



THOMIANA

Newsletter

May 2016. Volume 20 Issue 1

S. Thomas' College Old Boys Association
Australia Branch Inc. P.O. Box 2337,
Mt Waverly, Victoria 3149, Australia.



Wear your heart on your sleeve...

Pull on your dancing shoes, put on your party face, wet your lips, then swing them hips. Wander down memory lane, walk away with amazing prizes.

Thomian Ball 2016

Saturday 23rd July 2016
Grand Ballroom, Hotel Pullman, Albert Park

Entertainment by Aubrey Weiman of Heat
with Kotinew from Perth and Redemption from Melbourne

Tickets priced at \$125

Vasee 0403471642 ~ Chris 0414643766 ~ Gavin 0474127825

Have a shot...

Win a set of Thomian Crested shot glasses by answering the 'Howzaaat?' Royal-Thomian Quiz, put together by our own spin-master Barney Reid.



The President's Message

The 2016 Thomian OBA Calendar was kicked off in February with our first ever Open Mic Night, followed by the AGM. The Royal-Thomian Stag Night and Cricket Festival followed in March and in April the OBA facilitated the live telecast of the Royal-Thomian Rugby encounter at Upali's Restaurant in Syndal.

The Open Mic Night was a success by all measures and the enthusiastic participation of several talented young and old Thomians suggests that the Open Mic Night will continue to be a popular fixture in the OBA calendar.

At the AGM, further to a lively discussion on finances, subscription payments, membership rolls and related matters, the new Executive Committee was elected. The introduction of credit card based payment facilities at the AGM allowed many of those present to pay their subs and also purchase OBA merchandise (cuff-links, ties, Thomian Crested shot glasses, etc.). In the next few months, we plan to further enhance our revenue collection capabilities with the introduction of internet banking (BPAY) and web based payment mechanisms.

The Royalists organised this year's Stag Night and it was a well patronised event, full of fellowship and good cheer, as in recent years. The Royalists also organised this year's Roy-Tho Cricket Festival and they did well to host the event at the picturesque Melbourne High School grounds. The beautiful surrounds, the sound of leather on willow, the cheers, the music, the food and the decorations helped create an ambiance that reminded us the cricketing encounters back home. Kudos to RCOBU President Aynkaran and his team for their efforts and the challenge is well and truly on the Thomians to build on this year's success, when we host the event in 2017. From a cricketing perspective, the Over 40s game was once again the brutal and now predictable slaughter of the older Thomians. In the main game, however, the Thomian youngsters prevailed with an exciting result that went down to the last ball.

Meanwhile, we're gearing up for the OBA's premiere event, the 2016 Thomian Ball at the Grand Ballroom of the Pullman Albert Park, with its massive glass windows that provide stunning views of Albert Park Lake and Port Phillip Bay. This year's dance is going to be fantastic with a star entertainer flown in from Colombo, music from two bands, raffle prizes that include return air tickets to Sri Lanka with 5 Star Hotel accommodation, premium spirits, a three course meal and lots more.

Coming up, we have the 2016 Thomian Ball on the 23rd of July followed by the OBA Weekend in August (20th and 21st) to celebrate the 165 years of STC. The traditional Transfiguration Service and the Senior Lunch are two events that have been worked into the OBA Weekend, with details of other events to follow. The Bishop of Colombo, the Rt Revd Dhiloraj Ranjit Canagasabey, will lead us at the Transfiguration Service on Saturday the 20th of August and will also grace the Seniors Lunch. As in previous years, the Seniors Lunch will be open to all Old Thomians and their guests. Look out for an email with details of costs for non-seniors and their guests. Please keep that weekend free.

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If you've patronized the Thomian Ball in previous years, you wouldn't want to miss this one. Please book your tickets early. If you haven't been to a Thomian Ball before, this is your opportunity to experience what is by many accounts the premiere event of its kind in the Sri Lankan-Australian calendar.

Your Ex-Co is working hard to deliver an outstanding event and all funds raised from this year's dance will be channelled to the Thomian schools in Sri Lanka for scholarships that'll help provide a Thomian education to deserving children. Please help us help them.



esto perpetua
Vasee Nesiah, President

So what are old Thomians made of?

Are Thomians only good for gin and lame jokes? I ask the question b'cos our President, (whilst enthusiastic about the story on gin below), had his misgivings about the poem on page 20. I was puzzled. I wasn't sure if his objection was to poetry per se or to the reference to power cuts in the poem. Was he trying to forget the poems he was forced to learn at STC or that power cuts are still part and parcel of life in Colombo? As for me, when I heard there were power-cuts again in Colombo, I felt deeply home-sick. Especially with a cold winter setting in here in Melbourne. So I decided the best solution was to indemnify the President- which is to say the choice of content is entirely mine-so shoot me.

Speaking of content, I have tried to mix things up. So, on the one hand we have a learned treatise on gin and on the other, rumination on the arcane art of bunching (page 18) - which is not restricted to Royalists I can assure you. There's even a shameless piece of self-promotion (see page 22).



However, where I did fail was in getting stories on the 'other STC's' –Guru, Prep. etc Nonetheless I hope you enjoy the new look newsletter. Thank you for all who contributed, not least Barney Reid for the Thomian quiz on pages 7 and 8 and our President. (Though I still can't explain what a poem is doing in a Thomian newsletter.)

Cheers!

Mike Masilamani, Editor

P.S write in with your stories- even if it is only to tell us what Old Thomians are made of. Just as important, send us pictures. They can tell as much a story as a poem can.

A tipplers tale: Gin is in

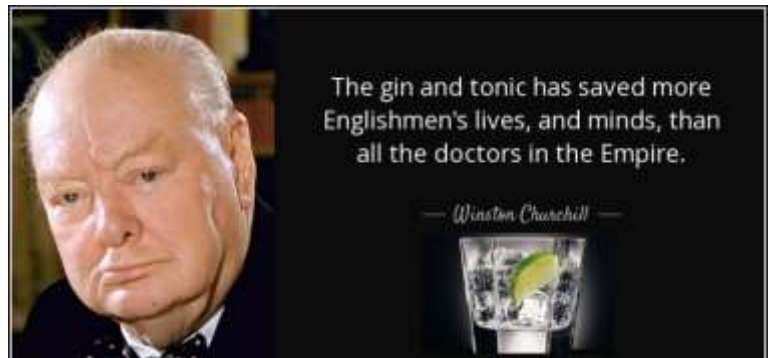
The gin festival Junipalooza, is coming to Melbourne later this year. That's right an entire festival dedicated to gin. We thought it our civic duty to investigate this matter further on behalf of our readership and what we found left us in equal parts, shaken and stirred.

Yes it's true; James Bond did a lot for gin, which may have something to do with his creator, Ian Fleming drinking a bottle a day in his prime. Yet the story of gin goes back further- to the 18th century and the City of London, where parliament banned imports of foreign spirits, resulted in what was fondly referred to as the Gin Craze with gin described as Mother's Ruin. According to some reports, one in five households sold gin, resulting not only in a massive hangover, but also parliament passing the Gin Act in a desperate attempt to curb binge drinking. Too late though, gin was here to stay.

The current revival in London has a lot to do with a new crop of gin makers using a variety of techniques from the traditional to copper stills small enough to fit on a bar. It may also have something to do with the fact that gin has few rules in how you make it-as long as you start with a neutral grain spirit. So expect botanicals such as black tea, English wood, black pepper, white willow bark, apricot-even mango in your gin. Hence the claim that there are few drinks that offer such variation in terms of flavour as gin does.

How to make the perfect Gin and tonic

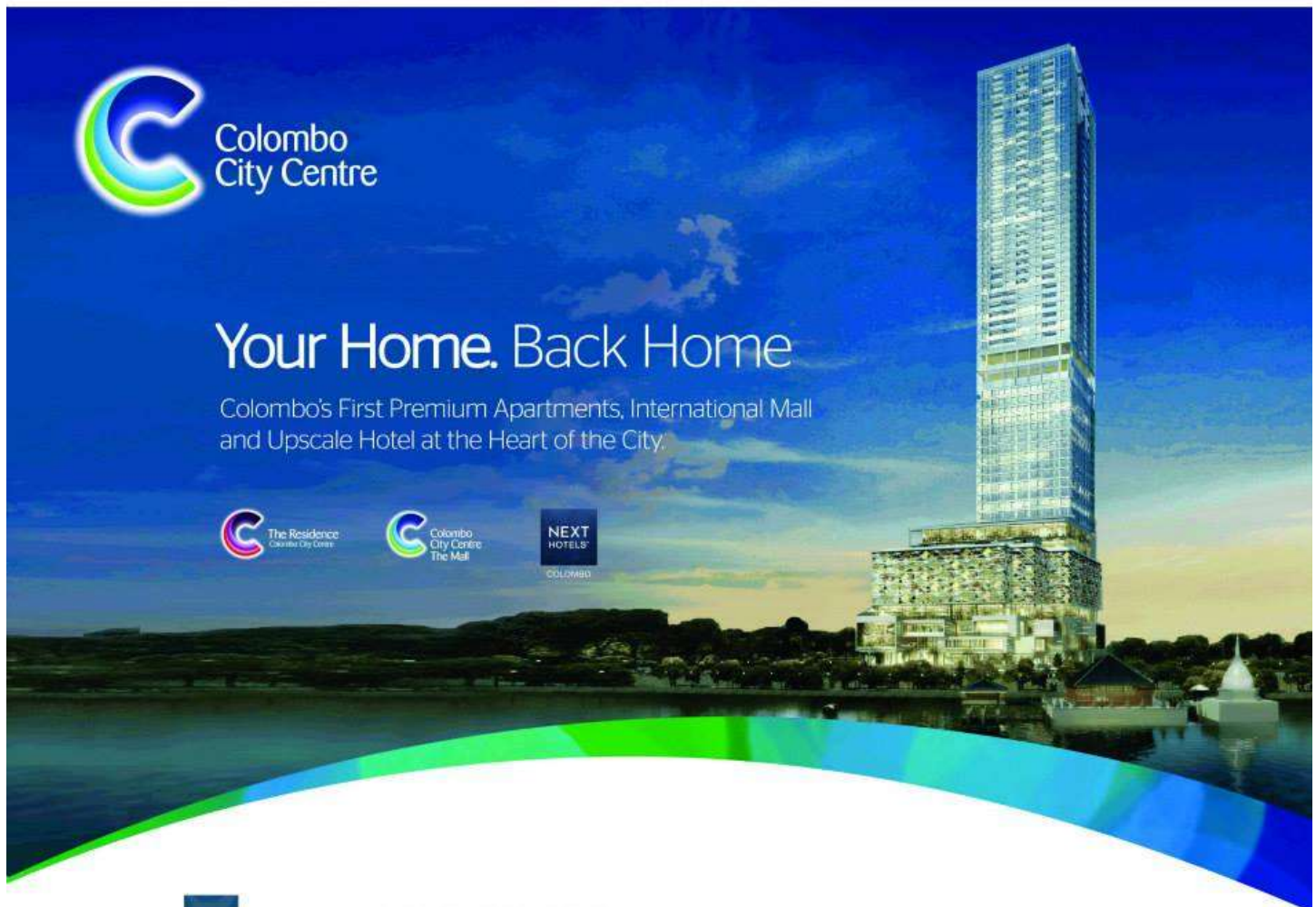
Fill a highball glass with ice to the brim, add gin and pour in your tonic-2 parts tonic to one part gin. The trick is not to stir; the tonic will do the mixing as you pour it in. A large peel of orange is the perfect garnish. Cheers!



The gin revival has also resulted in a new breed of 'gintrepreneurs'. So look out for gins distilled by Sipsmith who use the traditional one-shot method (no concentrates or additives), the Gin Foundry (also responsible for Junipalooza), the East London Liquor Company and Half Hitch Gin.

[Note: Juniperlooza runs from midday–8pm on Sat 28 and Sun 29 Nov 2016, on the Riverbank. Tickets @ \$25]

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23 Jul 2016 - Thomian Ball 2016

@ Grand Ballroom, Pullman Albert Park -- starting @ 7:00pm

-- For details contact Vasee on [0403 471 642](tel:0403471642) | vasee.nesiah@gmail.com

20th & 21st Aug 2016 – STC OBA Weekend to Celebrate 165 years of STC

- Transfiguration Service
- Senior Lunch
- and other events for young and old.

Event details of venues and times via email, facebook and web.

-- Contact Vasee on [0403 471 642](tel:0403471642) | vasee.nesiah@gmail.com

Yin and Young



The young voices of the present choristers came together with the Alumni Choristers of STC led by our own Old Boy Roger Aldons in a service of thanksgiving for the highly respected former Chaplain, Choirmaster and Teacher, The Late Reverend Roy H.B. Yin. The service marked the 70th anniversary of his appointment to the STC staff.

The Alumni choristers and the Warden were especially delighted to have on the occasion Father Yin's grandson, Andrew Ang, his godson, Dr Liau Kui-Hin, and former STC choristers Asoka Wikramanayake and Lucian Nethsingha, (the last, the former Director of Music at Exeter Cathedral in the U.K).



Blue-chips

The following Old Boys have done us proud by their appointments:

- Krishantha Prasad Cooray - Chairman, Colombo Hilton.
- Terrence Pendigst - Chairman of Peoples Travels, subsidiary of Peoples Bank.
- Chandrakumar Ramachandra - Competent Authority of Hotel Developers Lanka PLC.
- Dr Rajan Saravanamuttu - Advisor to The Hon Minister of Finance, on Finance and Foreign Investment Management
- Sudharshana Muthuthanthri – Captain Sri Lankan Rugby XV ('Tuskers') @ Asian Rugby Championships



No more Joy

J.O. Yatawara (Joy) passed away in Colombo on Monday April 4 2016. Joy was the Head Prefect of S Thomas College, Mt Lavinia in 1950 & 1951 and also played in the Royal Thomian in those same years. Joy won his colours in Cricket, Hockey and Athletics and was a Victoria Gold medalist. Some OBA members may know his younger brother Ranjan Yatawara.

Your Team – The 2016 Executive Committee

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Royal-Thomian Fever

The Royal Thomian Cricket Festival organised by the Royalist this year was held at the Melbourne High School grounds. The Open Game (mostly under 40s) made up for the loss in the Seniors (over 40s and then some) match with a nail-biting win. As the pictures show, there was as much fun off the pitch as there was on the grounds.



Howzaaat?

How well do you know your Big Match? We invite you to take your place at the crease and answer these googlies delivered by none other than our own Old Boy Barney Reid. If you get them all right, you stand a chance to win a pair of STC shot glasses. The drinks are on you!



Question 1 - S Thomas' had the longest unbeaten run of 18 consecutive Matches (1951 to 1968) in the Royal Thomian Series. How many victories did College have during that period?

Question 2 - During the above period name the Captain who walked in to bat with College at 4 for 15 and led College to an Innings victory?

Question 3 - Who was our First Ever Captain?

Question 4 - Name the Father and Son who both Captained College?



Howzaaat? (cont...)

Question 5 - Name the Royal Captain in the 100th Big Match?

Question 6 - Name the Thomian Captain who won the Big Match in a Day?

Question 7 - In which year was the 9 run match played?



Question 8 - Name the Batsman who holds the Royal Thomian Batting Record?

Question 9 - Name the only (300 plus run Aggregate) Batsman with an Average of over 100?

Question 10 - In which Match of the Series did the Royal Thomian become a Three Day Game?



Email your answers
to the Editor

mikem.mfactor@gmail.com

to go into the draw for the
Thomian Crested shot glasses

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Reid and return

The Reid brothers - Claude, Ronnie, Buddie and Barney - returned to a hero's welcome at S Thomas College, on the occasion of the 2016 Royal-Thomian Second XI fixture. In the company of the Warden Rev Marc Billimoria, the Reid Brothers had their portrait unveiled at the cricket pavilion and were feted and for their outstanding contribution to cricket at STC. All five brothers – including the youngest Johann who passed away two years ago - played with distinction for S. Thomas College.



A legend in the making

On a Saturday Sachitha Jayatilake was fighting against the Trinity Lions on a Rugby field in Pallekelle, and the team was victorious. Then on Tuesday, and for the next two days, he captained the STC 1st XI Cricket team, at the Colombo Oval in the Singer Schools Under 19 three day semi-final against St. Sebastian's College. The next Saturday, he was back on the Rugby field, helping his team beat Wesley College.

Sachitha is also a member of the champion Thomian Waterpolo team. He has proved to be an outstanding schoolboy, a multi talented sportsman and a fine young Thomian with true 'thomian grit' in his veins. Sachitha is a Thomian legend in the making... watch this space!



Divorce Me Darling!

Divorce Me Darling! is a joint production of the Past Pupils Association of Bishop's College and the Old Boys Association of S. Thomas' College, performed at the Bishop's College Auditorium on March 18, 19 and 20. The musical is directed by Thushara Hettihamu and produced by Nafeesa Amiruddeen and Jith Peiris. Nafeesa and Jith are past pupils themselves of Bishops and S. Thomas. To them the play embodies the theatre tradition of their alma maters. "STC and BC are both known for their period dramas," stated Jith in an interview with the Sunday Times.

Pictures courtesy Sunday Times (www.sundaytimes.lk) & LightFlow.



Comrades and Creepers (cont...)

Lorenz specialised in field events, mainly the shot put and discus throw, winning these competitions year after year at STC and being appointed as the athletics captain in his final year. Competing in the Pubs that year, he was ahead of his opponents in the shot put

but the record eluded him in the preliminary throws. Even in those days we had performance enhancing stimulants: For us, these were orange juice laced with glucose! It is quite likely this did nothing to boost our efforts and consumed in bigger quantities, probably did more harm than good. However, our close friend Jit W was dutifully standing by with a bottle of the juice. Before his third attempt, Lorenz walked over, had a few sips, called our friend by his unflattering nickname that only a couple of us could use with affection and went on to set a new Pubs record. We later joked that it was the nickname that had produced the effort to achieve the result.

Even in those days we had performance enhancing stimulants: For us, these were orange juice laced with glucose!

He was a role model and mentor in athletics to Roger and Derek, who followed him into the same events with success. Many years later, it was Lorenz that motivated Roger to set a national shot put record.

Most big made field athletes are not renowned for their speed. Lorenz was quite fast for his size and determined to make the sprint relay team. It was then the pre-metric 4 x 110 yards. He trained hard to be selected for the second lap. I used to run the first lap and we put in a lot of practice to get our baton change just right. The team was thrilled to break the public schools record.

In 1960, a schoolboy athletics team from Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) toured Melbourne for a series of dual meets here. Lorenz was the only member of the visiting team to win all his events against what was clearly very strong opposition.

Brookie once told me to “keep Lorenz out of rugger, men. That is a game for buffaloes, not top athletes like Lorenz”

He also took to rugby in his last school year, much against the wishes of Brookie, who feared that injury would put his athletics at risk. In his characteristic manner, Brookie once told me to “keep Lorenz out of rugger, men. That is a game for buffaloes, not top athletes like Lorenz”. Playing on the wing, Lorenz was by far the biggest and strongest three quarter in school rugby. With a high knee action that made him difficult to tackle, no opponent was keen on doing so!

STC had started playing rugby only in 1955, many decades after Trinity and Royal, who were quite rightly acknowledged as the cream of school rugby in the country. In 1960, STC beat Trinity for the first time but lost to Royal. In the following year, we won convincingly against both Trinity and Royal, with Lorenz scoring tries in both those games. These dual victories lifted Thomian rugby to a new level, instilling in our future players the confidence and belief that they were as good as the best. A few players from that team later served the national side with distinction.

Sadly, several from the 1960 and 1961 teams departed early and are no longer with us. No doubt, they are still enjoying the game that is “played up there”!

Lorenz also represented STC at cricket for two years as a successful strike bowler. Without doubt, he was one of the most outstanding sportsmen produced by STC, a school that has provided many champions for the country throughout its long history.

April 2016

Selva

Open Mic : Open House

They sang sweetly, they read rude poems. There was even a magician and his rope trick. It was open house for all forms of creative expression and the Old Thomians didn't disappoint. There were solos, duets and even a 'Brother Act' with the Reid brothers this time impressing on stage. If no new candidate for Australian Idol was found (though Pajjo's performance came close), there were some strong contenders for the Comedy Festival. Which is to say much humour flowed along with the music that night.





Baskets Galore

- Thomians all-island U-17 cager champs

S Thomas' College Mt Lavinia won the All-island under 17 boys 'A' division basketball tournament when they defeated Lyceum International Wattala 65-54 in the final played at the STC courts in Mt Lavinia yesterday.

Shevan Perera (16), Yasin Dimantha (18) and Shenuka Kasturiarachchi (18) were the chief scorers for the winners who led 34-25 at half time.

Nimesh Kulatunga (19) and Evangelo Mario (15) scored for the losers. C.V. Kasturiarachchi of S. Thomas' College was adjudged the Best Defensive Player while N. Kulathunga of Wattala Lyceum International was awarded the Best Offensive Player award. S.E.J. Perera who played a vital role in most of the Thomian victories became the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. The Consolation Final was won Royal College who beat St Joseph's College, Maradana by 37-33 after trailing 15-17 at half time. *(photo courtesy of ThePapare.com)*

The cupboard is full

- Thomian Rugby XV sweeps opposition

The Thomians started the season by winning the Singer All-Island Rugby 7s tournament, and then went on to win the next five games they played, beating D S Senanayake, St Josephs, Royal, Trinity and Wesley.

7s Championship - The **Singer U20 All-Island Rugby 7's** tournament was hotly contested over two days at the Royal Complex and the underdogs S Thomas' affected a stunning 19-14 defeat of the favorites Isipathana College to take the Cup Championship home, after 22 years. The last time they won the tournament was way back in 1994 under Nalin Wijegunawardena.

D S Senanayake - S.Thomas' College steam rolled to a 40 (6T 5C) – 6 (2P) win against D.S. Senanayake College in their opening encounter of the 2016 Singer Schools Rugby A Division Tournament, at the CR & FC grounds.

St Joseph's College - The Thomians registered a stunning 32 - 3 win over St. Joseph's College in at the CR & FC grounds. The match was also played for the prestigious **Lady Jayathilake Memorial Shield**.

Royal College - Thomian Naveen Heenakankamage's brilliant last minute try stunned Royal College, as the Thomians regained the **Michael Gunaratne Trophy** after 2 years - RC 15 (2T 1C 1P) : 21 (3T 3C)

Trinity College - The Thomians emerged victorious at the annual Trinity-Thomian rugby encounter held in Kandy for the **Canon R. S. de Saram Shield** after a lapse of 2 years, with a final score of 23-20.

Wesley College – The Thomians retained the **Sir Oliver Goonethilleke Shield** for the second consecutive year, beating Wesley College 19-00.

The Team behind the Team

The success story of Thomian Rugby in 2016 is mainly due to the boys hard work and the tactical planning of head coach Tavita Tulage, famously known in local rugby arena as 'Laga'.

Laga, has moulded the boys to a fighting outfit and he is ably assisted by Dinesh Kumara, who is also the trainer of the First XV team.

The services rendered by Under-18 coach Jayan Gunathilake, Teacher-in-Charge Ms. Niroshala Manuel and the Senior Rugby coordinator Lakmal de Zoysa should also not go unnoticed.

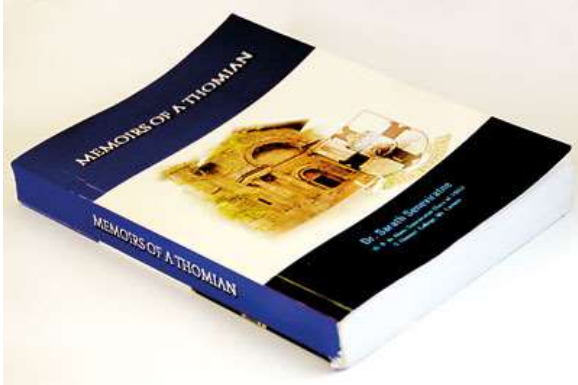
A special comment should also be made of the Warden of S. Thomas, Revd. Marc Billimoria as well. The Warden's guidance and keen interest in the game has paved the way for a disciplined performance.

[Photos courtesy of Photography Club of S Thomas College]



Book review: Memoirs of a Thomian

Dr. Saratchandra Buddhapriya de Alwis-Seneviratne, is a highly respected Obstetrician and Gynaecologist whose work in the Cayman Islands has won him the highest honours including the Award for 'Emerging Pioneer in Health Services'.



His book '**Memoirs of a Thomian**' paints a picture of what it was like to attend S. Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia in the late 50's and early 60's, with entire chapters dedicated to aspects of school life; from boarding to teachers - including the many canings and punishments he received.

Dr. Seneviratne served as cricket captain at STC and the chapters on his cricket career will be of interest to all cricket lovers. We are pleased to give you an excerpt from the book, with the kind permission of the author:

"I recall one of my early matches for the College First Eleven, which was against St. Joseph's on our grounds in Mount Lavinia. Prior to the match, Warden Davidson, who incidentally scored no runs at his Royal-Thomian big match, gave us an inspiring talk after cricket practice, on the day preceding the match, which still rang in my ears when I walked into bat at number six. There had been a first innings collapse and we had very little runs on the score board. The six foot tall Brian Perumal was bowling left-arm in swingers from the pavilion end. Due to the breeze and his high arm action, the ball was moving in and causing much difficulty for the batsmen. His repertoire included a good bouncer and a Yorker.

All I could remember was Warden Davidson's words of advice, to hang on and earn the runs with good concentration. I still recall his words as if it were yesterday and repeat it ad nauseum, to my son. "Score your first run, then get to ten, then get to twenty, then get to thirty and keep going in this manner diligently". That's what I tried to do! The first ball was moving in from the middle to the leg. I had instinctively got on to the front foot, way in front of the batting crease and was ready to drive only to hear a yell for L.B.W. I hopped in agony, as the ball had hit the toes of the front foot! I composed myself, thought of Warden's advice, and took my stance once more, with the silly mid-on hardly a couple of yards from me. The second ball was a bouncer, which fortunately struck the middle of my bat and fell down harmlessly at my feet. I should have got under it and let it go but I had got on to my toes and managed to keep it down. The silly mid-on got closer to intimidate the 16 year old me. The third ball was on the off and I remember throwing all I had at it in an effort to respond to the silly mind-on's intimidation but fortunately for me, I was not close to the ball! Instantly, I heard the entire pavilion screaming with anger to bat on!! It helped me think of the Warden's advice again and concentrate. I was able to top-score that day, making over half a century in about an hour. Next day, we had done well but had to bowl the last over to get the last wicket to win, before the end of the day's play.

Skipper Keith Labroy, gave me the ball and said "Come on! Get him! You can do it". I was bowling leg spin with two fielders "under the bat" at silly mid-off and silly mid-on. L.S. Perera was at silly mid-on. On the fifth ball of this last over, he dove in front and held on to a brilliant catch to give us a thrilling and memorable victory. I was extremely chuffed that Keith had the confidence to let me bowl the last over in one of my very first matches! To give a 16 year old the last over, with nine wickets down, spoke volumes for the confidence the captain had in his team.

All proceeds from the book go towards STC. The book is priced at rupees 1000 and is available from the STC OBA Secretariat, Sri Lanka. A limited number of copies are expected here in Australia.

Barney Reid [barney.reid@gmail.com] might be the best person to contact for your copy of the book.

This article was originally published in Floreat, the magazine of the Royal College Old Boys in Australia - Volume 7, Number 2: Summer 2000).

THE ARCANES ART OF ‘BUNCHING’

– as explained by a Royalist

Not unlike old boys of other schools, old boys of Royal have a tendency to be stuffy. This stuffiness is manifested in various ways, including a tendency to dwell on the more civilised and civilising aspects of their time in Royal. But it's time to move from the lofty to the shifty; from the rarefied memories of the school at its best to the grubby, thuggish atmosphere that could sometimes pervade a twentieth-century Royal classroom or playground. It is time to thumb one's nose at the Marquis of Queensberry and move "below the belt".

Known and practised by schoolboys of all ages and all places, it is time to say a few words about what was known in twentieth-century Royal as "bunching". Known in Australia as the "squirrel grip", the term "bunch" would probably be defined for the uninitiated as follows in an unexpurgated dictionary of slang:

bunch v.t. to grip and sometimes squeeze the genitalia of another, usu. done by one male to another, but not necessarily with homoerotic intent – v.i. to perform an act of bunching – n.

buncher one who bunches, **bunchee** the subject of the act of bunching (*Sri Lankan schoolboy slang*) [Orig. unknown, poss. an extrapolation from one conventional meaning of *bunch*, i.e. the act of drawing together in a bunch the components of the male genitalia].

It cannot be said with any certainty whether, had he been minded to write on the topic, Shakespeare would have penned the admonition "neither a buncher nor a bunchee be". Given the likelihood that his sonnets were not always directed at a member of the fairer sex, it may be surmised that he would not have objected to the practice of bunching. In any event, one may rhetorically pose the question: does there exist an old Royalist who has not at one time been a buncher or a bunchee?

At this juncture, it is necessary to insert some words of clarification. There could, after all, be some wives of old boys reading this piece and wondering whether they may be certain about the past, if not the present, sexual orientation of their beloved husbands. Rest easy, dear spouses. The act of bunching was in most instances devoid of any homoerotic intent. To assist in this clarification, it is appropriate to classify the types of bunching that were endemic during the 1970s and early 1980s at the College.

The first and most common form of bunching was the sado-bunch. As its name suggests, its purpose was purely and simply to inflict pain and embarrassment, by way of a quick, forceful, open-palmed tap on the victim's family jewels by the assailant.

Equally common was what can best be described as the ceremonial bunch. In many ways, this was not really a bunch at all. It was mutual and ritualistic. In this it can be likened to the act of two Eskimos rubbing their noses in greeting, or two society ladies proffering their cheeks to each other in a mock kiss, accompanied by a strident "Dah-ling...". The Royal variant involved a mutual feint by each party at the family jewels of the other, accompanied by words such as "Ado Abey, how are you, you bugger?". I can testify (no pun intended) to having seen this ritual performed at the Royal-Thomian Centenary Carnival in 1979 by two old boys, much to the consternation of the spouses who accompanied them and to the amusement of their young children who were also in tow.

Less common but more dangerous was the crypto-bunch. Here, without warning or fanfare, the assailant would sidle up to the victim from behind or from his side and, with the speed and ruthlessness of a polonga (Russell Viper) administer a sado-bunch.

Finally, one is left with the homo-bunch which, as its name suggests, was effected suggestively and with very different intentions from the other varieties of bunching described above.

It is customary for some old boys to end their articles with the salutation "Floreat": "may it flourish". Given the subject-matter of this piece, I am reluctant to do so. However, I have no doubt that Royal has bred, and will continue to breed, many leading exponents of the arcane art of bunching.

~ Junius ~

Much as we would like to distance ourselves from this painful practice, I am here to tell you that this practice exists amongst Thomians too-to this day.- Editor

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Drinks on the Lawn

by Ramya Chamalie Jirasinghe

Emerald green, edged by white verandahs
and still ponds,
holds the group together:
their dew-drop laughter.
Those frangipani smiles.

A half-moon and fairy-lights
guide waiters towards
hands reaching nonchalantly for tid-bits:
Egg boats. Prawns on toast. Impaled fowl. Grilled lamb.

Two hours on the lawn.

A glass shatters against the pond's edge.
Listening ears hear nothing.
Tid-bits are passed from mouth to mouth,
wrecked boats bob to the surface.
The grilling and the stabbing leave
the hands of the caterers
to be done better by the guests.

At the end of the night
when the hosts kiss goodbye,
the frangipani drops on the lawn
heavy with the acid rain of the conversations
it picked-up on the way.
The pool overflows and the hedges no longer contain
the icy laughter grating against the glasses,
grilled fowl taking wing,
prawns swimming against the tide,
and lambs, destined for slaughter, bucking at the door.
These creep onto the streets of Colombo,
cackle past the army barricades,
crawl under the doorways,
climb between the bed coverlets
and snuggle up to soft bodies.
And their dreams will not be raided
even when the electricity grid is cut-off
and Sri Lanka goes black,
as the night rains fire and steel.



Ramya is the author of *Rhythm of the Sea*, and *Trinity*.

'Drinks on the lawn' is taken from her book of poetry, *'There's an Island in the Bone'*, which won the 2011 State Literary Joint Award for poetry.

Ramya was long listed for the Fish Poetry Prize, of Ireland in 2011 and was a joint runner-up to the UK's Guardian Orange First Words Prize of 2009.

The TimesOnline of UK featured her in its 2009 selection of contemporary war poetry.

In 2001 she represented Sri Lanka at the Medellin Poetry Festival, Colombia, in South America.

Her poetry has been published by *The Poetry Journal*, Chicago and by *Osprey*, Scotland.

Ramya is working on her next book of poems, titled *'Love poems from a Frangipani Garden'*.

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Kaerakena Keliya



Janakaraliya Cultural Foundation and Mind Adventures theatre company present Kaerakena Keliya on 31st May at the Nuga Sevana amphitheatre (Colombo Cathedral grounds). For tickets, contact Janakaraliya Cultural Fund on fb.

Adapted and devised from 'The Boy Who Speaks In Numbers' by Mike Masilamani, the Kaerakena Keliya follows the fortunes of the citizens of the Small Village of Fat Hopes, who are caught in the crossfire of a Civil War of Lies. They find themselves marooned in a camp for Ignored Defeated People along with A Mad Uncle, A Constantly Complaining Cow, A Lying Lizard and a myriad of other stranded people.

This allegorical tale uses humour and physical theatre to explore the themes of displacement, alienation and the collateral damage of war. Kaerakena Keliya is performed by the Janakaraliya troupe and directed by Tracy Holsinger.



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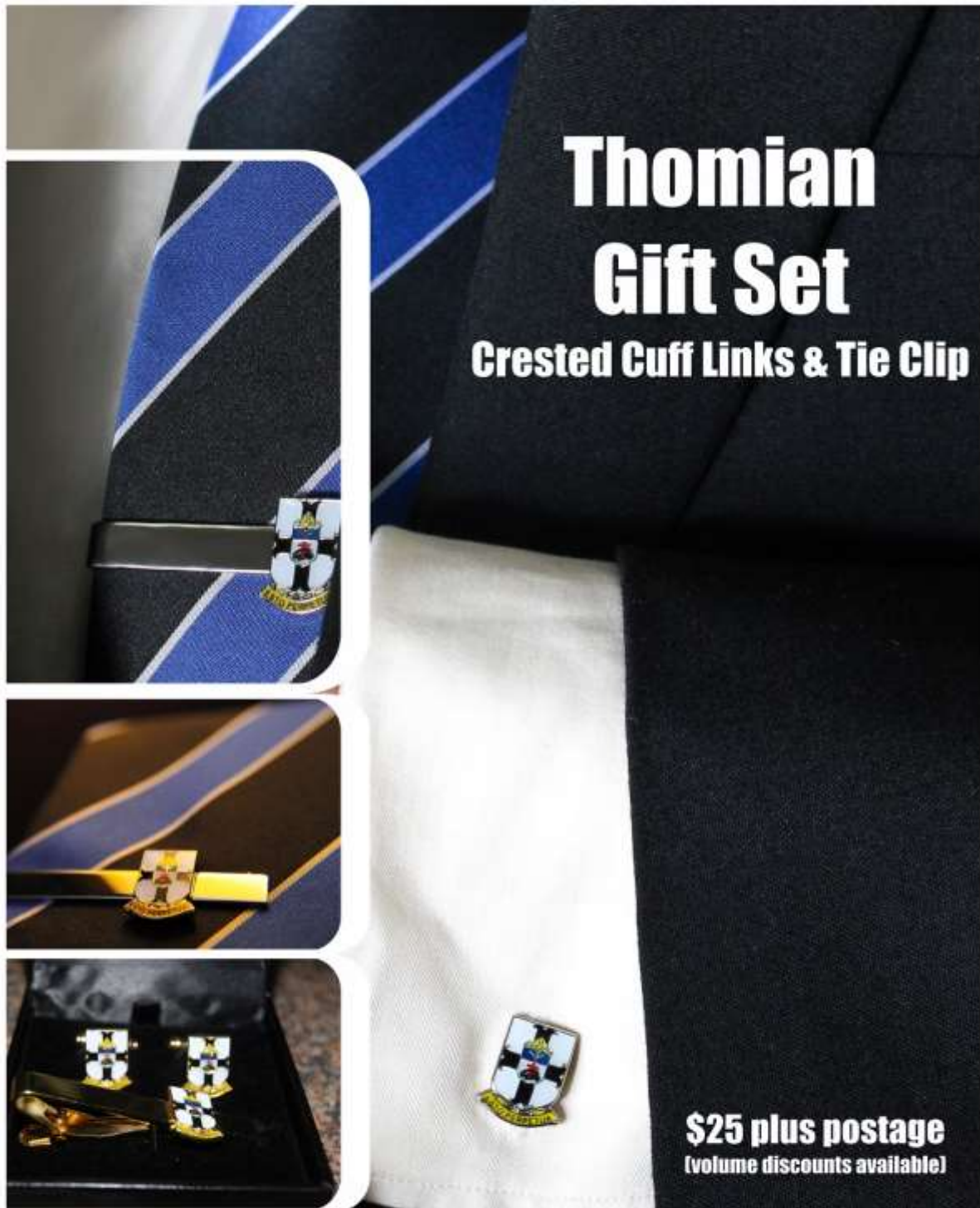
From the next issue of the Thomiana we propose to carry a 'bulletin board', listing both those seeking employment and those offering work.

We figured there was no better forum than the Thomiana to bring the two parties together.

Email in a short description of the work on offer or the kind of work you are looking for to the Editor: mikem.mfactor@gmail.com mentioning Thomiana bulletin board in the title.

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STC OBA AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP – as of 25 April 2016

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ABEYWICKREMA, Anil Niranjana	2015	FERNANDO, Billy	2014
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ALDONS, Roger	2015	FERNANDO, Deeptha	2007
ALVIS, Randolph Lawrence	2015	FERNANDO, Dinesh	2020
AMUKOTUWA, Nimal D.	2005	FERNANDO, H.P. Dushmantha	2013
AMUKOTUWA, Sarathkumar	2020	FERNANDO, L. Melville	2020
ANDRADO, Amrick	2013	FERNANDO, M. Kingsley	2016
ANTHONISZ, Ashton	2015	FERNANDO, Mewan	2005
ANTHONISZ, Darrell	2015	FERNANDO, Nirali	2015
ANTHONISZ, James M.	2014	FERREIRA, Jeremy	2010
ANTHONISZ, Tyrell	2015	GAMANPILA, Anil	2014
APONSO, Lalith	2015	GANEGAMA, Tilak	2015
APONSO, Roshan	2010	GERLACH, Maxwell	2016
APONSO, Suren Diyal	2016	GIBSON, R. Maurice E.	2017
ARIARATNAM, Chris	2013	GOMES, Prem	2006
ARMITAGE, Andy	2012	GOMES, Yushantha Jayathu	2015
BALTHAZAR, George	2013	GOONAWARDENA, Peneeth Rajiva	2016
BENERAGAMA, Gamini Dr.	2015	GOONERATNE, Dinesh	2008
BIBILE, Rajindra	2015	GOONERATNE, Sena J.	2013
BRAINERD, Leslie	2016	GOONERATNE, Upali J. F.	2016
BROHIER, Richard	2009	GRIGSON, Roderic	2015
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DANIEL, Dr. Robin	2008	HALLOCK, Shantha	2015
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DAVID, Kumar	2015	HENRICUS, B. Cholomondley	2016
DE LIVERA TENNEKON, Sankha Aravinda	2013	HENSMAN, Dr. Indran. C	2009
DE MEL, V. Chevinda Ranjaka Stephen	2012	HENSMAN, Kumar	2012
DE MEL, Jarit	2016	HENSMAN, Rajan A.	2020
DE MEL, Sarath	2014	HERAT, Norman	2017
DE SILVA, Anura	2016	HERFT, Christopher P.	2015
DE SILVA, Jeremy	2007	HESSE, Hubert. R.	2013
DE SILVA, Lalindra	2020	HEWAVITHARANA, Shehan	2014
DE SILVA, Lakshman D.	2015	ILANGAKOON, Amal Michael	2020
DE SILVA, Larry	2014	JACOTINE, Errol	2017
DE SILVA, Randy	2009	JANSEN, Conrad Gary	2010
DEVAPURA, Jetha	2010	JANSEN, Shane	2010
DE VOS, Milroy	2016	JANSZ, Brian Gordon	2005
DE ZILVA, Adrian	2015	JANSZ, Rodney	2015
DHARMAWARDENA, Kushan	2019	JASINGHE, Neomal	2016
DIAS, Pradeep J. A. G.	2014	JAYASEKERA, Bumpy C. W.	2016
DIAS, Yohan	2006	JAYASEKERA, Gavin	2016
DISSANAYAKE, Loshan Ashantha	2009	JAYASEKERA, Sandy Rajpal	2013
D'SILVA, H. Derek	2012	JAYASENA, Rajiv	2016
D'SILVA, H. Roger C.	2010	JAYASINGHE, Chandra Asoka	2014
D'SILVA, Ralph	2019	JAYASINGHE, Kalyanasiri (Kal)	2019
EDWARD, J Roy D	2012	JAYASINGHE, Ranga P	2008
EMERSON, Richard J	2017	JAYASURIYA, Sarath	2016
ESANKAMAL, Malinda	2012	JAYASURIYA, M.D.A. Tarik	2012
FERDINANDS, Brian Anthony	2016	JAYAWARDENA, Asanka	2020
FERDINANDS, Donald Anthony (Tony)	2010	JAYAWICKREME, Eshan Mahesa	2009
FERDINANDS, James (Jim) Donald	2016	JAYETILEKE, Shehan Vinod	2011
		JESUDHASON, Dr Edward	2016
		JEYAKUMAR, Sebastian	2016
		JUNAIDEEN Rayhaan	2008
		KAVINDA, Nuwan	2016

KATHIRGAMATHAMBY, Sajeevan	2007	PERERA, Niranga	2016
KANAGASABAI, H. Selva	2016	PERERA, Ruwan	2016
KANAGASABAI, Lakshman S.	2014	PERERA, Senarath Mudalige Shehan R.	2010
KANATHIGODA, Malithi Nalaka	2014	PERERA, Usher Nalaka	2015
KARIYAWASAM, Nadeeshan	2012	PILAPITIYA, Daham Anthony	2012
KARIYAWASAM, Viren	2011	PONNIAH, Jeya	2016
KARUNATILAKE, Bandula	2005	PRABHA David	2009
KARUNATILAKE, Saliya	2015	PREMKUMAR, Sanjay	2016
KELAART, Ivor C	2013	RAHIM, Shihan	2011
KOCH, Garvin	2016	RAJADURAI, Joe	2009
KOCH, Godfrey E. L.	2014	RAJAPAKSE, Suraj	2013
KOCH, Jeffrey H.	2016	RANASINGHE, Malaka Navindra	2014
LA BROOY, Glen Arden	2012	RASARATNAM, Mahendra	2015
LANDERS, Millon Hope	2015	RASIAH, John	2007
LAPPEN, Delwyn	2016	RATNARAJAH, Vasikaran	2016
LAWRENCE, Michael	2010	RATNAYAKE, Ravi	2009
LAWTON, Christopher A.	2014	RAUFF, Mazhar M.	2014
LAWTON, Christopher J.	2017	REID, Barney D.	2017
LAWTON, Michael E.	2016	REID, Claud E.	2016
LEKAMGE, E. D. B.	2010	REID, Dr. Barclay G.(Buddy)	2016
LEWIS, Leon Howard	2016	REID, Ronnie	2015
LIYANAGE, Milinda J.	2017	RICHARDS, Marcus	2012
LIYANAGE, Saman	2020	ROBERTS, Anthony Gerald	2010
LOOS, Granville Allison	2015	ROBERTS, G. Ryan	2021
LOOS, Hermon	2004	ROBERTS, Richard	2017
MAHENDRAN, Shylagen Venayaga	2010	ROCKWOOD, David C.	2015
MALLET, Anthony J. W.	2016	RODIE, John	2016
MASILAMANI, Michael	2016	RODRIGO, A. Lakshan	2013
MATHER, Dr. Paul Rohan	2019	RODRIGO, Nimal Ravindra	2004
MAZAHIR, Nishad	2007	RODRIGO, Pramuditha Akalanka	2012
MEARES, Trevor	2021	RODRIGO, Ranmal	2014
MEEGAMA, Suren Royden	2011	RODRIGUE, Darrel	2018
MENDIS, Glen	2012	ROWLAND, Ed	2009
MENDIS, Trevor A.	2018	ROWLANDS, Adlai Perc	2006
MOLLIGODA, Bandula	2014	RUWANPURA, Helaka	2009
MOLLIGODA, Suriya	2013	SAMARAJIWA, Manish Neuran	2010
MORENO, Emilio	2014	SAMARAJIWA, Shalindra Neuran	2013
MORTIMER, Geoffrey L E	2012	SANSONI, Adrian Noel	2015
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MUTTUKUMARU, Rushan Lloyd	2015	SARAVANAMUTTU, Ari	2016
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NAGARAJAH, Rajievan	2008	SCHOORMAN, Peter	2016
NAGARAJAH, C. Romesh	2016	SELVADURAI, Johann	2007
NANAYAKKARA, Dilusha R.	2013	SELVADURAI, Sehan Nehru	2018
NANAYAKKARA, Mark	2017	SELVARAJAH, Mano	2010
NESIAH, Vaseeharan	2016	SELVARATNAM, Dr. Peter	2016
NICHOLAS, Christopher	2016	SELVARATNAM, Lakshman	2010
NICOL, Nigel	2016	SENANAYAKE, Akila	2012
NILaweera, Tilak	2009	SENARATNE, Godfrey	2016
OHLMUS, Evelyn R. D.	2015	SENARATNE, Sarath	2020
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OVERLUNDE, Stevie	2016	SENEVIRATNE, Chanaka	2009
PALMER, Carlyle (Carlo) D.	2019	SENEVIRATNE, Eardley Kevin	2006
PALMER, Gavin	2012	SENEVIRATNE, Earle	2011
PAUL, Dr Amarjit	2013	SENEVIRATNE, Mani	2016
PEARS, Michael	2014	SENEVIRATNE, Niranjan	2007
PEIRIS, Duane	2012	SETUNGA, Raymond	2011
PEIRIS, Kirthi K. G.	2017	SHMUEL, Immanuel	2014
PEIRIS, Mangala	2005	SILVA, Kristian	2010
PEIRIS, Nadija Kalhara	2006	SILVA, Michael	2017
PEREIRA, Ernley O	2011	SILVA, P. Jayampathy O.	2017
PERERA, Dr. Mahendra H	2015	SIRIMANE, Anura	2008
PERERA, Naveen Tharindu	2008	SIRITUNGA, Mahendra Vishwajith	2004

SMITH, Adam A A	2008
SMITH, Norman Allan	2012
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ST. JOHN, David	2021
STORK, Lynwood	2022
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SURIARACHI, Gamini A.W.	2008
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VANNITHAMBY, Thambi	2016
VARNEY, Allan	2016
VARNEY, Ashley	2012
VARNEY, Christopher	2016
VARNEY, David	2016
VELUPILLAI, Gerrard	2009
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WAMBEEK, P.E. Keith	2012
WANIGATUNGA, Jayantha	2015
WARNAKULASURIYA, Dinesh	2016
WAZIL, Adhnan	2006
WEERASINGHE, Odath S.	2018
WEERASIRI, Dr Tilak	2016
WEINMAN, Rev. Ravanel	2011
WICKRAMASEKERA, Rajitha Dulanjan	2012
WICKRAMASINGHE, Sankha C. S.	2015
WICKRAMASURIYA, Dushan	2009
WICKREMARATNA, Vidura	2013
WIJAYASURIYA, Prasada	2016
WIJESINHA, Rohan Devinda	2013
WIJESINHA, Dr. Sanjiva	2016
WIJESUNDERA, Chamila	2008
WIJESURIYA, Jehan	2006
WIJEY, Ashley	2012
WIJEYARATNE, Peter	2005
WIKRAMANAYAKE, Nimal	2010
ZARANI, Mohamed Yusuf	2013
ZIMSEN, J. A.Terrence	2017

ACT

ALDONS, Malcolm Eric	2010
ARSAKULASURIYA, Aruna	2006
DIAS ABEYESINGHE, Rohan	2020
JACOB, Elmo	2013
REBERA, Basil	2017
WICKRAMASURIYA, Revan Philip	2005

NEW SOUTH WALES

ARNDT, Dr. Douglas V.	2019
BARTHOLOMEUSZ, David	2009
BERENGER, Milroy	2022
DE ZILVA, Charles	2011
D'SILVA, Stefan	2010
FLAMER-CALDERA, Maxim	2017
GOONATILAKA, Tissa	2014

GRIGSON, Francis Frederick	2013
HENSMAN Mohan	2007
MASEFIELD, Graham R.L.	2010
PERERA, Nimal J	2004
RUPEISINGHE, Roshan	2014
SWAN, William L	2015
VANDERSMAGT, Vernon	2009
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SHU Jimmy	2009
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BAINES, Trevor	2009
COORAY, Hiran	2011
DISSANAYAKE, Sadeesh	2009
GARTH, David	2013
GUNAWARDANA, Uditha W.	2011
HAMEED, Ahmed Shezad	2007
HERFT, Spencer.G.	2016
LAYMAN, Leon Anthony	2006
MENDIS, Niru Duleep	2005
MISSO, REVD. KAROL	2016
WANIGASOORIYA, Kamal	2012
WEINMAN, Beaufort A.	2012

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

LECAMWASAM, Dr D.S	2010
PONNIAH, S.G. Ranjan	2020

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ARNDT, George Arthur Richard	2015
DE KAUWE, Dr. Vevil	2017
FAIRWEATHER, Maurice D	2020
INGRAM, Dennis	2010
JAYASEKERA, Mohan D.	2013
MAKALANDA, Kavan	2007
MAY, Walter	2016
SCHOKMAN, David Norman	2011
VIRASINGHE, Indra A.K.	2016

OVERSEAS

CHELLIAH, Lohendran	2008
CLAASZ, Anthony Dermot Nigel	2020
COSWATTE, Renuke Jagath Bandara	2006
DE ALWIS, Anil Denham	2010
DE SOYSA, Sunil	2012
EPHRAUMS, Lance.H.D.	2011
HILLMAN, Jeremy	2009
KANAGASABAI, Satkuna Ananthan (Ana)	2015
MORRIS, Reyhan	
MUNASINGHE, P.L.	2006
PEREIRA EDWARD. V	2005
SARAVANAMUTTU, Rajan	2016
SATURNINUS, Peter	2004
SCHOKMAN, Larry	2023
SENARATNE, Lalith	2007
THOMAS, Bertram W.R.	2005
TIRIMANNE, Ranjan	2019
TISSERA, George Vernon	2009
WEERASINGHE, Abhaya	2017
WIJERATNE, W. D. Neil	2019
WIJESINHA, Shirley Patrick	2022



THOMIAN BALL 2016

Saturday 23rd July

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Hotel Pullman
Albert Park

Featuring
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backed by Perth's hottest dance band, KONTINEW
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Doors open at 7^{pm}

Dress Code – Dark & Dazzling
Gentlemen in Black Tie or Lounge
& Ladies in Evening Wear

\$125

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Premium Spirits, Beer & Wine
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