



THOMIANA

NEWSLETTER

S. THOMAS' COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA BRANCH INC
PO BOX 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia

Dear Members of the STC OBA,

It gives me great pleasure to pen a few lines for this edition of the THOMIANA.

We hope you like the changes to the look and feel of the newsletter and the OBA's website. In addition to the enhancements to the Thomiana and the OBA's website, we have also completed a few events since the AGM and have plans for lots more.

The Taradale (Bendigo) Cricket Match in April was a great success as was the Seniors Lunch in May. Coming up in August, we have the Transfiguration Service and the Annual Dinner Dance ("big dance"). Shortly afterwards, we have the OBA Members Night in September followed by the Golf Tournament and Thomian Nite ("small dance") in November. An eventful year is wrapped up in December with the much anticipated Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. Our event calendar reflects the diverse tastes of our membership and your participation will ensure success.

Costs prevent us from publishing the THOMIANA more frequently but we do stay in touch via email and our revised user-friendly website will give you all the updated information at your fingertips.

We also try to stay in touch via phone with our members and I urge you to contact Trevor Meares (0402338637), our untiring membership secretary who will ensure that your contact details are updated.

Last but not least, I want to thank everybody who has paid their annual \$25 subscription. This newsletter and the OBA's calendar of events would not be possible without your subscription. For the few of you who haven't got around to it yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. The STC OBA couldn't survive without your subscriptions.

Enjoy your reading...

Esto Perpetua

Chris Varney

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EDITORIAL

Nothing endures but change

We've all heard of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle but how many of us have heard of Heraclitus?? It turns out that this relatively obscure Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, is credited with recognizing the most obvious aspect of our existence: *change*.

Change occurs in every aspect of our lives and is continuous. Look around. We're experiencing changes everywhere; changes in our personal life, changes to the fortunes of our Rugby team, leadership changes at the old school, political changes with the end of the war in Sri Lanka, unprecedented economic changes, changes to the environment and even changes to the look and feel of the Thomiana and the OBA's website.

Heraclitus' idea was that the universe is in a constant state of change and that there is an underlying order or reason for that flow.

Thomian rugby has been bruised and battered in recent years but all that changed this year with our boys winning almost every game they'd played. Our only loss was against Royal, where we'd fought back from 7-31 at half time to a final score of 33-37. Our boys went on to earn a reputation as second-half kings this season. Other teams would often lead the scoring at the beginning of the game and the Thomians would grind them into the mud in time for the final whistle. Their physical and mental fitness was the reason they could effect that change.

Meanwhile at the helm, the Rev John Puddefoot is taking over from Dr David Ponniah as the Warden of STC. Whilst Rev John's style is likely to be different to his predecessor we can rest assured that the two gentlemen share an appreciation of STC's mission, underlying values and sense of tradition. Both Rev John and Dr Ponniah responded promptly to my request and we get a glimpse of the true character of the two men in their respective contributions to the THOMIANA. On that

note, I must confess that I took great pleasure in giving 'homework' to two Wardens of STC and I reckon that more than makes up for the decade of homework that I carried home from Mt Lavinia.

Meanwhile in Sri Lanka, a brutal war has come to a brutal end. With the end of the war has come an opportunity to change for the better and rebuild that country. Only time will tell if Sri Lankans choose that high road, or not. This then is an ideal time for us Thomians to step up and share our values and perspectives to help shape the Sri Lanka to come.

Also in this edition of THOMIANA, we take a look at how change impacts our Thomian identity. Barney Reid takes a look at the inner turmoil of a youngster who worries that he may, or may not, succeed as a Thomian. Dinesh Chelvathurai, meanwhile, reconciles and comes to terms with the identity crisis that he grappled with when he was moved from S. Thomas' Prep School to Royal College.

Elsewhere in this edition, a former Thomian rugby player laments the changes to the traditional striped rugby jersey. In similar vein, our readers will surely notice the changes to the look and feel of the THOMIANA and the OBA's web site. Rest assured that these are not changes for the sake of change but changes that have purpose. Only time will tell if the new looks will stay or go. If the underlying reasons are good then change can't be all that bad... can it?

If change is inevitable, then 'Esto Perpetua' makes a lot of sense. Our Thomian ethos will see us through, be it on the playing field, at school, in nation building or in our own personal lives. Old Heraclitus was on to something... he could've been a Thomian!

Esto Perpetua

Vasee Nesiah
Editor

**The OBA and S Thomas' College
need your support**

Of the 339 members on the OBA's roll;

- **6 members last paid their dues in 2004,**
- **11 members last paid their dues in 2005,**
- **25 members last paid their dues in 2006,**
- **40 have not paid their dues since 2007, and**
- **47 have not paid their dues since 2008.**

**Special thanks to all Thomians
who've paid their dues
and graced various OBA events.
The OBA couldn't survive without your
continued support and participation.
Look for the Special Offers
for Members on Page 6 & 9.**

THOMIAN NEWS



~ NEW WARDEN TAKES CHARGE OF S. THOMAS' COLLEGE

Rev. John Charles Puddefoot, assumed duties as the 17th Warden of S. Thomas' College on the 1st of July 2009. (Photographs and more on page 5)



~ STC RUGBY FINISHES ON A HIGH

The Thomian Rugby team won every game they played after their seasoning opening four point loss to arch rivals, Royal College. (more on page 15)

~ THOMIANS SINK ROYALISTS

S. Thomas' College swam ahead to aggregate 1243 points to Royal College's 1173 and annexe the Creon Corea Memorial Trophy at the inaugural 'Battle of the Blues' Swimming Championship that was concluded at the Thomian pool recently. The Thomians made it a double when they also won the old boys Old Thomians Swimming Club Challenge Trophy.



~ 17 YEAR OLD THOMIANS WINS "OARSMAN OF THE YEAR"

Hard work has its rewards - and Sanjeev de Silva who is a keen member of S. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia rowing team has won many laurels in rowing and to top them all he was awarded the "Oarsman of the Year" Trophy for his splendid performances in rowing during April 2008 to April 2009 by the Colombo Rowing Club in association with the Amateur Rowing Association of Sri Lanka.

~ THOMIAN FAMILY NEWS

- ♦ Asanka and Imeshi Pinto Jayawardena were blessed with a baby boy Ashvin Devsith on 28th Feb 2009
- ♦ Lalith and Holly Aponso were blessed with a baby girl Brianna on 2nd April 2009
- ♦ Mrs Sathivathi Anandanayagam (wife of the late Warden Anandanayagam) passed away at the age of 92 in the UK.
- ♦ Sepala Ilankakoon, a well known planter, an Old Thomian and former Chairman of the Tea Board, passed away at the age of 84.

**For the latest Thomian news, scores and special events
visit www.STCobaAUST.org.au**

Special thanks to Barney Reid, Dinesh Chelvathurai, Peter Weerakoon and the team at ThePapare.com for their contributions in this issue of the THOMIANA.

The Editorial Sub Committee of Vasee Nesiah (Editor), Jayampathy (Pajjo) Silva (Sub-Editor) and Kristian Silva would love to have your feedback, suggestions and contributions.

Please email your contributions and comments to the Editor (editor@stcobaaust.org.au) and we will try and accommodate them in the next edition.

The views expressed in this newsletter are of the respective authors and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Executive or Editorial Sub-Committees.

HOT AUGUST NITE

S. Thomas' College OBA (Aust) Branch Annual Dinner Dance

At the Grand Ballroom - Hilton on the Park

22nd August 2009 7.00pm to 1.00am

[Pre dinner drinks 7.00pm - 7.30pm]

Gents: Lounge suit / Black tie - Ladies: After 5

Featuring: Corrine & Replay 6 Big Band
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Message from the incoming Warden

- Rev John Puddefoot

(17th Warden of STC)



I am very pleased to have been asked to write a few words for the July edition of The Thomiana. I will not be properly in post until after the formal installation on July 10th, but I already feel as though I know a lot about the College, particularly from the warmth of the expressions of support I have received from Old Boy Associations in all parts of the world. My wife Susan and I have strong links with Australia, particularly in Melbourne, and we hope very much to be able to meet many Old Thomians there over the coming years.

I fly to Sri Lanka on June 29th to start work on July 1st. We are very much looking forward to this exciting new phase in our lives and to getting to know the boys and staff of the College, as well, of course, as experiencing the exquisite beauty of the country. The Installation is on July 10th, so I suppose I will only properly be "The Warden" after that, but we already feel very much a part of the worldwide community that is the STC OBA.

Your editor asks me to say something about my vision for the College. I am not sure I can say anything very specific as yet before I arrive, but there are certain general principles that can be stated and which I cannot conceive that any event or circumstance could change. There will be many challenges ahead, and saying in detail how I will respond to them would be rather like a batsman saying which stroke he intends to play to the third ball of the next over but one, but I can say that everything I do will be designed to maintain and enhance S. Thomas's strength and reputation in order to preserve its pre-eminence in Sri Lankan education.

I can also say that I will endeavour to be guided in everything I do by the powerful and noble sentiments expressed in the School Song, because they represent aspirations that are vital to the health and prosperity of any nation that wishes to play a major part in the free world. The wonderful education Thomians enjoy carries responsibilities with it wherever they find themselves, and none more important than the friendly rivalry that ensures that whatever the scoreboard may say, every player leaves the field a winner because of the way he has played the game.

I have had the privilege of being a school inspector in the UK for eight years. One of the most important things we are trained to ask ourselves is not just whether a school says that it believes in actually conducts itself on a day-to-day basis. In the best schools and borne out in the way they behave in all walks of life may do. The S. Thomas' School Song voices very high ideals; continue to be embodied in every boy who enters and leaves its good of Sri Lanka; for the good of the world.

Esto Perpetua!

The Revd John Puddefoot



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Channa.Asela@RoyalThomian.info



A Message from the outgoing Warden - Dr David Ponniah (16th Warden of STC)

When I was asked by Vaseeharan as to whether I would like to give a message for the Thomiana, I readily agreed because it gave me an opportunity to thank not only the Old Boys in Australia but also the worldwide community of Thomians for all the support and encouragement they gave during my stint as Warden.

It was a very exciting and enjoyable eight year period of my life, but nevertheless quite challenging. I must add that I did not regret having taking on the challenge. We overcame numerous challenges and it must be recorded that it was only possible because of the efforts of a number of groups, of which the old boys were a significant part. They generously gave their time and money. It is a tribute to the Past Wardens and Teachers who instilled in these old boys the values of loyalty and service.

An extremely enjoyable part of my tenure was meeting, working and reminiscing with old boys and particularly their anecdotes and memories of College times and Teachers. The Royal Thomian Matches, batch get togethers, event organising, OBA Committees are just some instances of where the old boys played an important role in the life of the College.

The old boys of the College continued as they have done for over 150 years, to provide the support that is needed in order for the College to maintain the standards expected. I am sure that all of you would continue to support the new Warden and the College in all their endeavours.

With best wishes to all

Esto Perpetua

David Ponniah



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Seniors Lunch - May 2009

When I was asked to write an article regarding the seniors lunch by the Convener Trevor Mendis, I was wondering, as to what I would say about an event that had been organised by me for over five years, so to allay the fears of the "one with the smiling face", as he was wont to call himself, when he introduced himself to the Fairer Sex, and invited them to come for the annual event, I can very proudly say that this years Seniors Lunch was Excellent.

As usual a lot of hard work had gone on behind the scene and the members of the ex Co have all thrown their weight behind Trevor to produce a very successful and pleasant day for us seniors. The décor in the hall was attractive, the Band in attendance catered to the mood of everyone present. The food was in abundance as per usual, It was excellent and very tasty, the members of the Ex co, and their lovely wife's were very attentive to the needs of others. It was a REALLY good show, done with caring. It is the goodwill and camaraderie that matters - there was lots of it. The Raffle was also well presented and those responsible for this part of the event, has indeed gone the "full mile". Like all Thomian events this one too should take pride of place for a job well done.

Some of the comments heard at and afterwards were, "it was a resounding success!" It was a time to reminisce and to bring back memories of the 'good old days'. Some old familiar faces were missing, but then there were many new faces in this elite group of Thomians.



I would like to make one suggestion and that is, as with every passing year as older Thomians depart for places unknown to us we could remember them by paying tribute to them, perhaps, with a minute's silence (say) just before 'Grace' is said

The singing of the immortal College song that, invokes a host of memories of both Gurutalawa and Mount.Lavinia bought an end to this year's senior's lunch.

On behalf of all those old seniors and the new ones just joining this privileged group along with the Ladies join me to say "Thank You" to the Organisers of the event, and for the dedication of Trevor Mendis, who insisted on being present at the event though he had just come out of hospital having had a stent put in. "This is True Thomian Grit".

Well done

Esto Perpetua

Peter Weerakoon

STC OBA visit Taradale & Bendigo for Cricket & Hoppers - April 2009

STC OBA visited Taradale & Bendigo on a chilly April morning to play some cracking cricket and feast on Hoppers. The visitors beat the hosts in the last ball of the last over of a 20/20 game and both sides converged, afterwards, at Old Thomian Adrian De Zilva's place to tuck into hoppers, chicken curry, various sambols and potato *hodda*. A rousing sing-song, a huge chocolate cake and a seemingly endless supply of beer and spirits capped off a fine visit to Bendigo. Our heartfelt thanks go to Adrian and Thilaka De Zilva who have now hosted us each year for several years. Their gracious and warm hospitality was much appreciated by all who attended.



The OBA database in Colombo needs the following information from all Old Boys of STC.

1. Name with Titles and initials
2. Full Name
3. Date of Birth
4. Year of joining college
5. Year of leaving college
6. OBA membership number (if you are currently a member)
7. College Admission Number

8. Profession/ Occupation

9. Residential Address

10. Work Address

11. Telephone number

12. Mobile

13. E-Mail address

If you haven't done so already, please send these details to stcmloba@slt.net.lk

THOMIAN OBA SENIORS LUNCH & BENDIGO CRICKET - 2009





STC OBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

TRANSFIGURATION SERVICE & FELLOWSHIP on **August 09 @ 10am**
 St. David's Anglican Church, 4 Redholme Street, Moorabbin
 Contacts: Mark Nanayakkara (0408990146) or Ashton Anthonisz (9702 5326)

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE - 'HOT AUGUST NITE' on **August 22 @ 7:30pm**
 The Hilton on the Park, Melbourne
 Contacts: Chris Varney (0414 643 766) or Glen Mendis (0417 005 570)

OBA MEMBERS NITE on **September 19 @ 7:00pm** (*Spouses/ Partners welcome*)
 Curry Cafe (*new cafe next to Curry & Chips*), Blackburn Road, Syndal
 Contacts: Glen Mendis (0417 005 570) or Ari Saravanamuttu (9877 1508)

GOLF TOURNAMENT on **November 8th @ 8:00am**
 Tirhatuan Lakes Golf Club on the corner of Stud Road and Police Road, Rowville
 (Melway reference 81H7)
 Contacts: Delwyn Lappen on 0418 582 301 or Trevor Meares on 0402 338 637

THOMIAN NITE (*'Podi Naetuma'*)- **Dinner Dance** on **November 28 @ 7pm**
 Rowville Community Centre, Rowville (tentative - to be confirmed)
 Contacts: Nabil Mubarak (0405 258 776) or Milinda Liyanage (9837 5509)

STC CAROLS - FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS on **December 13 @ 6:30pm**
 St David's Anglican Church, 4 Redholme Street, Moorabin
 Contacts: Ashton Anthonisz (9702 5326) or Mark Nanayakkara (0408 990 146)

*For the latest Thomian news, scores and special events
 visit www.STCobaAUST.org.au*

Special Offer for Members

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For inquiries;

Contact Lynwood & Deidre Stork on 03.54353569



The Papare.com

“For this country Cricket isn’t a game it is a passion” a clichéd line of course if you’ve been around the street and have heard someone explaining to a foreigner on a day of a big match what all this madness is about.

It comes with being Sri Lankan, and of course, for some of us, we’re just about as mad about our Rugby, Football, Tennis and... well you know what we mean.

There was a time many a cartoonist in the national newspapers observed the Mudalali’s jacking up prices during a good match. That’s how much we are gripped with our sport. We want to know what happens where. We would be the most opinionated people be it any sport that we love.

But then it brings us to the point. That is what we are. We are a Sports Crazy nation. For the cricket Lover its cricket and for the oarsman its rowing but the fact is we are passionate about that rivalry, the competition, the politics and the game!

Then came the question to us. We love sports. But are we informed about what is really happening? Apart from the

usual last page in the daily’s, of which more than 50% of content is focused on international events, do you the Sri Lankan sports fan get the chance to know what is happening? Being just like you, we came to the conclusion that you don’t.

We at ThePapare.com want to play a part in filling the void. We want to give you the news you would want to see with detailed analysis of the goings on at each game to match previews, reviews player profiles and statistics in type, audio and video. We will strive to create the best picture for those of you who aren’t lucky enough to be at the stands looking out on the field singing along with a papare.

As usage grows our coverage will grow along with it to include more schools, clubs and sports. Our aim is to be the hub for all your sporting needs. The 2009 rugby season will be our first step in that direction.

Why did we put all of this together and how come we’re so sure we know what you want? Because we’re sports fans too, and that’s what unites us.

ThePapare.com
- Where Sport Unites

Note from The Editor:

ThePapare.com is a brilliant new website run by a group of young old boys from Royal and STC. ThePapare has provided unprecedented live coverage, on the Internet, of schools’ Cricket, Rugby and other sports.

Starting with the 130th Royal-Thomian Cricket Match, every Thomian rugby game was covered live on the Internet - a great service to those of us who live on a distant shore. Live coverage aside, the site also features pre- and post-match analysis, interviews, op-ed pieces, discussions and more. ThePapare.com has raised the bar and shamed traditional Sri Lankan media houses. A true game changer!

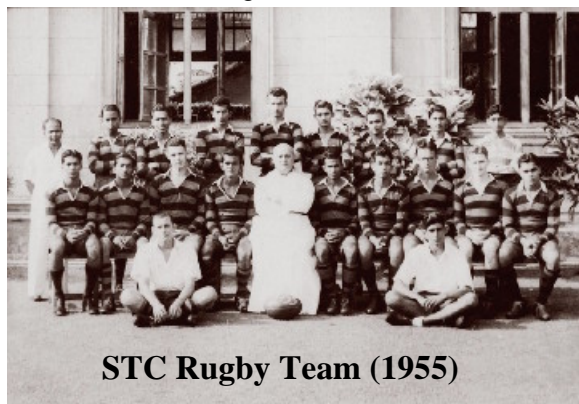
ThePapare.com’s Thomian Connection - The Tennekoon Brothers

Sankha de Livera Tennekoon, the Rugby editor is a former 1st XV Thomian Ruggerite who played in the position of Fly-half for College in the years 2006 & 2007 and obtained colours in the year 2007. He and his brother Esala were a deadly halves combination for the Thomian Outfit in the year 2007. He also played Cricket for STC and was the 2nd XI captain for the 2006/2007 season, and was able to lead the u-15 and u-17 teams as well. He was an athlete in school and a specialist in 400 meters and 800 meters, and was awarded Athletic colours in the year 2007 after breaking a Thomian relay record.

Esala De Livera Tennekoon, was also renowned for his sports when in school. He represented the Thomian 1st XV in the years 2006 and 2007 and obtained Colours in the 2007. He won the trophy for the best Ruggerite of the year in 2007 and is known for his hard work and dedication towards sports. He played 2nd XI Cricket for STC and was also part of the 1st XI cricket team briefly in the years 2005 and 2007. Always fast around the park, Esala earned his Colours in Athletics in the year 2007 after breaking a long standing Thomian relay record.

The other stars at ThePapare.com

Hafeel Farisz, the editor of ThePapare, was a member of the Royal College 1st XV team in 2006 and represented the College 2nd XI Cricket team from 2005 to 2007. **Feroze Ahamed** played cricket for Royal College. **Sukitha Senaratne**, a former Royal College cricketer, is best remembered for the 92 and 104 he scored in the 126th and 127th “Battle Of The Blues” respectively. **Milinda Gunawardene**, ThePapare.com’s chief Kandy Correspondent, is a former Trinity College Ruggerite and skipper of the 1st XV of 2008. **Yasas Ratnayake** was member of the Royal College 1st XV in 2006 and was the Vice Captain of the Royal Under 17 rugby team in 2005.



STC Rugby Team (1955)



Please bring the traditional rugby jersey back

by Viren Udugama

(first published at *ThePapare.com* on 4 May 2009)

The First XV rugby team of S.Thomas' College has started their season off with a bang with the team going down to Royal College by only 4 points in a thrilling nail biter and then coming back strongly to a breezing victory against Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya at last weeks outing at Havelock Park.

Having acknowledged the superb display of rugby the Thomians put up on the field, more than a few concerned Thomians (past and present), parents, teachers and well wishers who have closely observed Thomian rugby raised the question as to why the College Rugby jersey, which had been the trademark of the school's rugby team for many years, was changed this year.

S.Thomas' prides itself in tradition, and almost everything to do with the school is reverently practiced in time honored fashion. A perfect example for this is the blazer bestowed upon the First XI Cricket Coloursmen, for which the fabric is still imported from England. Rugby being one of the two main sports at S.Thomas' has earned idol status among the students, and it is the dream of every young Thomian Ruggerite to wear those blue and black stripes someday, and it would be tremendously unfair to take this away from them. Having said that, the reader should keep in mind that S.Thomas' is not just 'another' school that would change colour and design at the whims and fancies of individuals, and that the jersey did not change for over three decades not for lack of better material or flashy design but because of what it symbolized to the players and the school and the sense of belonging it gave to someone who was privileged enough to wear it.

The changes made to the jersey can be very prominently identified by anyone who has followed Thomian rugby in the past. The new one does not have the white collar that the original one had and has a very dark shade of blue making it look as if the whole jersey is black. Furthermore, they are 'body-fit' type jerseys and have been made with a different material. It also has a round neck. Apart from these a few more alterations to the original design have been made to the Thomian jersey this year.

The older jersey, or the traditional one as I would like to call it, has been worn by the teams of the past for many long years. It goes back in history as far back as the 1970's and maybe even earlier (Correct me if I'm wrong please). It has been worn by not only the teams that have won and been unbeaten for seasons, but also the by teams that have lost match after match, but nevertheless, each and every individual who earned the right to wear that traditional blue and black jersey had a lot of pride in owning one because it was passed on to them by their predecessors who have played great rugby in their playing days, and they knew that only a limited number of gentlemen were privileged enough to wear it. And also, those who finally got it didn't wear it anywhere else other than for matches (no, not even for practices!) as a mark of respect.

It is evident that there was a significant amount of history and tradition involved with the jersey. Youngsters at college would aim to get themselves the same jersey that their older brothers, fathers and perhaps grand fathers too have among their most valued and treasured belongings. I do not have to tell you that these jerseys could not be purchased anywhere for any price. In fact my friend's dad still has the same traditional jersey (that was worn up until last year) that he got in his playing days, folded up and stored in a safe place in his house! (His dad played in 1971 and 1972).

Something I would like to mention is that the start of the season in the year 2004 too the team was introduced to a new jersey. It was a modified 'body-fit' jersey as well, but this was worn just for ONE match and replaced with the

Please bring the traditional rugby jersey back (*cont...*)

traditional one since the team and management realized it was more appropriate to wear the one which possessed all the history, tradition and glory of Thomian rugby. Three cheers for taking that action at that time.

Having said all this, I doubt if anyone really believes wholeheartedly that this sudden change is really necessary right now. We have to admit that change is an essential component of development, and thus we have changes in methods of training, changes in coaching and fitness schedules. Having to implement change merely for the sake of it is pathetic. Do we really want to give up something that was practiced religiously through the 70's, 80's and even the 90's up until last year just like that? I'm speaking on behalf of many when I say that it's just not right and unfair by the Old Thomians who've played rugby as well as the present boys who are playing. The new jersey is cool and flashy and stands out when compared to the other team jersey's this year, but remember, S.Thomas' is not about being 'cool', and for a school that basks in the glory of it's tradition, It wouldn't be wrong when I say that this is one tradition that **MUST** be kept.

And hence a humble request, a voice out to Whom It May Concern: Sir, Please bring the traditional rugby jersey back.

ESTO PERPETUA



The OBA Needs Your Help!

If you have not paid up your subscriptions for 2009 please do so at your earliest. About a third of our members are in arrears and that puts a heavy strain on the affairs of the OBA, especially in these trying times. The OBA and S Thomas' College need your support and participation.

Credit card payments are welcome. Please send your subscriptions along with the Renewal Form on page 19 to **PO BOX 2337, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia**. Alternatively, please email the Membership Secretary at tmeares@bigpond.com

Members Only Special Offers on Page 6 & 9

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The Identity Crisis

Note from The Editor:

It seems, there are some in our midst who secretly suffer a terrible identity crisis. In the interests of enlightening THOMIANA's readers, I've invited two well known cricketing identities to go to bat on the matter from different ends of the pitch. Barney Reid is a dyed in the wool Thomian, who almost never was, and Dinesh Chelvathurai was a promising prep-school boy until he was cruelly and abruptly shunted off to a tax payer funded education down Reid Avenue.

Royal or S. Thomas'

by Barney Reid

Royal or S. Thomas' ??

What a question to ask an eight year old boy whose total educational experience was St Clare's College in Wellawatte. John and Pearl Reid, at that stage boasting 3 sons posed the question to Claud, the eldest. Perhaps, not in a position to answer straightaway, Claud sought advice from maternal grandfather Lloyd Herft.

Lloyd was an old boy of S. Thomas', situated during his boyhood, at Mutwal. His career as a Thomian lasted but two years. Was his stint as a Thomian cut short due to the move of the College from Mutwal to Mount Lavinia (and the additional ten mile trip to the College)? Or was it that his as his parents could not afford the monthly two-rupee school fees? Or a combination of the two? Perhaps, a riddle of "Da Vinci Code" proportions. Well, it is for us anyway. To his credit the reason did not cloud his judgement. Claud recalls Grandfather's answer. "S Thomas' of course, they play cricket".

Had he not heard of the Royal-Thomian Match? Does it not take two to tango? Or was it his crafty way of guiding a cricket mad youngster to his way of thinking? We will never know. Anyway, the final decision to enrol at S. Thomas' would have rested with Dad and Mum, who must have done their sums and balanced their books knowing that their liability would only be for two sets of school fees, as the third enrolment at S. Thomas' was exempt from the burden of tuition fees. Further, as an employee of the Ceylon Government Railways, he was entitled to 1st Class rail passes for each boy. This to some small extent reduced the overall cost of a private school education.

I guess they did not bargain on producing two more boys within another handful of years. Did he not know that the fourth and fifth sons did not qualify for fee exemption at S. Thomas'? ...

*Barney Reid continues
on page 14*

Thomians Who Went Wrong

By Dinesh Chelvathurai

In this day and age where psychoanalysis is considered de rigueur, it is perhaps necessary to take time out to discover one's true identity. To be more specific, the answer to that ultimate question: Am I a Royalist or a Thomian?

I started life as a Thomian and spent nine of the best years of my life at S. Thomas' Prep. School, Kollupitiya. Alas, during these nine years I did not have the pleasure of enjoying a Thomian victory and instead had to suffer in silence as my father and his friends (ardent Royalists) celebrated a Thomian defeat in 1969. In the years to follow, "we Thomians" suffered several close shaves and it was only the fabled Thomian grit which saved us in 1970, 1971 and 1973. (At that stage of my life, grit was a virtue as opposed to a vice which it subsequently became when I turned Royalist!)

My first two years as a Royalist were traumatic. I was suffering from an identity crisis not knowing who I was. All my friends had moved on from S. Thomas' Prep to S. Thomas' Mt Lavinia and I was the only one in my class who joined Royal. It therefore came as no surprise that I continued to think of myself as a Thomian and joined my Thomian friends at the Big Match with my blue and black flag, hoping and praying that I would not be spotted by my fellow Royalists.

It was only in my final year at Royal that I came to terms with being a Royalist as the school grew on me and finally I was at peace with myself. As a prefect, it would have looked rather incongruous to have been seen wearing a blue and gold Royal tie whilst carrying a blue and black Thomian flag!

Due to the increasing number of half castes who have had the privilege of experiencing the best of both worlds, it has become imperative that we coin a term which best describes this special breed. Similar to the word "Oxbridge", we need to find our own ...

*Dinesh Chelvathurai continues
on page 14*

Barney Reid
(continued from page 13)

... Or worse still, were Tiny and I destined to complete our schooling at St Clare's? However, as time and circumstances evolved (together with a lavish sprinkling of good luck), dad never had to find fees for more than two boys simultaneously, despite having four boys at the school at the one time for several years. But that is another story.

The one thing that an education at S. Thomas' did was to build a healthy respect for, or even a fear of the Blue and Gold.

Fear of losing a 'Big Match' always loomed large in February and early March, so much so that I twice asked dad to send me to Royal. (If you don't think you can beat em, join em.) Twice he refused.

I even said I could enrol at St Peters, just to get away from this Royal-Thomian bogey. I could get there by foot said I. No!

Having grown up through a period of eleven consecutive drawn games, I still maintain that a drawn game is always the optimum result. Winning a 'Big Match' was not what it is cracked up to be. In 1964 there was a tinge of sadness thinking of what my friends in the other dressing room must have been going through. I had entered through her gates but once. (For the 'mini' 2nd

X1 Royal Thomian cricket match - the second leather ball cricket match I ever played in). So what did I like about Royal College that made me want to school there so badly?

(Apologies of course to my Alma Mater and all who were educated there). I guess I am now old enough to 'come out', with hopefully unbiased opinions as to what aspects of Royal College exited me.

The Flag. It was much more pleasing to the eye than our blue and black counterpart. I was especially in awe of the chequered blue and gold flag they used to trot out for Sri Lanka's premier cricket match. I always wondered why we could not produce a brighter blue.

That being said, the situation is reversed in terms of the cap and the blazer. Ours are much more striking, whilst the Royal blazer takes on more the 'Brotherhood of Yves St Laurents' look.

Our College song when sung to rally the troops at the fall of a wicket or to welcome and motivate a new batsman on his way to the crease brings a lump to the throat. A lot more stirring than the Royal Anthem, which they do not seem to be especially proud of...

The most awesome of all however, is the chant, R O Y A L Royaaaaal. It sounds especially so when you are a minute away from facing the first ball of a Royal Thomian Match. Boy, did it send a shiver up my spine. Returning to Sri Lanka for the 2000 and 2003 encounters, I was exposed to the new version of that chant. Even better. How come an old Thomian could be choked with emotion listening to it??

Perhaps he is getting too old?



The Identity Crisis

Dinesh Chelvathurai
(continued from page 13)

... unique moniker to define us and perhaps the term "Romians" fits the bill.

Dipping for a moment into Chinese philosophy, the concept of yin and yang is used to describe how seemingly opposing forces are interconnected and interdependent. Royalists and Thomians are like yin and yang, complementary opposites within a greater whole. I would go so far as to say that we are all "Romians" at heart. We talk up the rivalry between the two schools but deep inside there is a grudging admiration and fondness for each other as displayed in the strong and lifelong

friendships that exist between so many Royalists and Thomians.

It is said of women that "we men can't live with them, we also can't live without them", a sentiment which applies equally to the symbiotic bond between Royalists and Thomians. Or as former Royal College Principal Bogoda Premaratne when asked to comment on the relationship between the two schools so eloquently stated, "There is no Royal without S.Thomas' and no S. Thomas' without Royal"

I tend to see the glass as being half full as opposed to half empty and instead of being considered "a Thomian who went wrong", I prefer to see myself as "a Royalist who got off to a great start"!

Thomians dominate Rugby Season



2009 Thomian team after their win against Dharmaraja

Last update: 6th July 2009

	P	W	L	D	T	C	P	CG	PF	PA	PTS	AVE
Royal	9	9	0	0	53	23	5	0	326	104	40.5	4.50
S.Thomas'	9	8	1	0	57	36	4	0	371	129	36.0	4.00
Trinity	9	6	3	0	45	25	7	1	299	199	27.5	3.06
Kingswood	9	5	4	0	52	32	4	1	329	155	22.5	2.50
Isipathana	9	5	4	0	24	10	6	2	164	155	21.5	2.39
St.Anthony's	9	3	6	0	31	11	9	1	207	271	15.0	1.67
St. Peter's	9	3	6	0	40	18	2	0	230	231	14.5	1.61
Dharmaraja	9	3	6	0	17	10	7	0	126	265	13.0	1.44
St. Joseph's	9	3	6	0	17	4	6	0	121	274	13.0	1.44
Mahanama	9	0	9	0	18	7	4	0	126	496	-	0.00

Columns: Played, Won, Lost, Drawn, Tries, Conversions, Penalties, Drop Goals, Points For, Points against, Points, Average

	Fixture	Result	Score	Venue
	18.04.09 STC Vs Ananda (friendly)	WIN	47/00	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia
1)	24.04.09 STC Vs Royal	LOSS	33/37	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia
2)	02.05.09 STC Vs Isipathana	WIN	28/12	Havelocks, Colombo
3)	16.05.09 STC Vs Trinity	WIN	26/17	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia
4)	22.05.09 STC Vs St. Joseph's	WIN	38/13	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia
5)	06.06.09 STC Vs St. Anthony's	WIN	52/25	Nittewela, Kandy
6)	13.06.09 STC Vs Mahanama	WIN	98/07	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia
7)	20.06.09 STC Vs St. Peter's	WIN	36/03	Bambalapitiya, Colombo
8)	27.06.09 STC Vs Kingswood	WIN	14/00	Bogambara, Kandy
9)	04.07.09 STC Vs Dharmaraja	WIN	46/15	STC Grounds, Mt Lavinia

Our Arasu picks the MVPs (Most Valuable Players)

OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS IN THE THOMIAN RUGBY TEAM 2009.

Roshanka Kodithuwakku - Back row forward, hard hitter with a solid defence.

Anurudha Villawara - Best centre in schools rugby, brilliant cover defender and a nippy runner.

Jeremy Fernando - Full back with a solid defence and a counter attacking player.

Rajindra Gunasekera - No 8 player solid tackler and an excellent ball carrier.

Shaveen Kapuwatte - Captain of the side utility back who could play at stand-off or inside three quarter.

The Thomian rugby coach, Jivan Gunathileka, picks the school season's best XV for The Papare

- 1).Nikira Senanayake (RC)
- 2).Roshanka Kodithuwakku (STC)
- 3).Sachin David (STC)
- 4).Kalana Amarasinghe (RC)
- 5).Janik Jayasuriya (STC)
- 6).Hashtika Bandaranayake (RC)

- 7).Rajitha Abeykoon (KCK)
- 8).Hamza Hassen (RC)
- 9).Roshan Weeraratne (KCK) - Vice Captain
- 10).Naren Dhason (RC) - Captain
- 11).Vishwamithra Jayasinghe (IC)
- 12).Shaveen Kapuwatte (STC)
- 13).Anurudda Villawara (STC)
- 14).Kenon Armstrong (TCK)
- 15).Rajitha Sansoni (KCK)

Guru Thomians Celebrate Golden Jubilee

(extracts from Sunday Times – 5th April 2009)

There was a historic gathering at S. Thomas' College, Gurutalawa on February 28 and on March 1 when around 200 old boys of the school converged on their alma mater from around the World for their annual re-union weekend and the 50th Annual General Meeting of the STCG Old Boys' Association. Among them were the founder Secretary P. S. Duleepkumar and pioneer OBA members Bradman Weerakoon and Gerald de Alwis.

Accommodation was provided at the junior dormitories - part of the original building erected by Dr. Hayman and the facilities were 'five star'. The food was, as usual, of very high quality. Old Boys' Day commenced with the annual Old Boys vs. Present Boys cricket match. The Old Boys team won by one run. The atmosphere at the college grounds was that of a mini 'Big Match'! A sumptuous lunch was followed by a swimming tournament, a basketball match and the traditional volleyball match. At 5p.m. the newly installed cricket Astro Turf and practice wicket donated by Sri Lanka Cricket was declared open by a pioneer old boy - former member of the Board of Governors and Manager of the School Gerald A. W. de Alwis who had been instrumental in obtaining the generous donation.

The AGM was preceded by a tribute to the school with a Powerpoint presentation. Five trees were planted outside the Dining Hall to commemorate the 50 years. The traditional Sunday morning service was followed by fellowship breakfast after which the old boys departed, winding up yet another successful reunion weekend. A special Service of Thanksgiving to celebrate the Golden Jubilee was also held on Saturday March 7, 2009 at the Chapel of the Transfiguration in Mount Lavinia. This service was followed by a time of fellowship at which the Hayman Foundation & Trust Fund was launched...

Bertie Wijesinghe puts some runs on the board

Bertie Wijesinghe, an Old Thomian of Sri Lankan cricket fame, and wife Dorothy celebrated 60 years of marriage on 30th March this year. The Sunday Times (March 29th, 2009) in a tribute titled "An enduring innings of give and take" refer to these soulmates as the "cricket fanatic and the beauty queen."

Bertie played for College from 1936 to 1938 (captain – 1938). In 1945/46 he coached the under 14 team captained by our very own Peter Weerakoon. Besides coaching cricket at College, Bertie represented the SSC and All Ceylon and was a very fluent commentator alongside Lucien de Zoysa, at times joined by the late Aubrey Ebert. In addition, he was also a teacher at STC and Trinity in English, Latin, History and Geography. Bertie was also the Sports Editor of the Daily News and Features Editor of the Sunday Observer between 1951 and 1969.

A service was held at the College Chapel to celebrate this occasion, surrounded by family and friends. The hymns at this service were the same ones sung 60 years ago.



New Member Alerts!

We welcome the following new members:

Ajith Abeynaike
Chami Akmeemana
Roshan Aponso,
Yushantha Gomes
Rajiv Jayasena
Chanaka Seneviratne
Kristian Silva (Associate)

We trust that they will get value and enjoyment from the activities of the OBA and we look forward to their active participation in the affairs of the OBA.

Regards,

Trevor Meares
Membership Secretary

STC OBA (Australia) Members

Help us keep you informed of OBA and STC news. If you don't see your name on pages 17 or 18,
please contact the OBA's Membership Secretary
- Trevor Meares on (03) 9763 9825 or 0402 338 637, or by email to tameares@bigpond.com

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To All Old Boys

If you have an interesting anecdote about your days at STC or its branches or some interesting titbits about the after school life of a fellow Thomian (even a teacher) or just remember the good old days as they used to be; please send in your articles, letters, poems, stories, etc.

For full details of any of the functions and events, ensure that you receive a copy of the next edition of "*Thomiana*". **If you have not paid already, please renew your annual subscription for 2009.**

Similarly, it is vital that you advise us of changes to your contact details in order to ensure that this publication reaches you. We urge members who continue to receive their Thomiana in the mail to **kindly advise us of your email address**, as the OBA can then email it to you (at absolutely no cost), saving a tidy sum on the printing and postage.

The Membership Secretary
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