



S. Thomas' College, Old Boys Association,

Australian Branch Inc.

ABN 18 114 799 661

PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149

www.stcobaaust.org.au

President: Saman Liyanage

Secretary: Neomal Jasinghe

Treasurer: Shehan Jayetileke

THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT for 2024

1. MEETINGS

(a) **AGM 2024:-** The meeting was held on Friday 9th February 2024 at the Mt. Waverley Community Youth Centre Hall with an attendance of 52 members and Saman Liyanage, presiding.

President's Award 2024 : The STC OBA President's Awards was presented to Past President **Peneeth Goonawardena** for his devotion, long service and contribution to the OBA .

(b) **Ex Co. Meetings 2024 :** Since the last AGM, twelve monthly ExCo meetings were held. The attendance at each of these meetings, scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00 p.m, was very good with an average of three "Apologies" received for each meeting.

(c) During the course of the year, the Ex Co welcomed OBA members **Vasikaran Ratnarajah and Mandula Fonseka** to the Ex Co.

2. MEMBERSHIP (Controller -Upali Gooneratne)

As at 31-DEC-2024 : Financial Members -205

	Total	Financial	Non Financial	Non-Financial %
Victoria	402	184	218	54.2%
Interstate	48	12	36	75.0%
Overseas	23	9	14	60.9%
Total	466	205	262	56,2%

The OBA welcomes the following new members **Gerard Abeysena, Rohan Latham, Vidura Meemeduma, Rohan David, Dinesh Rajayah, Shehan Paranavithana, Shehan Dhanapala, MNK De Silva, Mohan Ariaratnam, Gihan Fernando, Romesh Paranavitharana, Palitha Karunaratne, Ranall Joseph, Shantha De Silva.**

3. SPORTS

Royal - Thomian 2024 OBA Cricket Encounter : (Peneeth Goonawardena)

23rd. March 2024, Max Pawsey Reserve Narre Warren.

Three matches were played .

The results were :

Over 50s game : Royal 142 for 9 in 20 Overs - Shehan Paranavithana 5/33

STC 143 for 8 in 19.5 overs. Mahen Siritunga 30 n.o. Shehan Dhanapala, Dirk Da Silva 19

n.o.

STC won (Best Batter Shyam Sideek – RC, Best Bowler Shehan Paranavitharana – STC, Man of the match Dirk Da Silva – STC)

40 - 50 game : STC 181 for 7 in 20 Overs – Asfan Thajudeen 40 n.o., Jeevan Mendis 36, Dilusha Nanayakkara 34,

Royal 107 for 9 in 20 Overs – Jeevan Mendis 2/6

STC won (Best Batter – Asfan Thajudeen – STC, Best Bowler – Jeevan Mendis – STC, Man of the Match – Jeevan Mendis – STC)

Open game : STC 246 for 6 in 20 Overs – Shiran Rajakaruna 153, Chenutha Wickremasinghe 61
Royal 238 for 4 in 20 Overs

STC won (Best Batter -Shiran Rajakaruna – STC, Best Bowler – Chaminda Vidanapathirana – RC, Man of the Match – Shiran Rajakaruna - STC)

The Randy de Silva Memorial Trophy was awarded to Shiran Rajakaruna.

The OBA contributed \$750 for Cricket Balls used at the 50 over Royal-Thomian encounter.

4. SOCIAL EVENTS:

(a) Members Only Night Party – Held on 23-FEB-2024 at the Waverly Youth Centre. Attended by younger Thomians. By all accounts the event met its objective of involving younger Thomians, who had a wonderful time. It is hoped that such events will encourage this group to take more interest in the OBA.

(b) 145th. Royal Thomian Cricket Match in Sri Lanka. *Friday 08th. March 2024 at the Mt. Waverley Community Centre Hall.*

The OBA had planned to set up a live screening of the match here for Old Thomians and their families. This event was not proceeded with due to a lack of uptake.

(c) STC- RC Cricket matches & Social - organised by the RCOBA, the event was held on 23-MAR-2024. Whilst STC OBA emerged victorious in all 3 matches, the after match Social (organised by RCOBA) was attended by over 35 STC OBA Members.

(d) Members Lunch : Held on Saturday 04-MAY-2024 at the Springvale RSL. This event was well attended with around a 100 members, family and friends in attendance. This year we had the honour of hosting the visiting Warden of STC Mt Lavinia the Rev, Marc Bllimoria. The event was an enjoyable one, which featured the Warden singing "Sweet Caroline". The Warden was presented with a plaque, thanking him for his many years of service to the college and for gracing the occasion.

(e) SMALL DANCE (Family Night) : Date -Saturday 25th. May 2024 Venue – Jan Wilson Community Centre Noble Park. The event was well attended with over 150 Old Thomians, Family and friends in attendance. This event was targeted at young families, particularly to give our members the opportunity to bring along their children, for which we had a program that included games, movies and special meals. Music for the event was provided by Redemption, with renditions of music from the 70s through to the present day and also a spot of Baila which was well received. Overall, it was an enjoyable and well attended event.

(f) Transfiguration Service : Date – Saturday 3rd August 2024 - St. Aidan's Anglican Church, Wallarano Rd. Noble Park. The event attracted 50 members and well wishers. Rev Sathis Anthony conducted the service with able support from the Choir. Post service fellowship was in the form of a Kiri Bath Breakfast which was well received by those attending,

(g) Thomian Ball 2024 – Saturday 12-OCT-2024 Pullman of the Park – This year's Thomian Ball featured the band Taxi from Sri Lanka, with the supporting band Redemption from Melbourne. The event was well received, with many positive reviews amongst the attendees, amounted to over 325. Tickets for the event

were priced at \$165, with an “Early Bird” rate of \$155. This year’s ball served as a fundraiser for the STC Mount Lavinia Junior School Library project. We wish to extend our gratitude to the many sponsors, advertisers, raffle price doners, well wishers and the Dance Committee for extending of their time and effort to make this event a success.

(h) **Melbourne Cup Sweep** Tuesday 5th November 2024 (*Chris Varney, Saman Liyanage, Upali Gooneratne*)
Now a regular fund raiser since introduced in 2020.

(i) **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols –** (*Rayesh Gunasekera, Vasi Ratnarajah*)
St. Peter’s Church, Neerim Road, Murrumbena. Saturday 14th. December 2024 at 6 pm. This year’s service attracted over a 120 attendees. We wish to extend our gratitude to Felix Bartholomeusz for leading the choir and also to Ashan De Silva for accompanying the choir. Our sincere gratitude to the choristers for taking time from their busy schedules to attend practises and participating in this important and much anticipated event. The service was followed with refreshments (courtesy of the Committee) and an accompanying musical backup.

(j) **STC- RC Cricket matches & Social 2025 –** (*Peneeth Goonewardena*)
Greaves Reserve Dandenong, Organised by STC OBA.
Event still to be conducted at time of publication. 3 Matches, Presentation Ceremony and Dinner planned for the day.

5. **THOMIANA – Newsletter & Website :** (*Upali Gooneratne*)

Three issues covering activities of S. T. C. and her branch schools in Sri Lanka and the OBA here, were sent out to members both by Internet and Australia Post. The Newsletter is not only about current, but also of past activities and events in College, and its branches. Members are requested to send articles of general interest to the Editor. Historical events of significance and anecdotes are welcome. Information is also made available on the OBA Website and Facebook page.

6. **APPRECIATION** - the OBA is very fortunate to have several Past Presidents and well wishes, still maintain close interest and connections with the ExCo.

The OBA thanks them for their loyalty and continued service.

7. **CONCLUSION**

(a) The Ex Co. of the OBA continues to confront the following issues:

- i. Members NOT paying their annual subscriptions – *we currently hold 76 members with arrears of over 15 years, and a further 48 who are over 10 years in arrears. As Old Thomias we should band together in support of the Association. I urge members in arrears to support us by becoming up-to-date.*

Direct Bank transfers are now possible and should be most convenient for retirees and Pensioners.

- ii. Members that do NOT support OBA activities must appreciate that events planned are as a consequence of much time, cost and labour. These activities are not held merely to raise funds, but to promote closer fellowship of Old Thomians and their families here. We are grateful to Old Thomias, their families and well wishers that patronise our events.

(b) Being Thomians, we pride ourselves in the fact that loyalty to our Alma Mater and the OBA is of the highest standard. To maintain this standard, it is essential that we pay our Membership fees promptly and continue to support the OBA. Members are requested to persuade any of the members known to them who are in arrears, to settle their dues without delay. ***Well over half our members are in arrears which is quite unbecoming of Thomians.***

(c) The diminishing attendance of our OBA members and past Office Bearers at annual events, socials and even Religious Services is very discouraging, particularly to the newer generation of ExCo members. The ExCo makes a special effort to publish the dates and venues of OBA events well in advance to enable members to attend them. Please respond by making an effort to attend these.

May I remind you that your membership and your participation in OBA activities, are the only valued assets of the OBA. Even if you are unable to actively participate in OBA events, your presence at least, will be most encouraging.

May I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families, and well wishes of the STC OBA, good health and peace over the new year.

Esto Perpetua!

Neomal Jasinghe
Honorary Secretary

7th. February, 2025