for the privilege of having witnessed their stellar achievements if only for a short period. We are thankful for the gifts given to us. Their memories are enshrined forever in the annals of our Alma Mater.

Old Antonian Social Club's contributions to College

Year	Amount (Aus \$)	Project
2023	1,700.00	College Turf project
2017	2,810.00	Cost of printing of the book "Story of Antonian Cricket" (400 copies were handed over to the Old Antonian Cricket Wing).
2017	1,000.00	Purchase of school bus
2016	3,500.00	Old Antonian Cricket Wing
2015	3,000.00	Old Antonian Cricket Wing
2014	3,000.00	Old Antonian Cricket Wing
	2,300.00	Fr Stephen Abraham's jubilee celebrations
2013	5,000.00	Old Antonian Cricket Wing
2012	4,000.00	Colombo OBA Sports Fund
2011	2,000.00	Colombo OBA Sports Fund
2010	4,000.00	Colombo OBA Sports Fund
2009	10,000.00	refurbishment of college hall
2008	4,000.00	ceiling fans for the college hall
2006	1,500.00	Old Antonian Cricket Wing
2004	10,000.00	funds towards 150-year celebrations/ repair to college hall
2002	4,520.00	cricket covers for the college grounds
1999	3,000.00	computers for the college laboratories
1998	857.50	cricket caps with the college crest
1995	1,500.00	funds towards laboratory equipment
1994	312.50	contribution towards Fr Lanfranc Amerasinghe's eye operation
1993	1,562.50	contribution towards the college pavilion (SRS 50,000)
1992	2,008.00	housing for minor staff
1991	2,053.75	college ties and badges
1985	395.00	college badges
1984	250.00	contribution towards a professional cricket coach
1982	300.00	lawnmower donated for the cricket pitch

Note: In addition to the above, our club has also made donations to a number of charitable institutions in both Australia and Sri Lanka. Individually, our members have made contributions towards the Sports Trust Fund, Global Antonians News Network (GANN) and other groups related to College. Funds collected as part of our Scholarship Program as well as in-kind projects (eg: rugby boots) are not included here.

Francis & Pathi – complete 50 years of service

A large group of old Antonians around the globe joined hands recently to honour Mr. N.A. Francis and Mr S.Pathianathan for completing 50 years of dedicated service at St. Anthony's College, Kandy. This initiative was co-ordinated by the Global Antonian News Network (GANN). Francis and Pathi were each presented with a trophy and a cash award of Rs 100,000 in a simple ceremony held in the office of Principal, Rev Fr. Henry Wijeratne.



Refurbished Rugby Boots Project

By Senaka Amerasinghe

Diehard old Antonian Palitha Anthony, based in Negambo, Sri Lanka in his quest to find solutions to the multitude of issues facing the Antonian fraternity was instrumental in initiating this project. Cost escalation of all items in Sri Lanka is the order of the day and Rugby boots are no exception. Purchasing a pair of Rugby boots is prohibitive to most households in Sri Lanka. Palitha spoke to his good friend in Sydney Shane Thambimuththu on the issue and Shane immediately started collecting boots in Sydney.

Shane wanted our assistance to collect boots from Melbourne and so we did and along with the boots collected by Shane, in 2023 we dispatched 65 refurbished boots and Rugby shorts to

college in 2 boxes (Tea chests) and we also added an additional box of lady's clothes and shoes for the support staff. This year we continued with the project and sent 39 refurbished boots & 26 joggers in 2 boxes and also another 2 boxes of ladies' clothes, shoes and hand bags.

Last year, Shane along with his classmate Manoj Wijekulasuriya and son Tehan were the main contributors. Christy Peter and Jinendra Bandara too assisted. This year Manoj, Christy, Norman Thompson with his family, Kapila Kasthuriarachchi and Titus Peter contributed along with some others who wished to remain anonymous. Four ladies, spouses of our members, too contributed and wanted their names withheld.

We also acknowledge the efforts of the Antonian Rugby Board and group 85 members Nalinda Suriyampola, Jayantha Mantilake and Maurice Joachim in coordinating and distributing back at the receiving end. We wish to continue this project with the collections made immediately after the Oval / Football season that culminates by the end of winter. We will concentrate only on collecting Rugby boots hereafter. We have around 40 players in the U19 squad, 25 in the U18 squad, 30 in the U16 squad 25 each in the U12 & U14 (2 teams each), with a total of over 145 Rugby players. We also have Hockey & Football teams using the same type of boots. The potential to help is enormous.



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Padua Building: A Chronicle of Triumphs and Challenges

By Manjula Amaratunga

Amidst jubilant celebrations marking the 170th anniversary of St. Anthony's College, a historic moment unfolded with the inauguration of the Padua Building on March 12th, 2024. Valued at LKR 35.9 million, this architectural gem, envisioned by Rev. Fr. Titus Rodrigo OSB and designed by distinguished Old Boy Chartered Architect Gayan Herat, is a testament to the institution's commitment to modern education ideals.

Thanks to generous donations from parents, alumni, and well-wishers, and under the guidance of Principal Rev. Fr.

Henry Bernard Wijeratne OSB and with the active involvement of SACKOBA Central Council, our modern facility is now a reality.

Construction began on April 5th, 2016, with the aim of completion by 2019. COVID -19 and economic challenges caused unavoidable delays and cost increase. In 2021, prioritising completion, five floors were constructed to address urgent needs, including classrooms for conducting essential extra subjects at an advanced level, as well as labs for the A/L

technology stream, classrooms, alongside essential facilities such as a library, auditorium, archives, museum, and clerical and bursar offices, as well as improved accommodation facilities for visiting teams.

Finally, on March 12th, 2024, amidst great joy and celebration, the new Padua Building was handed over to the college community, symbolising a physical structure and a testament to our beloved institution's resilience, vision, and unwavering spirit.





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- 3rd Prize – Return air ticket to Sri Lanka (Melbourne- Colombo)
courtesy Sri Lankan Airlines
- 4th Prize – \$500 cash voucher
courtesy Smart Quest
- 5th Prize – Sony SRS-XP500 X Series Live Life Portable Party Speaker
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Entrance Ticket Draw:

- Prize - 3-hour complimentary photo session (valued at \$350)
and gift voucher from Miris (valued at \$120)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

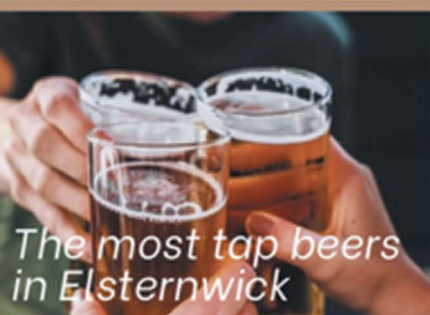
The President and the committee of the Old Antonian Social Club of Australia wish to thank the following for their generosity and contributions for the success of our 41st annual dinner dance - Dance with Eagles '24.

- Guest of Honour tonight, Mr Mark Stephen, President OBA St Anthony's College Kandy Sri Lanka and all my fellow Presidents from various global Antonian OBAs for their support and messages.
- Mr Sujeewa Marcus Amarasinghe, Proprietor of Harvey Norman Furniture Dandenong, our Principal Sponsor tonight who has donated the 1st Prize for the raffle draw, and the untiring efforts to sell 110 dance tickets and all the support in so many ways.
- Sri Lankan Airlines, for the continuous support to our dance every year, special thanks to Mr Sathyan Mohan Country Manager and our own Mr Dimuthu Tennakoon Head of Worldwide Sales & Distribution.
- Antonian Mr. Rohana Fernando, MD Access Engineering for his generous sponsorships and support to the club.
- Mrs Sulali Perera, President Bridgetines Melbourne for her sponsorship for the raffle draw.
- Mr. Ajay Calpakam & our own Mr Upul Bandara from Harvey Norman Springvale for sponsoring a raffle draw prize.
- *One Event Photography* for covering the event this year and donating a 3-hour photo session as a prize for the entrance ticket draw.
- Yasmin Perrin for the prize donated for the entrance ticket draw.
- All our sponsors who supported this event in various capacities.
- The entire team at Grand on Princes for their hospitality and the venue.
- Minuteman Press for printing the souvenir.
- JoyGlee Party Supply and Rental Shop in Cranbourne for the beautiful deco provided.
- Our Own Committee member and the best MC in town, Mr Denver Pereira for all his support to make this dance a grand success tonight.
- Band Mystery and DJ Naz for their wonderful music and live entertainment.
- Rev. Fr. Henry Wijeratne OSB our current Principal and Deputy Principal Rev Fr Dushantha Perera OSB for their continuous support to our club.
- The committee members, dance committee members and their families who supported throughout the year to make tonight a huge success.
- All the Antonians and families who have joined us today from various parts of the world.
- All the committee members from other schools and guests for gracing this occasion tonight.

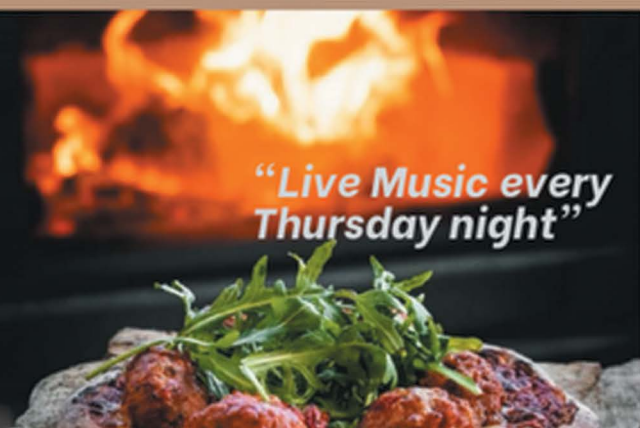
We will see you all next year as well

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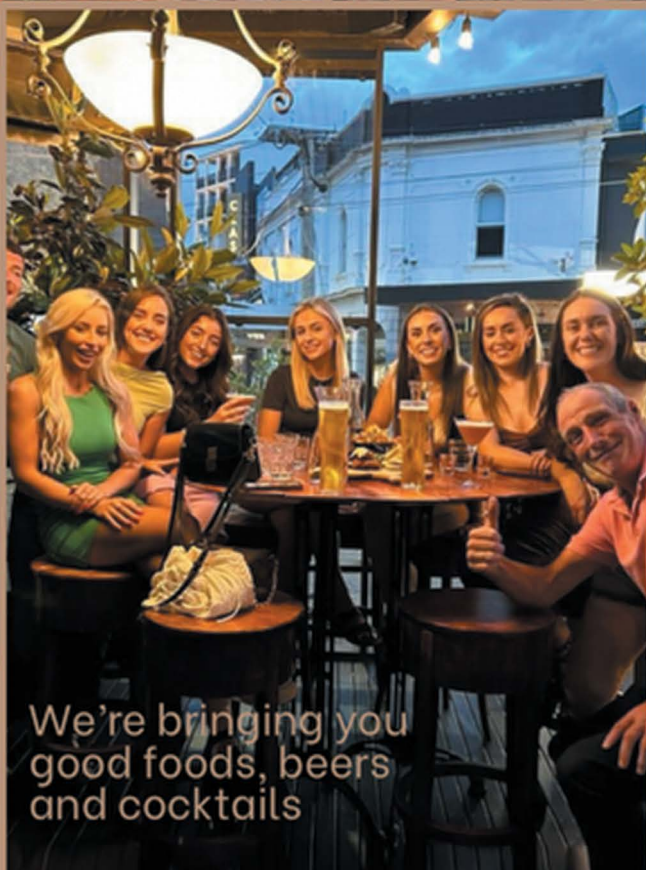
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