



Darley News

THE BULLETIN OF THE OLD JOSEPHIANS' ASSOCIATION OF NSW 31 MARCH 2025

Old Joes gather for the College Feast Mass on 15 March

THE ANNUAL College Feast Mass once again attracted a good attendance at the Cherrybrook Community Centre in western Sydney on 15 March. The Reverend Father Treseen Silva, chaplain to the Sri Lankan community in New South Wales, celebrated the Mass.

In his homily Father Treseen reminded everyone that St Joseph, our patron saint, besides his caring and devotion to his family, was declared the patron saint of the universal church by Pope Pius IX.

As is customary on these occasions the Old Joes sang the College Anthem in their usual gusty rendition. The music provided by Claude and Lalith of Fiesta set the mood and rhythm for dancing.

After a very sumptuous dinner catered by Flavour of Ceylon and enjoyed by all, emcee Aubrey Joachim conducted an auction for a cricket ball signed by Chaminda Vaas, Old Joe and Sri Lanka text cricketer. Aubrey mentioned that Chaminda had the longest name of any international cricketer; he took 355 test wickets. The auction raised \$400 and will go towards providing scholarships for needy students at St Joseph's.

The very enjoyable evening was due to the efforts of President Lalith, who co-ordinated the event, assisted by Vice President Fidel Moldrich, and the rest of the Committee. Campion Fernando once again provided a pleasing table decor.

Thank you all for the magnificent team effort.



President Lalith's address

REVEREND FATHER TREESSEN, former presidents of the OJA, Committee Members, visiting presidents of other schools.

It is always fitting that we commence our main annual events by celebrating the Feast of our Patron Saint St. Joseph.

It is said that "a good Christian family provides the basic foundation as a nursery for vocations." It is also true that a foundation given in a good Catholic school embeds excellent values in a human being and we as Josephians are beneficiaries of that foundation.

Those who have been attending our events regularly will know that we have a Feast Day Mass, Hopper Lunch with an interesting trivia competition, Golf Day and a Christmas event. We have added a few sporting activities in the last couple of years. We were able to win the Quadrangular Tournament for the first time last year and this year, due to our outstanding performance, we won the championship of the Sri Lanka Schools T10 Tournament played between eight Sri Lanka school teams. We won several trophies as well. Congratulations to our team led by Sohan Rodrigo and the man of the tournament, Darius Visser, and rest of the players on this great win.

I thank our energetic sports coordinator Upeka Perera who works tirelessly on all our sports commitments: footy, tennis and cricket.

For today's Mass, I wish to thank our Sri Lankan chaplain Fr Treesen for being the celebrant and delivering a very touching homily with an explanation of the significance of St Joseph in our Christian life. Thanks also to our altar servers and Amal Wahab for being the acolyte.

As we continue to collaborate with other OBAs and PPAs, I'm happy to see many presidents including those from Holy Family Convent, St Paul's Milagiriya, St. Benedict's, Wesley College and the immediate past president of St Peter's who worked closely with us during the past two years.

I also wish to thank the band Fiesta for leading the



hymns. I'm sure you'll enjoy their music right throughout the evening

As we are establishing a Scholarship Fund to help the needy students at St. Joseph's we will be auctioning a cricket ball signed by a former Josephian and prominent international cricketer, Chaminda Vaas. Our thanks to Chaminda.

Our thanks also to Flavour of Ceylon for providing quality food.

My humble thanks to all our committee members for their continuous support and especially to Gihan, Fidel, Pradeep, Campion and Reyaz for coming early to set up for the event today.

Finally thanks to all the Old Josephians, their families and the well-wishers for attending the Holy Mass and the social today. □





OJA NSW

OLD JOSEPHIANS' ASSOCIATION
OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

PRESIDENT
Lalith Gero

VICE PRESIDENT Fidel Moldrich

SECRETARY Reyaz Jeffrey TREASURER Gihan de Silva

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Delan Daniels, Campion Fernando, Shehan Fernando,
Upeka Perera, George Rupesinghe, Pradeep Wijesooriya



Planned events for 2025

Hopper Lunch with Trivia

Date to be announced

Golf Day

5 October 2025

Annual General Meeting

November 2025

Carols Night and Buffet Dinner

29 November 2025

More information will be announced closer to the dates



YOUR FEES and DONATIONS WANTED

**Please pay your 2025 subscriptions
and support the Association**

Family \$20. Single \$10. Pensioner family \$10

The funds are needed to meet
the club's routine expenses and stage the events

Pay on line to Old Josephians' Association of NSW
BSB 062 000 Account no. 0092 4464 or
send cheque to the President at 17 Wimbledon Court,
Wattle Grove NSW 2173

We mourn the passing of

VIJAYA NIRANJAN PERERA
brother of past president Nalin Perera

who died in Sri Lanka on 9 February 2025

May he be granted eternal rest









Saints quadrangular cricket tournament

THE SAINTS Quadrangular cricket tournament was held on 2 March. This year's event was hosted by St Peter's at a new venue in Penrith.

The traditional four teams turned up and defending champs Old Joes had a few of their players absent but fielded a balanced team led by Dylan Fernandopulle.

The Old Joes started the tournament with a convincing win against the Old Antonians scoring 122 but losing to the Old Bens by 3 wickets and to the Old Petes by 5 wickets in the first round.

The Old Joes' chances of reaching the finals was prevented by the Old Bens when they won by 3 wickets.

For the Old Joes, Frank Perera and Jehan Polwatta were consistent with the bat and Praveen's off breaks proved useful. But they failed to put up a big score against the Old Petes.

The thrilling final was played between the Old Petes and the Old Bens where the Petes emerged champions.

The Old Joes, recently crowned as SL schools T10 champions in Sydney, had a poor run owing to unavailability of few key players.

Old Joes were represented by Dylan Fernandopulle, Delan Daniels, Frank Perera, Praveen Samarasinghe, Kanchana Batugedara, Shehan Fernando, Rajinda Wijeratna, Avinash Mirando, Jehan Polwatta and Upeka Perera.

The event was witnessed by a large crowd at the new venue with live music and catering.

In order to add some colour, a ladies match between the Old Girls of Holy Family Convent and combined Old Girls' Association schools was played during the lunch break to much excitement and laughter. (See photos below).

Thank you to Dilmah Tea and Kingsgrove Sports for their partial sponsorship of the event.

- Reporting by Upeka Perera





Old Joes Sydney T10 cricket champions



THE INAUGURAL Sri Lankan Schools T10 Cricket Tournament organised by Lanka Lion Sports Club was played on 12 January 2025 at the Kareela Reserve in Doonside, western Sydney. Eight Sri Lankan school OBAs based in Sydney competed in this year's competition. Owing to bad weather forecast towards the afternoon and evening, the tournament was shortened to eight overs a side to speed up the match with nine players in each side.

A large crowd from the OBAs gathered to support their respective teams. Old Joes Sydney was in Group A with Wesley, Prince of Wales and Colombo Hindu and St Peters, Royal, Maliyadeva and Combined School team were in Group B.

Matches were played in two adjoining grounds, with live music and Sri Lankan food a welcome addition.

Old Joes Sydney had three first round matches beating Wesley and Prince of Wales easily by batting second but lost to Colombo Hindu by a few runs in the first round. Our well-balanced side had experienced Darius Visser smashing explosive sixes and guiding the team with the rest of the players contributing consistently.

Sohan Rodrigo, a steady allrounder, captained Old Joes Sydney assisted by Darius Visser, Nawodh Fernando, Shehan Fernando, Ashan Wickramanayaka, Rajinda Wijeratne, Chamara Arachchi, Avinash Mirando, Jehan

Polwatta and Upeka Perera. The tournament rules allowed one player from another school to be included because most teams had difficulty filling the numbers. Thomian wicketkeeper Nawodh Fernando was added to Old Joes Sydney team.

Solid economical bowling spells by Avinash, assisted by part-time medium pace by Rajinda and Sohan, some quality leg spin by Darius, good slow off spin by Ashan, Jehan and Chamara helped the team to reach the finals. Darius displayed his skills in these situations, with exciting batting in the first round where he single-handedly carried wins against Wesley and Prince of Wales smashing huge sixes to the car park and adjoining road, while Nawodh, Jehan and Sohan contributed well with the bat to help the team reach the required target.

After the first round matches, the expected thunder-showers forced the organisers to postpone the semifinals and finals to 16 February to make sure all four teams were available to play the full T10 match format.

On a beautiful Sunday morning on 16 February the Old Joes Sydney met their arch rivals, St Peters, in their semifinal while Maliyadeva took on Colombo Hindu.

St Peters won the toss and decided to bat first and managed to get only 88 runs in the allocated ten overs. The reliable opening partnership of Darius and Nawodh helped Old Joes Sydney to get a good start but wickets

kept falling at the other end while Darius was consolidating his patient innings trying to take Old Joes Sydney to the target. In the tenth over Old Joes Sydney required 14 runs. Darius managed to score a four and a six on the third and fourth ball to take Old Joes Sydney to victory. A regular catch at the lines was dropped costing the Peterites the match. Jubilant Old Joes Sydney marched through to the finals taking a step closer to the Trophy. Darius was unbeaten with a score of 45.

In the other semifinal the much fancied Colombo Hindu won against Maliyadeva in a high scoring match. Hindu scored 122 to Maliyadeva's 110.

The much anticipated final was played in the afternoon before a large crowd. Colombo Hindu won the toss and batted first. Tight bowling by Old Joes Sydney restricted them to a total of 114. Darius and Nawodh opened the batting and the Old Joes Sydney lost the first wicket of Nawodh with the score at 14. Jehan Polwatta was promoted to bat at number three. The stylish left hander played quality cover drives and pull shots before getting out when the score was 35.

A much needed partnership was expected when

Skipper Sohan went to bat at number four. He built a solid partnership with Darius to take Old Joes closer to the total. Some tight bowling and excellent fielding by Colombo Hindu slowed down the Old Joes Sydney with 16 runs needed in the last over.

Sohan, as expected, rose to the occasion and smashed two sixes and a four in his innings of 28 not out. Darius faced the last few balls smashing a two and a six. To win on the last ball Darius smashed a thundering boundary to secure the inaugural T10 shield to Old Joes Sydney. Darius' 56 not out was the highlight of the game.

Darius Visser swept all the awards and the jubilant Old Joes Sydney were crowned inaugural Sri Lanka Schools T10 Cricket Champions with the trophy and a cash prize.

Thank you to the organisers, Lanka Lions Sports Club, for setting up a fantastic tournament and thanks to the Old Joes Sydney players who were determined and sacrificed their personal commitments to participate in this tournament.

Thanks also to the OJA Committee for helping out financially to register the team for the tournament. □

- Reporting by Upeka Perera

