



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,

I am truly honoured to have been once again entrusted with the task of leading the Executive Committee that would manage the affairs of the OBA.

You will notice that this edition of the THOMIANA pays special attention to STC Gurutalawa. The young and energetic Headmaster, Rev Marc Billimoria, has sent us a detailed report of what has already been achieved and has appealed for support to continue to develop the school. I urge you to respond to his appeal and help make Gurutalawa great again.

Back here in Melbourne, the first event in our calendar is the Seniors' Lunch, an event that always draws a crowd that can best be described as classical Thomians. We're often told that "old Thomians never die, they just fade away" and whoever said that hasn't been to our Seniors' Lunch. The laughter and energy that is evident at this event, each year, is proof that our seniors show no sign of fading away. The very sight of their old school pals seems to bring back a mischievous twinkle in many an eye. Please look out for the photographs on our website.

The next events in the Thomian OBA Calendar will be the Transfiguration Service and the Annual Dinner Dance in August. The Dinner Dance is our only real fund raising event and it helps the OBA subsidise the cost of almost all the other events in our calendar as well as respond to funding requests from Sri Lanka and Australia. Unsatisfied with the quality of the service at the Hilton over the last few years, we've opted to move to the Park Hyatt, a classy venue that has a 6 Star rating. This year's theme of 'A Nite in White Satin', promises to set the tone for what we hope will be a memorable night. As most of you are aware, the ticket cost for the dinner dance often barely covers the venue cost and the OBA relies on raffle ticket sales, event sponsorship and souvenir advertisements to cover the entertainment and other costs and also generate the funds required for the OBA's calendar of events. To this end, I appeal to you to search your network of family, friends and business colleagues for sponsors or souvenir advertisers who can help us ensure this year's Dinner Dance is a success.

Esto Perpetua

Chris Varney
President

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Special thanks to Maurice Fairweather, Peter Weerakoon, Lanka Nesiah, Dr Lalith Mendis, Arasu Saravanamuttu, Ajit Jayasekara and Capt Godfrey Goonetilleke for their contributions in this issue of the THOMIANA. The Editorial Sub Committee 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.

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

EDITORIAL

The Guru Appeal... our *raison d'être*

There is a lot about the French that we often find difficult to like or understand. They make funny looking cars, they pay a lot of money to eat snails (escargot), their sense of fashion can be mystifying and the women are apparently known to flash the odd hairy armpit.

Whilst the Cholas, the Portuguese, The Dutch and the British chose to invade the old country from the West, the French preferred to "come the other way" and landed in Trincomalee in 1782. Strangely, they came to Trincomalee to fight against the British in the American War of Independence. Needless to say, the French attempt at conquest and colonisation lasted less than six months and is now a forgotten footnote in the island's history.

In more recent years, the French invented 'Minitel,' a video-text service that made perfect sense to the French but was shunned by the rest of the World who opted for the World Wide Web.

The French may be a strange lot, but the British colonies borrowed a lot from the French by way of language, culture and collective consciousness. One such borrowing is the phrase, ***raison d'être***, meaning the ***reason for being***.

The English, like their Germanic ancestors, are known to make a discipline of separating 'reason' and 'emotion.' In contrast, the French blend them like they do egg and oil to produce mayonnaise. Wikipedia explains ***raison d'être*** as a phrase that suggests an "intense emotional attraction to a course of action." In other words, emotion is reason enough to do something... As Thomians, we get the idea.

Our Thomian ethos ensures that we do the right thing because we want to do it, not only because we have to. We

take pride in taking the high road, often at a higher cost, because in the end that is what sets us apart from the rest of the mob.

If all that is true about us Thomians, then can we choose to ignore our ***raison d'être***? Our founder, Bishop Chapman, urged Thomians to be "good as well as wise" and we'd do well to heed his call and respond with our wallets to the appeal from STC Gurutalawa. In this newsletter and by email, the Rev. Marc Billimoria has appealed for support from the global Thomian fraternity for funding that can help build and sustain STC Gurutalawa.

The OBA has previously channeled a few thousand dollars to Guru for various projects and has once again responded to the Headmaster's call, albeit with a smaller amount. Unfortunately, the OBA's funds are limited and have to be dispersed sparingly. The OBA regularly receives and responds to similar appeals from Mount Lavinia, Prep School and Bandarawala as well as from other worthy causes like the Mother Theresa's Home in Ratmalana and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Given that the OBA's response falls far short of the Headmaster's expectations, the Guru Appeal must be cast wider to the network of Thomians who have built their lives and careers on the solid foundations of the Thomian experience that binds us all. It doesn't matter if we schooled at Mount, Prep, Guru or Bandarawala. Our seeds were sown in Muttuwal almost a 160 years ago.

If memories of our school days quickens our pulse and if the pitch perfect rendition of the College Song raises goose bumps, then we must have what it takes within us to respond to the Guru Appeal. How much is irrelevant but we must respond. To give back as we have taken is our reason for being... that is our ***raison d'être***

Esto Perpetua

Vasee Nesiah
Editor

THOMIAN NEWS



Cricket - Anura Tennekoon, in charge again

Old Thomian Captain Anura Tennekoon was appointed the Manager of the National Cricket Team in February. The former star cricketer is an Old Boy of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia and was hailed as a cricketing genius even during his days at STC. Other Old Thomians who held the same post include, Ajit Jayasekera, Michael Tissera, Duleep Mendis and Guy de Alwis.

Tennekoon, former All-Ceylon and Sri Lanka batsman and captain during 1960s and 1970s, was the CEO of the local cricket board from 2000 to 2003. He was also the Manager of the Sri Lanka 'A' team and was travelling round the country in search of new talent in his capacity as a National Selector when he was offered the new post, the SLC added in a communiqué.

SLC will be banking on his experience and temperament to guide the national team Anura is well known as a soft spoken gentleman with a superb command of English and Sinhalese.

New CEO at NDB Bank -- Russell de Mel



National Development Bank Plc (NDB Bank) Chairman and Board of Directors have appointed Russell de Mel as the Bank's Chief Executive Officer with effect from March 26.

De Mel is an Old Thomian and he succeeds Eran Wickramaratne (an Old Royalist) who has resigned from his post to enter politics. De Mel is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (UK) and has served NDB Bank for nearly 30 years. He has also served the Bank as Vice President and Head of Corporate Banking.

TABLE TENNIS -- BUDDY WINS GOLD and HELPS AUSTRALIA BEAT NEW ZEALAND

Dr Barclay (Buddy) Reid represented Australia with distinction at the Veterans Table Tennis Championship in Auckland, New Zealand. Australia won the Test and Buddy demolished his Kiwi opponents.

Buddy's medal tally for the tournament:

- > Gold Medal- Over 65 & 70 Mens Singles
- > Gold Medal- Over 70 Mixed & Mens Doubles
- > Silver Medal- Over 65 Mens Doubles.
- > Silver Medal- Over 65 Mixed Doubles.

Old Thomian and ex-serviceman Maurice Gibson injured when Truck ploughs into veterans at Melbourne's Anzac Day Parade

Maurice Gibson and six other members of the Ceylon Services Association were rushed to hospital in critical condition, after the Chev-Blitz truck traveling behind them surged suddenly. The accident happened on St Kilda Rd, near Southbank Boulevard as the veterans paraded on ANZAC day.



Kalasuri Arisen Ahubudu (Aashuboda) celebrated his 90th birthday on 18 March 2010, while visiting his son in Brisbane, Australia



In Memoriam...

- > Tissa De Alwis - ex Honorary secretary and Vice President of the OBA
- > N. T Perera - ex Honorary secretary of the OBA, PTA, and President of the OTSC
- > A C M Jiffrey - Old boy of STC Gurutalawa
- > Roy W inter - Old boy of STC Gurutalawa
- > Piloo Lakdawala - Old boy of STC Gurutalawa
- > Daphne Gladys Abeynaike - wife of the late Orville Abeynaike
- > Phyllis Rosemary (Brohier) Wambeck - Mother of Keith Wambeck
- > Junette Tissera - Wife of Michael Tissera

For the latest Thomian news, scores and special events

www.STCobaAUST.org.au

The Guru Appeal - The Headmaster

Dear Old Thomian,

STC GURUTALAWA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Warm greetings from Guru.

I have decided to write to you as I know many of you old boys of STC at Gurutalawa and indeed of STC at Mount Lavinia are not aware of the steps that have been taken to raise standards here at the unique campus of S. Thomas' College in the hills of Uva. Despite continued limitations we are taking one step at a time to pursue the goals and ideals that made this great school what it was and can be again.

Since January 2007 there have been many improvements effected that have enhanced the quality of life for those who live here as students or staff and undoubtedly contributed to the continual raising of standards at Guru. For your information I am including below a list of the major items of our Infrastructure Development Programme that we have attended to during the period up to December 2009 to improve the infrastructure and facilities we offer Guru Thomians.

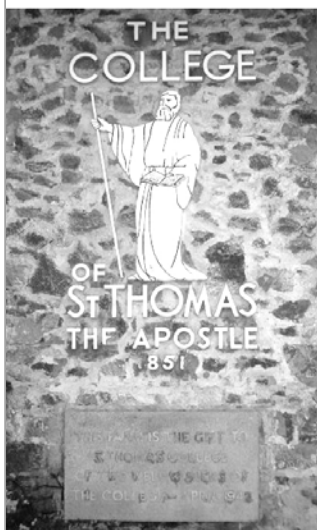


REV MARC BILLIMORIA

I have deliberately not referred to the improvement of standards in other spheres of life at Guru about which I have elaborated in my Prize Day Reports and annual Report at the STCG OBA AGMs of 2008 & 2009. Needless to say there have been considerable strides taken.

With funds contributed by the Bishop, Board of Governors, Old Boys and Friends of Guru.

1. The Water Problem that plagued the school in the past has been solved to a great extent by the restoration of unused storage tanks and the utilization of the deep well and other wells on the campus.
2. The kitchen, dining room and toilets of the Headmaster's Bungalow were renovated.
3. The Chaplain's Rooms adjoining the Chapel and occupied by Revd H. C. Goodchild were provided with a brand new toilet and bathroom.
4. Brand new Night Toilets with up to date facilities were installed in all the dormitories [other than the former Winchester (now Hayman Junior) by the Basket Ball Court, Illangakoon near the Sick Room (part of the old Dining Hall) and Jayasinghe by the Stores] with the help and support of the OBAs in the UK, Australia and Sri Lanka.
5. A brand new set of day toilets and wash rooms for the Junior Dormitories were opened in 2008 thanks to the efforts of the STCG OBA in its 50th anniversary year.
6. The roof of Read Junior was given extensive repairs although only the timber could be replaced due to the cost.
7. The Davidson Dormitory by the Headmaster's Bungalow was restored and rewired and is now being used to house the aesthetic subjects, agriculture and practical technical skills classrooms.
8. A model classroom was renovated and furnished in the Middle School by an old boy.

FOUNDATION PLAQUE

9. The former Chummary that was in a state of dilapidation and on the verge of being demolished was converted into the stables for the four horses donated by Mr. Jacques Huyghebaert who functioned as Advisor on the revival of Guru and overlooked the infrastructure development programme in 2007 & 2008.
10. The drainage system of the Keble & Blanchard dormitories was completely replaced.
11. An entirely new set of toilets and wash rooms was erected for the Blanchard Dormitory for Girls at Keble by Ladies' College, Colombo.
12. The Staff Quarters allotted to Mr V. W. Dikkumbura was restored with funds provided by an old boy.
13. New school-time toilets were built for the girls and boys of the Middle and Upper School and for the main Staff Room in the Upper School by Brandix.
14. The College Office was computerised and networked with funds from an old boy.

Cont...

The Guru Appeal - The Headmaster(cont...)

15. Two Dialog TV connections were provided for the students by an old boy and a parent.

16. The 'Isolation Room' of the Sick Room that was once the home of Dr and Mrs Hayman has been given a new look and now serves as the College Guest Room that can be booked by old boys, parents and others for short stays.

17. 5 brand new Computers were purchased for the IT Unit with funds from the OBA in Canada.

18. 50 new desks and chairs were provided through funds from the OBA in California.

19. Iron Bunk Beds were provided by an old boy in Australia through the STCG OBA.

20. The College Bakery was recommissioned and a dough mixer was donated to the bakery by an old boy through the STCG OBA.

21. A multi chopper was donated by an old boy for the purpose of making our own compost etc out of our large amounts of waste available on the campus.

22. A new sound system, vestments, altar linen, hangings, hymn books and bibles were provided for the Chapel by an old boy.

With Funds from Sherborne School (Dr R. L. Hayman's alma mater in the UK):

23. Pavements and drains were constructed for the Keble dormitory block, the Keble classrooms, the main Dining Hall, the Middle School and Upper School blocks.

24. A new Chummary for single male staff was opened below the Simon Perera Block of Classrooms and houses 6 to 8 single male staff.

25. The entire roof of the Upper School block was replaced with new timber and asbestos sheets.

26. The Middle School classrooms were renovated.

27. A platform was erected in the Dining Hall for the High Table along the lines of the old Dining Hall.

28. A dining room was put up in the space between the kitchen and squash court for the Support. Staff to have their meals and an Office Room for the Food Warden was put up in the Pantry.

29. A ceiling was installed for the entire Office and the Exam Room was enlarged.

30. A Duplo Machine and Computer were purchased for Examination work.

31. The roof of the Lower School classroom block was repaired and replaced where necessary.

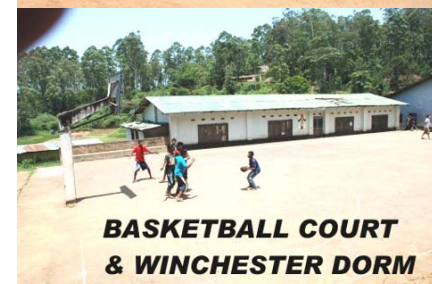
32. The roof of the Keble Dormitory was repaired and repainted.

At present there are three major projects for which I am trying to raise funds as priorities.

1. The upgrading and renovation of the Swimming Pool – Phase 1 is almost over at a cost of 2 million rupees donated by three or four old boys. Phase 2 requires at least 1.8 million to 2 million. Once completed the Guru Pool will not only have a new look, but as the only pool in the area will be able to generate an income for maintenance etc.

2. Urgent repairs to the Headmaster's Van and College Van that will cost approximately Rs 250,000/- per vehicle.

3. The upgrading of the IT Unit with Broadband, new computers et al – Rs 510,000/-



Cont...

The Guru Appeal - The Headmaster (cont...)

The long term wish list includes the following:

1. Replacing of the roofs of the remaining Junior Dormitories
2. New day toilets for the Senior Dormitories and the Primary Dormitories on par with those of the Junior Dormitories.
3. Renovation of single staff accommodation for lady teachers at Keble
4. Repairs to and renovations of the various bungalows and quarters for married staff
5. Renovation of the College Hall
6. More double (bunk) beds for the dormitories
7. More desks and chairs for the classrooms
8. Repainting of the Chapel and polishing of the Chapel furnishings in time for the 65th anniversary of the Chapel in December.
9. Upgrading of all classrooms with a large white board, shelves and a cupboard for each class.

These are projects that may be taken up by individual old boys or Class Groups. Should you feel inclined to support your alma mater and join with us in the raising of standards over the next two years, please contact me to find out how you can be of help or how you could send a donation for the projects identified as priorities for this year. Be assured that donations received will be utilised only for the purpose for which they are made and all donations will be duly acknowledged and receipted.

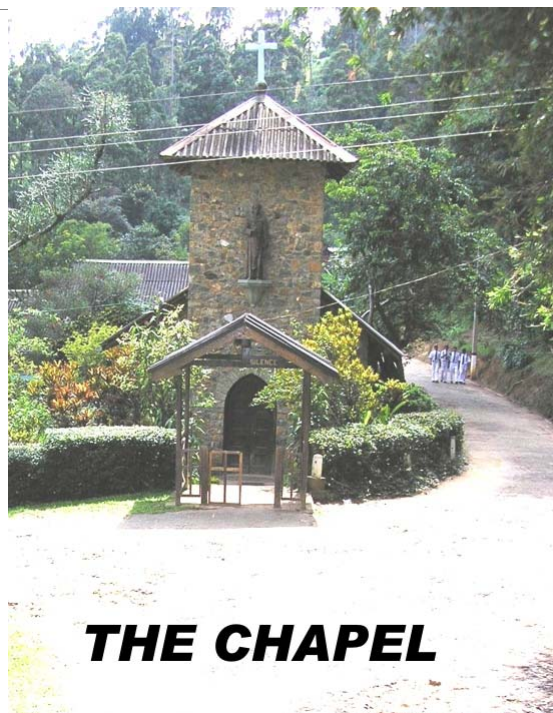
"Our College has not reared us without expecting from us in return some nurture fee. She has given us nurture in order that she might engage for herself our best energies and talent, permitting us to use for our needs so much and so much only as she does not require for her own. The College needs your help to survive. Every Old Boy must give the College the nurture fee he owes." [Warden Neville de Alwis to the Old Boys of STC ML, 1984]

I look forward to your collaboration and solidarity.

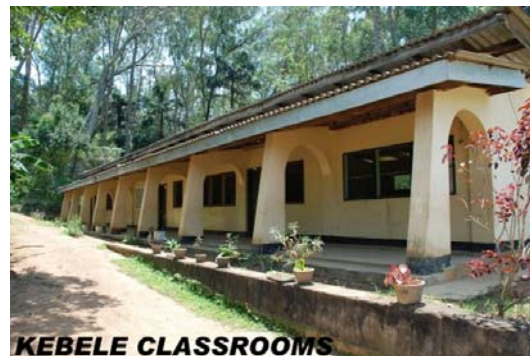
ESTO PERPETUA!

Warm regards,

The Revd Marc Billimoria
Headmaster



THE CHAPEL



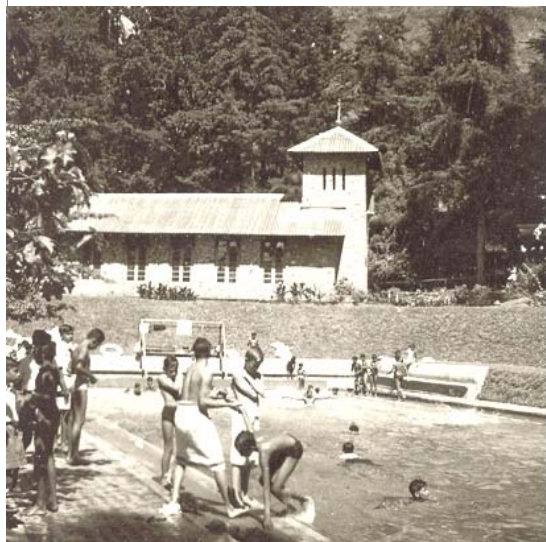
KEBELE CLASSROOMS

**DONATE TO STC GURUTALAWA
- HELP MAKE IT GREAT AGAIN**



by cheque in favour of:
S. Thomas' College OBA
(Note: Please write the donor's name
and the words 'Guru Appeal'
on the back of the cheque)

or by Internet Banking:
Account: *S. Thomas' College OBA*
Ref: *Guru <insert Name of Donor>*
Bank: *Commonwealth Bank*
BSB: 063-151 Account: 10029468



Reminiscences of Gurutalawa

by Peter Weerakoon (Gurutalawa 1947- 1952)

The Guru Appeal - The Student

Those were the halcyon days of yore. The term would start with the boys from Colombo and beyond meeting on Platform 7 of the Colombo Fort Railway Station to take the Up Country Day Train. Besides the crying and the sad goodbyes to parents there would also be sense of joy and happiness of meeting up with old friends, whom I recall were L.M.Fernando, Majintha Perera, Nicky Rose, Micheal Silva, Bandu Wanigasekera, V V Vandersmaght, John (Bill Bunter) Marasinghe, Peter Ondaatjee, John de Vos and the two boxers, Joe "Louie" Somasunderam and D.G. Welaratne. There were also many others whose names seem to eluded me. We were allotted two reserved compartments on the train and the Masters in Charge would see that the seniors went to one compartment and the juniors, to another. Amongst the Masters who regularly traveled with us on the train was Mr. A.M.S Abeyawardene, a strict disciplinarian and Cadet Master who had served in the army and was never known to spare the cane. In contrast, Mr. Ashley Tennekoon who was more a Poet and loved to make spontaneous rhythms. Then there used to be the most respected Mr. Kילו Chapmen, husband of Betty Chapmen, elder brother to Doctor Ben and Ivor Chapmen and Rowena Cook. Also on the train were Old Boys going back to work at College whilst awaiting University results. All along the way, at certain stations, we would pick up more boys like Jagath and the late General Rajan Wijeratne and S.K. Alawwa. Larry Schokman would have entrained at Gampola and at Nawalapitiya we would await the coming of Cyrus and Edward (Ted) Bartholomuesz.

We would of course indulge in normal school boy fun with the "Wade sellers" and the "Tippy Sellers (Toffee) -- where one boy would buy from one window whilst another boy would pinch something off the tray from the other window. Meanwhile, others would be on the look out for the Masters.

Our trains were powered by the famous Coal engines (the Diesels came much later), with one engine pulling and the other pushing through the lush green hill sides.

At Nanu Oya Station, the Seniors would disembark, with trunks and suitcases and climb into the College Bus driven by none other than that indomitable *Bus Simon*. The drive to Gurutalawa was about one and half hours drive and the Juniors went on to Bandarawela which took another two and half hour train journey. If all went well, *Bus Simon* made it to Guru and on to Bandarawela to pick up the other boys, on time. As the Bus drove up to the Gates of The College every voice rang out in harmony to sing the College Song, which echoed off *Warden Hill* or *Gongala*, loud and clear, for all to know that we were back to a place so dear.

Dr and Mrs. Hayman, Rev'd Foster and few members of the staff would assemble at the Main Entrance to welcome each and every boy, as they disembarked from the bus. This was easy in those days, as we had only ninety nine boarders and one day boy in school at that time. There would be a list of names on the Notice Board indicating your House and Dorm and that was where you stayed for the entire term. It was one mad dash to the dorm to get the best bed and position. Some did not want to be too close to the Prefects Cubicle or the Night Toilet and often the first term's newcomers would get those two or three spots.

The junior dorms were formed on a Quadrangle, and had Winchester, Read, Garnier and De Saram, the main toilets were outside, and served all the dorms. The water was fresh from the water tank and icy cold in the mornings. Today these toilets have been improved and modernized with the support from OBA's and other Donors in Sri Lanka and around the globe. During the first few years at Guru the Junior Dorm had a Manna (a native grass, which grew abundantly in the hills) thatched roof.



The Chapel of St Francis of Assisi was the focal point of the College at the entrance to the Farm, adjoined by Garnier Junior, and the quarters used by the much loved and greatly respected Rev'd A.J. Foster. Below the chapel was the first swimming pool which was a square -- five foot deep and twenty feet in length and breadth. This pool was popularly named the "Duck Pond" The New Swimming Pool was donated by Dr Hayman in 1952 and completed in 1953. He also donated the pool in Mount Lavinia when he was there before the outbreak of the war. Somewhere in 1949-50, the classrooms, which were about a mile away from the main building, were set on fire by a disgruntled minor employee. A colleague of mine at the time, L.M.Fernando recalls that it was one Rex Wanigasekera who first saw the flames from the Senior Dorm and drew attention to all by yelling "Fire Fire" until the house Prefects opened up the Dorms. The Senior Dorms were directly opposite the classrooms, as the crow flies, but about a one mile walk on the normal road. I remember hosing water on to the junior dorm roofs during the dry month of August *Katchan Winds*, as a precaution.

Gurutalawa was opened in 1942, gifted by Leslie De Saram, cousin of Warden Canon R.S De Saram. They had no children, and were proceeding to England to settle down there. It was gifted to STC as Mount Lavinia campus was taken over by the British Army as an Army Hospital after the fall of Singapore to the Japanese. The *School by the Sea* broke into four segments with one branch at Girls High School on Hotel Road in Mount Lavinia with Rev'd Barnabus in Charge, where I remember as a junior, the late George Arndt, Morley Pereira, and Dr Ben Chapman. The second one at St Paul's Girls School in Milagiriya, the third one at Getambe Peradeniya with Mr. Davidson in Charge and one at Guru with Canon RS de Saram in Charge.

Cont...

The Guru Appeal - The Student(cont...)

Getamba was closed down as it was affected by floods and the boys transferred to Gurutalawa. When Mount Lavinia reopened after the army handed over the college, Warden de Saram moved to Mount and left Dr Hayman as Sub Warden at Gurutalawa.

Besides the normal curriculum of the school there were many other activities one could partake in. Farming was taught by the Farm Manager Mr. Thomas and later Mr. Pegler, Carpentry by Mr. Scott. Each house had its own veggie patch and prizes were awarded for the best Vegetable garden at the Annual Prize Giving. We had a vibrant Scout Group, the 3rd Nuwara Eliya. A Junior and Senior Cadet Platoon commanded by Mr.

F.L.Amerasinghe and by Mr. A.M.S. Abeyawardene. I remember marching over hill and dale, stream and rocks in full battle dress to the Army Camp at Diyatalawa for the annual Cadet Camp. Two miles from the camp, we'd break for twenty minute to polish and straighten up the gear and march on into the Army, with the rifles on the shoulder as smart as if we were on parade. The Hiking Club explored the areas near and far and walked to Horton Plains and Worlds End, under the watch of Rev'd Foster and Mr. Ashley Tennekoon. There was also a miniature Rifle Club and some of us who were keen on agriculture were allowed to spend time in the Dairy and Poultry area. The milk from the cows and the eggs from the chickens helped make the school self-sufficient to some extent. There were also a small herd of Black Merion sheep and a wonderful Orchard of fruit trees that included Loquats, Guavas, Pears, Peaches, Naval Washington Oranges and the very special Persimmon tree. This tree was covered by wire netting and cared for by a man who was mute, but he could still identify any culprit who dared venture uninvited into his territory. The farm also had a great Big Stud Bull, which had an encounter with the Bursar's car and the Stud came out the winner!



**DE SARAM
& GARNIER DORMS**

We had to play games and take part in all activities, whether for the school or for the House. Cricket was the most popular, second came Tennis, then Soccer, followed by Hockey, Athletics, and Boxing. In the early 1950's, we traveled to Jaffna to play cricket against the Jaffna College First Eleven and to Batticaloa to play against St Michael's College. My friend and planting colleague Larry Schokman was also a member of this team.

I recall with fond memories Mr and Mrs Kularatne who were in charge of the Kitchen and the "Tuck Shop." After a tiring game of Cricket, we'd trek two miles back from the playing fields, up and down hills, to a mug of hot Ovaltine and a plate full of "Pittu" that cost us about 15 cents. A quick icy cold bath in the sprout above the miniature shooting range and we'd run to the Dorms for quick change before going for Prep in the Dining cum Assembly Hall. One hour of hard study later, we go back to the dorm to drop off the books and come back again for Dinner. A sedate walk back to the Dorms for Room Time and Lights Out until morning. The meal time dress code for juniors was always shirts, shorts and sock and shoes, whilst the seniors would be in longs, sweater or Blazer. Forks knives and spoons were compulsory at mealtime.

If you fell ill, you were never sent home unless it was necessary. Mrs. Hayman, an Army Nurse, was a Matron who was able to handle any calamity that came along, whether it was influenza, Chicken Pox or Measles. Doctor Scharenguivel, another old Thomian who had a practice in Bandarawela, would visit if urgently needed or drop in on his monthly visit. Mrs. Hayman also took it upon herself to treat a F.R.V. Cooray's leg that was broken whilst playing Hockey. He had slipped into the boundary drain and we carried him on a rough stretcher up to the Tennis Court, the edge of the road that was accessible by car. From that point onwards, he was splinted up and sent to Badulla Hospital in the College Van with Mrs. Hayman following in her Lancaster Car. I recall spending my Easter Holidays in the "Chickery", as the Chicken Pox ward was called (Read House Junior was converted to the Chickery) with the late John Marasinghe, Bandu Wanigasekera and the sick boy 'Barathan.' To while away the time, Mrs. Hayman would teach us to play Canasta and Rev'd Foster taught us to play Patience.

Note: There is an unofficial Gurutalawa Support Group here in Australia, formed by Ed Rowland and Peter Weerakoon. A collection made by this group, in 2009, helped the Guru OBA set up a Sports Fund. The Fund's annual interest helps purchase games materials for the school, funds a Coach and makes possible an ex Gratia payments to Staff who supervise and encourage Sport.

I am certain that most of us who went to Gurutalawa as little boys, came out as young men ready to face the world. We were groomed to be Thomians and men by that great and illustrious educationist Dr. R.L.Hayman, his close and loyal friend Rev'd A.J.Foster and by numerous other great teachers of our time.

Gurutalawa was built on a good foundation and some of its pioneer students are still its greatest supporters. In the Australian OBA we have Raji Casinander and Ivor Kelaart and elsewhere we have others like John Habaragoda, P.S. Duleep Kumar and my two brothers (late Ronnie and Bradmen Weerakoon). As age gives away to younger old boys, let the wave of enthusiasm that was instilled in all those of us who passed through the gates of Gurutalawa never cease, and let us remember the good times and the bad, and encourage the present to hold fast to what is good, and guide the College to the heights of its Glory Days. Old "Gurutalawians" now is the time to give back to your Alma Mater what it gave to you..

"Let us not ask what Gurutalawa did for me, but what have I done for GURUTALAWA?"

ESTO PERPETUA

Memories of Gurutalawa

by Lanka Nesiah

The Guru Appeal - The Teacher

In December 1960, I had just sat for what was then known as the University Entrance Examination and was due to leave school from the College Arts A form. If I was successful in gaining admission to the University, the academic year would begin in July 1961. I was going to be at a loose-end for six months and so wrote to Dr Hayman asking if he had any opening for me for six months. He promptly wrote back saying that a master was going on study leave for six months and would I be prepared act for him? He offered me board and lodging and an allowance of Rs 60/- per month. Having lived for years queuing up on Thursdays after school for the weekly pocket money of 50 cents, Dr Hayman's offer seemed extremely generous. I immediately wrote accepting his offer - before he could change his mind!

Somewhere in mid January, I travelled by train to Nanu Oya to start my first "job". The college van met me at Nanu Oya and I found myself going to Guru with another six or seven other boys who had travelled in the same train. One of them happened to be Earlson Kellar, the then Head Prefect at Guru. When I arrived at college, I was given accommodation in the staff 'chummary' in a tiny room facing the senior dorms. It seemed smaller than my cubicle in Copleston House! But it was to be the beginning of one of the happiest six months of my life.

I was to act for Mr Samaranayake who had taken leave to study and sit for his London Arts degree. I was to teach History in the Lower 6th and English, History and Civics in the Lower 4th, Upper 4th and 5th forms. I was also Master-in-charge of Boxing. I do not know how much I taught the boys but I learnt a lot about life myself. In the evenings, we had boxing only on two days and on the other days, I joined the boys at practices in cricket or basketball. I also assisted Mr D Jayasuriya with the work of the Junior Literary Society and for the first time produced a magazine 'Junior'.

As one just out of school at Mount, I got on well with both the boys and the staff. By the end of the first term, I think I knew almost all the boys by name. On week-ends, we went on hikes or trips or played cricket matches. I played with the staff cricket team in matches at Nuwara Eliya and Bandarawela. I also took the school cricket team to play a match at Badulla against Uva College where Mr Gerald de Alwis, an old boy, was Principal. We went on several hikes to Horton Plains and Diyatalawa. I joined the staff and boys on a trip to climb Adam's Peak, the first and only time I have done the climb. The staff used to meet on most Friday evenings for drinks and dinner. I remember one such evening in Mr George Pillai's house. As the evening grew, the exuberance of those present also grew and the party became a little noisy. Dr Hayman's bungalow was directly across the fields and he quietly walked across with his torch and from the roadway below gave us a gentle reminder that our noise level needed to be toned down.

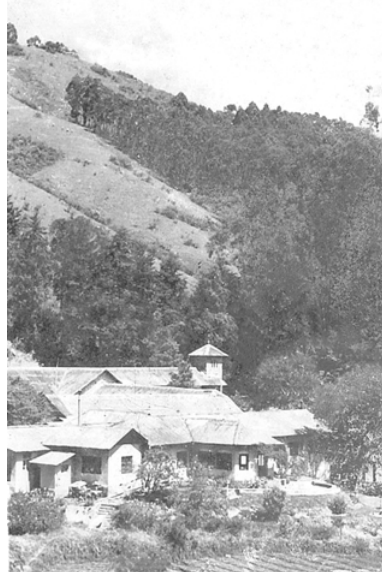
We had a superb team of staff then at Guru. The school owed much, very much, to the leadership of Dr Hayman and his able lieutenant Fr Foster, the Chaplain. The senior staff members included Messrs Chapman, Jayasinghe, Oswin Wright, Gnanamuttu, Chinniah, George Pillai, Laffir and Marasinghe. Mrs Hayman was in charge of the sick room and Mrs Jayawickrema in charge of the Commissariat and feeding the boys. Those were truly the heyday of Guru.

I have kept in touch with Guru ever since I left. The school went through a bad patch, particularly following the death of my cousin Bala Gunasegaram, who was Head Master for far too brief a period. But thanks to Jacques Huyghebaert and the present Head Master Fr Marc Billimoria, Guru is slowly but surely returning to its earlier glory. I am glad Fr Marc has started the Hayman Foundation not only to perpetuate the memory of a person who strode Guru like a colossus for the first twenty years but also to bring back Guru to that early glorious era. From humble beginnings, Dr Hayman built up Guru to be a magnificent edifice. Let us therefore support the efforts to maintain and build further on that edifice.

Esto Perpetua!

ALL ROUND SCHOLAR	
For the Year	
1955	M.V. MURUGAPPAH
1956	Y.S. HETUN
1957	N.T. ABESSEKERA
1958	E.K. DE VOS
1959	L.N.L. PERERA
1960	R. PATHMANATHAN
1961	D.R.S. GUNAWARDENA
1962	M.P. RANASINGHE
1963	
1964	M.R.R. HOOLE
1965	T.M. HERATH
1966	D.C. DE V. GUNASEKARA
1967	S. SRINIVAS
1968	D. ARAMBEPOLA
1969	L.C. GUNAWARDENA

"Guru is slowly but surely returning to its earlier glory"



STC GURU & GONAGALA MOUNTAIN



Long time between drinks...1960-2010

by Maurice Fairweather

(1949 to 61 -- Winchester, Stone and Miller-Chapman)

Six months or so ago, Shirley (P) Wijesinha from Miami touched base with me and 'floated' the idea of a 50 year reunion of the 1960 Royal Thomian Cricket team. I initially passed over the idea, but in subsequent communications with the rival Royal skipper Michael Dias gathered that our skipper Lareef Idroos had also mentioned the possibility with Mano (CEM) Ponniah on one of his trips to SL. In fact Lareef had generously matched the Royal Skipper's contribution to pay an advance to the RCGC for the venue. One thing led to another and after many conversations with Mike D, it was decided to have a joint 'gathering' of the two teams.

The next assignment was to convince the 11 Thomians members to attend. With a wee bit of cajoling this was done successfully. Five of us lived permanently overseas, Shirley W and Lareef I in the US, while Lorenz D'Silva, Keith laBrooy, Palitha Wanduragala and Maurice Fairweather were Oz based. Tom Thomas was on his 'sabbatical' sojourn in SL. Gamini Marapona, Michael Sproule, Mano Ponniah, and Mervyn(RM) Fernando are all SL based.

In passing, and lest I forget, I must take this opportunity to thank Mike Dias for the initial and the follow up organisation, as well as Mano Ponniah who though busy working, found the time to do a lot of follow up work.

I was the first 'foreigner' to arrive in very hot and humid Colombo (03/03). I had made earlier arrangements, again with Mike D to go 'outstation' (remember that word?). We spent a night at a mate's in Kurunegalla and here's where the Sri Lankan hospitality started, where every possible dish is prepared. I must mention a stopover on the way out of Colombo at a 'café' opposite the Ambepussa resthouse for a late breakfast. The fare consisting of cutliss, pattis etc is quite substantial and cheap. Among the delicacies I saw and had to eat it...an 'assme' (I hope the spelling is correct) after almost 40 years.

In Matale, it was wonderful to be hosted by Bhahthiya Jayaratne, a Thomian of a marginally earlier vintage and his charming and hospitable wife Mary and spend an idyllic day in the peaceful and cool climes of SL's mid country. My memory of Watagoda estate goes back 65 years and was really a journey into childhood.

Back in Colombo, on the Saturday 5 of us met at Hotel Renuka (recommended for their excellent and cheap, by Oz standards, (and NO I do not have a vested interest!) for dinner. Palitha Wanduragala from Sydney, Shirley W and SL based Ana Medonza and Eddie Edwards. When Ana M heard that PW was staying in a hotel, he immediately offered accommodation which was gratefully accepted, another demonstration of SL hospitality.

On Sunday SW and self took our life in our hands .SW (an infrequent visitor to SL) is less used to the type of travel, or should that be travail, and got a 3 wheeler (AKA a Tut Tut) to get us to College for the 7.30 am service. SW aged a few months in the 21 mins it took the hair raising ride to get us from the Liberty to College. There was no noticeable change in the rite of service, though there were fewer schoolboys due to the fact that the Boarding houses, as we knew them are no more. I was beguiled by the fact that as a student under celebrants like Fr Boyer Yin and Warden De saram and even Barnabas, and in this 'prestigious and elite' All Boys school (with apologies to non Thomians) that the current chaplain is a woman. That made for an interesting and quantum leap.

After the service we took a nostalgic walk around the College and were delighted to catch up with Mrs Pansy Gauder, who lives on College Avenue and is remarkably well for her 90 years. A short walk down Wattrapola Road we also caught up with Bertie Wijesinha also very well for his years, and his charming wife Dorothy.

THE THOMIAN CRICKET TEAM 1960



Seated L. to R. :- C. M. Ponniah, R. M. Fernando, M. F. Sproule (Vice-Capt), M. L. Idroos (Capt.) S. P. Wijesinghe and B. W. R. Thomas.
Standing L. to R. :- C. K. T. La Brooy, M. D. Fairweather, B. Gurusinghe (reserve) H. L. C. D'Silva; P. Wanduragala. G. S. Marapana, H. G. Patterson (reserve)
Seated on ground :- L. J. Brainard (reserve) and E. W. Scharenguivel (reserve)

ROYAL THOMIAN 1960

S. Thomas' College First Eleven Cricket Team
50 YEAR REUNION-12TH MARCH 2010



Standing (Left to Right) :- C.J.K. Labrooy, P. Wanduragala, M.D. Fairweather, H.L.C. d' Silva, G.S. Marapana, B.W.R. Thomas.
Seated (Left to Right) :- C.E.M. Ponniah, M.F. Sproule, M.L. Idroos (Capt), R.M. Fernando, S.P. Wijesinghe.

On another day SP and I caught up with a close friend and colleague, Lester Peiris one of the famous master's (black tie murder) sons who lives in Moratuwa. Yet again a vehicle was generously provided by another Old Thomian Mahen Perera and to cap his generosity we were taken to the Mount Hotel for another lunch.

The big combined team dinner was held on Tuesday 9th at the RCGC. It must be reflection on health and clean living of the 1960 Thomian team, that even tho some of us have been subjected to some 'disagreeable' illnesses/ailments, we were all 'alive and kicking' and relatively fit for our ages. As to the Royalists, one had gone to that great oval in the sky, while another declined to attend due to medical/mental problems. So we had the full XI while Royal 'fielded' only IX. The opinion that 9 of theirs were equal to 11 of ours was vigorously scoffed at. We were graced with the presence of several wives who attended as well.

It was remarkable how some of us had changed in the intervening 50 years and I unashamedly confess that I would have, with regret, have passed some on the street without any recognition.

As usual, a scrumptious buffet meal was provided, all for the cost of Rs 3500 per person plus a personal contribution of a bottle of duty free wine. A special commemorative polo shirt was also handed out. Group photographs of the team in almost the original seating arrangement were taken. The variation being that Mervyn (RM) Fernando had the flu in 1960 and was not present in the original.

Cont...

Long time between drinks...1960-2010 (cont...)

The current Warden Rev John Puddefoot was an honorary Guest, while past Thomian Captains, Ian (PI) Peiris and Michael Tissera and the Iconic Bertie Wijesinha were also welcome invitees. It was a nostalgic gathering; lots of yarns were exchanged. In fact, in his speech, Lareef mentioned an incident in the match where a successful appeal was made for a stumping of Royalist Lalith Senanayake. Our WK, Gamini Marapona however mentioned to Lareef that he did not think he had the ball in his hand and Lalith was called back. Cricket as we knew it was played in the truest tradition. Maybe Adam Gilchrist took a lesson from us?

Warden Puddefoot gave a strong speech, focussing on the sometimes undue interference of the Old Boys and how winning was becoming bigger than the game itself. The times they are a changing, and the Warden will probably have to walk a fine line between the enormous and continued support of the Old Boys and the perceived 'interference'. I see interesting times ahead.

The next day the entire team, attended the "all past cricketers dinner" at e Cinnamon Grand. Once again a superb spread was provide for Rs 2000/. Neil Chanmugam was was one of the 'movers and shakers' in the Organisation, as well as getting all us tickets to the Mustang tent. If anyone is contemplating ever attending the Cricketers dinner, bear in mind that pensioners are only charged 50%. However the wily Mano P, used the 'extra money to purchase a bat for the team. Once again, at the dinner it was an absolute delight to meet and greet long lost, but never forgotten, contemporaries and colleagues.

The Big Match started the next day, Thursday. The game is now played at the SSC. Through the good offices of Mano P, and Neil Chanmugam, we were given Tickets to the Mustang Tent. The cost was Rs 5000/ plus a further Rs 500/ for temporary membership. For this we were given a 'one size fits all' MUSTANG TENT polo shirt, unlimited soft drinks, and lunch and tea on all 3 days which in my opinion was real value for money. On the down side, for some reason, music was constantly played at max volume, making conversation difficult, if not impossible. It was hot, hot, hot, and the few electric fans tried valiantly to provide some relief. All in all, a most enjoyable experience to 'be there' and once again to meet up with old friends.

The game itself, though not to the same heights as last year, was nevertheless an exciting draw. The Thomians were admittedly the underdogs, though we must take pride in the fact that we outscored Royal in the first innings. We won't go into the second innings but once again Thomian grit came to the fore.

Due to security, all enclosures/tents are fenced off and march pasts are not allowed, except by the prefects and tent committees. At the tea interval of course the spectators are allowed on the ground. Commercialism has entered the arena and various billboards are situated around the ground. What struck me was the size of the match souvenir. It's a 15cm thick hardcover book, (cost Rs 200/) a long way from the fold up and stick in your back pocket one from 1960. However the Royal one was twice as thick and with tassels/book looked like a Gideons Bible. On one occasion, I noticed the umpires being escorted for tea with a police escort. We had been batting and trying to save the game, and the umpires turned had down several appeals. (Don't think this would ever have happened in our time

There is no doubt that Royal was a better team. Though the 'Big match' (real cricket) played over three days was draw the 50 over game (pseudo cricket!) played the following weekend saw Royal victorious.

On the second day of the match Palitha W, SP and self 'indulged' in a sea bath at Kinross. It was a pleasure to dip in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. The same ocean touches the WA coast where the water is very cold.

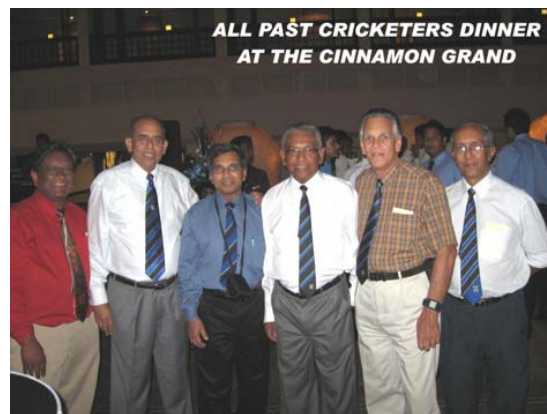
To cap the RT get-together, Gamini Marapona and his charming wife Suranganie hosted the entire team to another mouth watering dinner at his residence. In addition to the team he had invited Lanka Nesiah and Nanda Matthew. It was amazing to be able to 'slip in' to conversations with colleagues 50 years later. One picture I will include is of 4 of us who joined College in 1949, three under the dreaded Barnabas, Gamini Marapona, Tom Thomas and self, while SP was a day-scholar. Simple maths makes that group a 61 year association. I must mention one comment made by one of the ladies, that Lollo was perhaps an 'impostor' as he looked 10 years younger than the rest. This no doubt, due to the fact that he had no grey hair to give away his age.



Lunch @ Jit's - Palitha, Lorensz, Jith W, Gamini M, Maurice F & Shirley W

Colombo had a welcome shower earlier on, upsetting Gamini's seating arrangements. Fortunately even the weather gods were on our side, and it cleared up and we were able to enjoy the lovely garden.

My time in SL was drawing to a close but on the last Sunday (14/03) Jith Wanigasekera and his charming wife, hosted some of us to a slap-up crab feed. It was on this occasion that thoughts were given to another reunion, in 5 years time. A 55 year reunion would definitely be a first.



Bertie Wijesinha 90 not out on 24 May 2010

by Rohan Wijesinghe

CRICKET: A slight frame is poised to blow out 90 candles on the 24th of May 2010. That's Reginald Bertram Wijesinha for you. The oldest living Sri Lankan cricketer. I found the legend, blessed with charm to spare, chilling it out in his sitting room, walls peppered with his family photograph.

Seldom has such versatility found residence in one human being. Cricketer, coach, commentator, curator, administrator, teacher besides being the "loveliest of dad". Truly awesome Beneath his gentle manner lurked infinite dignity, compassion and modesty. The man of many summers then shepherded me to his living room, at 180/1/A Watarappola Road, Mount Lavinia, his cabinets bursting with scrap books, 62 in all, borders of lovely stats to mull over, a feast of good reading for another day perhaps.

Glory days at SSC

To open the salvo he spoke of the glory days when his beloved SSC made a serious assault on all the titles. No "may the best side win nonsense" with crusty 'FC' at the helm team saturated with a unique collection of exotics such as Sargo Jayawickreme, Fairlie Dalpethado, M. K. Albert, Hector Perera, Lucian de Zoysa and C.I. Gunasekera. Rushed interview in full swing, our genial legend never ever denigrated anyone of anything. Straddling the divide between past and present with such typically deep tact.

In fact it is with particular pleasure and interest that he watches the new crop on Telly. At sundown he relaxes, nose stuck in a book or his cars plugged to a stereo, heavy classical stuff running through his veins.

Tiny tearaway pacie

Born in the then quiet little city of Kalutara, he was soon enrolled at S.Thomas' College in the year 1926 by his cricket-mad dad, reputed for his batting at Trinity. The little tearaway pacie soon blitzed his way into the Thomian under 9 team inspired, encouraged and coached by John Halangoda, and in the classrooms sang off the same hymn sheet as Pat Mearthy, Sathi Coomarasamy, Donald Fairweather and Lucien de Zoysa.

**Bertie Wijesinha -
represented
S. Thomas', SSC and
Ceylon at Cricket and
was in the 1941
Ceylon Athletics Team**

I fast forward his "progress by the sea" to the year 1938 whence he captained the Thomian side which lost to Royal, Bertie resolved to make amends. Skipping the side for the second time, STC won all the matches leading upto the 'Big Match' before comprehensively hammering Royal in revenge for the year before. The skipper led the way with 63 and 70 topping it all with 4 for 56.

There was infinite promise in that analysis. Against the star studded Julian Cahn's XI made up of Test stars born in the Commonwealth, the youngster slammed a lovely 62. The boy had arrived. That year the prodigy scored a thousand runs and took 19 wickets in just 7 school matches.

Tying knots

Following excellent performances in club cricket besides anchoring Ceylon in the Gopalan Trophy matches against stiff South Indian opposition, Bertie was picked for Ceylon against Pakistan in 1949 and top scored with 29 in a total of 112 and topped it up with 5 for 99 with his medium pace. Bertie also represented Ceylon against Australia, West Indies and India.

At about this point of time he was pursuing lovely Dorothy Weerakoon, and top order batsmen, with equal passion, and had resounding success in both pursuits. In 1949 he inevitably tied the knot with Dorothy besides tying batsman in all sorts of knots. A time of blissful joy and happy perspiration! All this after he had represented the country in athletics in 1941, making him one of the four double internationals ever produced by this country. The others being C.T.A. Schafer. Ranil Abeynaike, and Dr. Buddy Reid rich company then.

Hat-tricks to begin and end

Bowling was Bertie's forte. In fact the shy teenager roused himself, with a hat-trick on debut against St.Benedict's College in 1936, and retired his reputation also with a hat-trick in a club match at 63 years of age, plainly a triumph of the spirit. Bowling a lovely off stump line his bustling medium pace would swerve crisply to slip.

A whippet of a bowler, pounding in off a 15 yard run. His slight frame took on stature with the new ball in hand. With the shine on the cherry, the terrible threesome would polish off the top order, that triangle made up of Bertie, Fairlie Dalpethado and D.S. Jayasundera, the heart of the SSC attack. Bertie would go one better strangulating the batting in the middle overs with his flighty off spin, that would burst upon landing. So nimble in the field, Leslie Ames and George Duckworth, Captain and Manager of the visiting Commonwealth side both described Wijesinha as the best fielder they had seen on their entire tour of India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

Dorothy - the precious catch

Most Guru's are saturated with more theory than Darwin. Not so Bertie Sans coaching certificates to wave this way and that, his innate ability to point to the finer points of the game were obvious. In spite of which, gracious spouse Dorothy is delightfully ignorant as to the difference between a stump and a bat. This after 60 years of marriage to a legendary coach. She keeps a lovely house though, and her Spaghetti Bolognaise is a major triumph. Coaching his Alma Mater S.Thomas' to begin with he shifted tent to St.Benedict's College and thence to Trinity College.

His six years at St.Benedict's College were his sweetest, producing four champion schoolboy teams in the mid 60's. Whilst in the UK, he was invited to coach the Nottinghamshire Juveniles, many of his wards going on to play for the county.

He taught English and Latin in parallel to his cricket coaching adding heaps of value to those hallowed blackboards as well. Bertie's coaching was symbolised in Sidath Wettimuny's artistry, a technique that should have been carved in marble, eyes nailed to the seam, left elbow way up among the clouds, as the bat ran so sweetly through the ball, whilst Ian Botham ran out of expletives. The hordes at Lord's rose in glorious appreciation for that big hundred. A huge portion of that ovation belonged to Bertie as well, is Sid's contention, entirely.



Mr O.A.Abeynaike - An Appreciation

by Ajit Jayasekara

Orville Alanson Abeynaike was man of grace, charm and finesse befitting life in his era. He was a colossus as a student, cricketer, member of the staff and Headmaster at S.Thomas' College, Mt Lavinia, the premier Anglican boys' School in Ceylon, where most Parents from Christian homes strove to send their sons.

Having completed his Matriculation exams and capping off his College career with a stupendous bowling performance of 7 for 60 in the 1941 Royal Thomian, Mr Abeynaike found the war clouds gathering as he prepared to step out into life as a mature adult. Remaining at College and helping out in the tutorial staff until he found employment, he responded to a call by Warden RS De Saram to serve his Alma Mater, a call he could not resist. His loyalty to his Church, College and his Warden was unwavering and he remained at his beloved College, nurturing generations of good students and sportsmen until his death on the very day he retired. He even gave up a cricketer's career after spending just one season playing for Saracens, when the Warden requested him to use his sporting prowess to guide young Thomians, a task he embraced without a murmur of dissent, to become not only the Cricket Coach but also the Hockey Coach in a period of total Thomian dominance in these sports.

Mr Abeynaike touched my life in many ways. He had been a classmate of my Father and when he walked into my Upper 4th class to teach us Maths and English, we treated him with much respect and trepidation. He was the quintessential Public School Master in impeccable Tweed Coat and Tie, very much the type of master who commanded, rather than demanded respect. We were 12 years old at that time and ready to riot at the drop of a hat, but Mr Abeynaike was not someone we had in our sights for such insolence. I had the feeling that any misdemeanor on my part would be promptly reported to my Father and kept a low profile, not engaging in any sort of boyhood pranks in front of this master in particular.

He was the 1st XI Hockey Coach in an era when we were unbeaten for many years. One day, he walked into class and sat silently for many minutes and we wondered if he was ill. We then questioned him and he stated that he was devastated by the Thomian Hockey team losing a match for the first time in 9 years, the previous weekend. He just sat at his desk with his head in his hands. We had a free period, but it was an uneasy free time, seeing him suffering thus and we dared not disturb him. He came back as only the likes of him were wont to do and produced many more brilliant Hockey players before he took over as the 1st XI Cricket Coach from Mr LS Gauder.

Within 2 years of him becoming the Cricket Coach, he produced the greatest Thomian Team in College history, Premalal Gunasekera's 1964 team. Winning the Royal Thomian that year was a high point in his life. With the passage of time, I came under his tutelage to be guided, coached and coaxed into becoming somewhat of a cricketer. I must have driven him to desperation because he described me as a "Harem Scarem fellow who cannot play 3 balls down"! I played 3 years under him and when we lost the Royal Thomian match of 1969, it broke his heart. He gave up coaching that year, a sad end to a lifetime of dedication to sports at S.Thomas'. As he walked into the sunset as a coach, there was a silver lining in the horizon – his second son, Ranil was fast becoming a star cricketer in the making. Ranil Captained College in 1973 and on that day at the Oval, I saw a deeply contented Orville Abeynaike smiling after a long time. Ranil also played Hockey with distinction for S.Thomas'. Orville's cup of joy would have been overflowing.

He was a God fearing man who loved his family. He produced four sons, all of whom are outstanding citizens of our country and of whom he would surely have been very proud. They have fond memories of their wonderful Father, a rare breed of Thomian and a Gentleman. They now look after their aged Mother who stood by Orville and brought up the family while he dedicated all his life to the College even at the expense of his family at times.

I was having a chat with my Father in the evening of his life and I expressed surprise at his constant presence at College cricket matches in recent times, when he did not come for a single match to watch me playing other than the big matches I played in. His answer stunned me. He said, "Son, how could I come? Your coach was my classmate" He knew the caliber of Orville and dared not even appear to influence him! I had to make it on my own. I know I drove Orville 'up the wall' with my "Harem Scarem" batting. I hope I also brought him some moments of happiness. I shall never know.

This is my tribute to a wonderful human being, Master and Coach who had a profound influence in my life at S.Thomas'.

Bertie Wijesinha 90 not out (cont...)

Farm and Milk the bowling

With the willow he built a reputation for dour reliability, with his neat compact, crispy style. A quick tumble of giant SSC wickets would bring the little right hander to the middle, to farm the strike and milk the bowling, besides ensuring that the tail did not lose its head.

Housewife's tweaking radio knobs

If all that was not enough, the maestro took to commentating in harness with his team mate Lucien de Zoysa, enticing even housewife's and schoolgirls to tweak the radio knobs for commentaries on the Royal-Thomian, comprehensively elevating the stature of that particular "Big Match" lots of notches skywards for sure.

Proud dad

In 1953 Bertie secured employment at Lake House in the capacity of the Sports Editor, crossing pens and sharing the canteen with the likes of Mervyn de Silva, Tarzie Witachchi, Denzil Peiris and H.D. Jansz among others. Runs and wickets don't pay your bills and feed your kids. With his brood growing like an accordion. Bertie took the passage to prosperity, securing employment at the Royal Military Supplies Department in Nottingham UK and enjoying every minute of the 20 years there. The diminutive legends is so utterly proud of his offspring Rohan, Nedra and Dameskh. The death of their daughter Maya, their precious, vivacious, eldest, was a particularly painful period for the Wijesinha's. No doubt their simple belief in the Christian faith strengthening their resolve to hang on to sanity.

Onwards to his 100

We of the cricketering fraternity are indeed privileged to have shared the warmth of his friendship, sense of subtle humor, eloquence behind the mike, besides of course his ebullience on the cricket field. No more need be said as he marches towards his glorious 100 with the Blue Black and Blue fluttering so proudly and inseparably beside him, as always.

Henry Claude (HCFA) Goonetilleke - An Appreciation

by Capt. G Goonetilleke (another Okl Thomian)

Claude was a true blooded Thomian, his father Harry, all his three brothers and even his sister being Thomians.

Claude was also known as *Henry* in Australia, *Highest Common Factor* to his classmates and *Gompa* to the boxing fraternity in the College.

Claude alias Henry was born in Maggona, Sri Lanka on the 14th June 1921 and lived to the ripe old age of 88 fading away peacefully in Melbourne on the 21st January 2010.

He completed his entire period of schooling at S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia in the 1930s under Miss Bay in the baby class and Manikasingham in the Upper Sixth where he passed the London Matriculation.

He had several stalwart schoolmates such as Donald Fairweather, Baba Jayatillake, Willie Ekanayake, Raja Proctor, Boxer Dassanayake, the senior brothers of Dr. Douglas Arndt, Paddy Mandt, Bertie Wijesinghe and Darnley Ingleton.

Claude was a keen sportsman in College where he excelled in Hockey, Cricket, Swimming and most of all in Boxing where he was feared by all schoolboys in his time. Warden De Saram who was an Oxford boxing blue himself took a special interest in Henry. Dr. R.L. Hayman was the scout master and he trained Henry to be a leading scout in the College pack.

It was a great privilege for us Thomians at the time to be schooled and disciplined by the legendary Canon R.S. De Saram who was the first Sri Lankan Warden of the College having just returned from Oxford.

In the '30s, we had a fine array of master including: O P Gooneratne (Head Master), A J Foster (Priest), V P Cooke (Mill Master), Scott (Hankada Bass), Johorathnam (PxxA), E L Perera (Keyhole), Paulic Perera (Horlics), Dr R L Hayman (Bullo), David (Bamboo), C h Davidson (Poeta), Harold Jansz (KxxA), A J Samuels (Sherlock), E D Perera (Pops) and Stanley Jansz (Booruwa).

After Claude finished school, he joined the Ceylon Government Railway as a Special Apprentice where he was trained in the Ratmalana Workshop on all aspects of steam locomotive and diesel engines. As an apprentice he would come home looking like a chimney sweep and was not allowed to sit on a chair provided he first covered the chair with a newspaper.

Being Claude the boxer he survived a major illness in the mid 1970s and finally immigrated to Australia along with his gracious wife Audrey and the young daughters, Malkanthi and Lilamani.

He served in the railway (CGR) in Nanu Oya, Nawalapitiya, Anuradhapura and Trincomalee. When he took early retirement he had brief spells of service with the Port Cargo Corporation and the Insurance Corporation.

During his period at the Ratmalana Workshop the Japanese Airforce bombed Ratmalana and fortunately being a Sunday, Henry and most of the workers were spared the trauma of a live air raid.

Full marks to Audrey who attended to all his needs from the time he first fell ill. Without her help and love he would not have enjoyed a full life for so long. In spite of his medical affliction he held prestigious technical appointments in Australia and played a very prominent role in the Old Thomians Association of Australia.

During his working life in Australia he was able to visit the UK on more than one occasion and to travel extensively in Europe including the Swiss Alps.

Although for about 40 years of his latter life he was handicapped by the effects of his illness, he never gave up and was a tenacious fighter right to the end and was an inspiration to all who had the privilege of knowing him. He was always smiling and cheerful even being restricted to a wheelchair in his last years. Fortunately for him he had his wonderful wife Audrey supporting him right to the end.

Claude was an extremely devout Christian who gave his religion his first priority.

At his funeral, the Old Thomians in Australia gave him a rousing send off, draping the coffin with the Thomian flag and singing the College Song, *Esto Perpetua*.

Henry/Claude will be sadly missed by all his family members, his friends and relatives all over the world and the Thomian brotherhood in Australia.

Well done Claude, alias Henry, alias HCF, alias Gompa.

May the good Lord take care of you forever.

Lost and Found Board • reconnect with old mates

It was incredible seeing the list of members in the Melbourne THOMIANA. It read like a who's who! Some were my classmates, others from the Miller Chapman Dorm and others who were peers. Whereas so many went to Australia, some gravitated to the UK (me included) and so lost contact with many of my past.

In recent years, partly by going back to SL for the Royal-Thomian, I have actually met some old boys from my era but the bulk seem to be in Oz. I know in college days I was probably a mous, but have since learned to roar!!! Not sure how many would recall me being at STC, Winchester House and then at Chapman House. I left college in 1966.

It would be nice to make contact with any who may still remember me.

Kind regards

*John Pearce (UK)
johnpearce9@gmail.com*

We were in Sri Lanka in July-August 2009 and Sangabo Corea and SNA Tennekoon organised a 'Meet the Schokmans' dinner for old Chapman House boys. It was a terrific evening meeting old school mates after 55 years. Less hair and more waistline but time stood still for all of us.

We had 4 head cops out of the dozen or so guys who were there! Most of the wives came too. We also visited College on another day and talked our way past the security guard on a Sunday evening. Looks the same but very few boarders. Larry managed to be taken into Copelston Junior, where I believe that the few boarders stay. I am not a very active or supportive old boy. I live very close to Maurice Fairweather.

Regards,

*David Schokman (Australia)
shokker@bigpond.com*

Note: Email the editor@stcobaaust.org.au if you would like to reach out to your old mates in the next edition of the THOMIANA

ROYAL –THOMIAN CRICKET MATCH IN MELBOURNE 2010.

by Arasu Saravanamuttu.

The annual cricket match between the two schools was played at the Mulgrave cricket club on the 28th February 2010 which was hosted by Royal this year, who were also celebrating 175 years of being founded.

Matches commenced with the over 40' starting at 9.45 pm followed by the open game at 1.30pm. The over 40's was led by the evergreen Claude Reid and the open game was led by Chanaka Gunewardena. Mention must be made of Asanga Seneviratne former Thomian Cricket and rugby coloursman who made himself available to play in the senior game as he was on a business visit to Melbourne. Also the side included former Sri Lankan cricketer Saliya Ahangama and U.A.E. representative in the 50 over World cup, Johan Samarassekera now domiciled in Melbourne. Both games were comfortably won by the Thomians. The cricket on the day continues to be played in a very competitive and excellent spirit upholding the traditions of both schools and the "motto" being, which is not winning or losing but how you play the game. The scores of both encounters are given below.

OVER 40'S – 25 overs per side.

STC won by 43 runs

STC

144 for 7 wkts in 25 overs

Johan Samaresekera - 30 retired

Leon Lewis - 30 retired

Asanga Seneviratne - 22

Hemantha Cooray - 2 for 29

Malik Deane - 2 for 25

Royal

101 for 7 wkts in 25 overs.

Dinesh Chelvadurai - 27n.o.

Sandesh Algama - 14

Dirk d'Silva - 2 for 10

Keith Scharniguiel - 2 for 13

Leon Lewis - 1 for 12

Peter Wijeratne - 1 for 12

Man of the Match - Leon Lewis (STC)

OPEN GAME- 30 overs per side.

STC won by 4 wkts

Royal

92 all out in 29 overs

Sugeetha Dinushan - 21

L. Abeysekera - 16

Chanaka Perera - 15

Niraj Edwards - 3 for 13

Pramodha Rodrigo - 3 for 20

Chanaka Gunewardena - 2 for 19

Asfan Thajudeen - 2 for 24

STC

94 for 6 wkts in 24.5 overs

Andrew Fernando - 38

Asfan Thajudeen - 34 n.o.

S.Udamalgala - 2 for 19

Man of the Match - Asfan Thajudeen (STC).

School by the Sea

by Dr Lalith Mendis

School by the Sea founded in mid 19th century
To train men for blessed life in Anglican ministry
Founder, Bishop Chapman unparalleled visionary
With the heart & spirit of a pioneering missionary

STC Nursery of Statesmen, clergy, worthy citizenry
Sanctuary of decency decorum sense & sensibility
Teaching student polity to abdicate pride & prejudice
All races nurtured to make Sri Lanka Land of Promise

In her heyday when Britannia ruled the ocean waves
In Imperialistic zeal she would wave the godly rules
Ministers of the CMS bringing the Light to Sri Lanka
Remodeled Eton & a Heritage of God in Mt Lavinia

Chapel of Transfiguration keeps a watchful keen eye
Over the Assembly in the Quadrangle morals held high
School Hall on the right & the Class block on her left
Old laboratory with the Rifle Green are yet well kept

Merit to the fore, training in class & field so excellent
Five Prime Ministers groomed for many a predicament
Legendary Thomian grit snatching victory from defeat
Stick together as brothers born for adversity, no retreat

Ante apud ad adversus circum circa citra cis Latin says
Dead language killed ancient Thomians, now me it slays
Esto Perpetua – Be Thou Forever, Sovereign Almighty
Not to us but to Him Wise King Eternal let all glory be

Blue the black & blue to rally- young & old, near & far
With blue & gold cricket fixture, nationally none on par
Gathering President to opposition leader rifts healing
In these oppressing times bonhomie good will creating

Christianity the standard bearer others too given space
Three languages flourish punching racism in the face
Excellent command of the Queen's English we cherish
While mother tongue with erudition teachers establish

Best of Shakespeare, Dickens, Daffodils by Wordsworth
Teachers who were institutions at STC gave it true worth
Chapman, Wood Stone not hay but Buck De Saram House
Wardens' Name & Houses, sparkle & camaraderie arouse

Esto Perpetua though Governments may wax & wane
Young & old, staunch & true ideals of STC yet remain
Anvil that has worn many a hammer of changing tide
God first, Values of cherished heritage, strong in stride

Lalith Ratnayake - As Appreciation

A Gentleman, A Cricketer, A Thomian - lost ten years ago

A batsman being called back is indeed a rare occurrence in the game of cricket. Not surprisingly, since it is a common tendency for batsmen to pretend they have got a bad decision even when they are "plumb". Consequently, no opposing captain will give much credibility to or lose any sleep over reactions of batsmen who appear distressed over a "bad" decision. However, at the Royal Thomian in 1976 the entire Royal team appealed in unison for a caught behind down the leg side and the head umpire had no hesitation in lifting the dreaded finger to signal the end of the innings of the No. 3 batsman of the Thomian side. The batsman appeared clearly shocked, as the ball had only grazed his shirt on the way to the wicket keeper. He instinctively shook his head and made his way back to the pavilion with his head down like a true sportsman. His reaction was enough for the Royal captain, Saldin, to think twice. Had the batsman been any of the 10 other Thomians in the team, Saldin would probably not have even considered doing what he did. After a quick "conference" with his teammates he requested the umpires to call the batsman back. Saldin and all his team mates were certain that the batsman concerned would never have reacted the way he did if he was in fact out.

The Thomian No. 3 was none other than the late Lalith Ratnayake who represented STC from 1975 to 1977. Lalith was a great all-rounder: a very dependable No 3 bat, an intelligent left arm spinner and a brilliant cover fielder. Although he never did justice to his capabilities at the three big matches he played in, Lalith still shares a 33 year unbroken record for the highest 9th wicket partnership at the Mustangs Trophy limited over game. Lalith's character and his fighting qualities were well reflected in that single memorable inning of 50 N.O in 1977, when the side was hopelessly placed at 58 for 8 in the 20th over, in a match reduced to 40 overs a side. He battled it out almost single handedly, farming the strike from the No 10 as much as possible. STC ended the innings with a total of 118 for 9 in 40 overs, and with some tight bowling and fielding, ensured that Royal had to bat 34 overs to eventually win the match.

This performance was not a flash in the pan: Lalith had a remarkable batting average in the 1975/76 season and was awarded the Lady Jayatilake Batting Shield for the best Thomian batsman. He also toured Pakistan in 1976 with the under 19 Sri Lanka schools cricket team for the Ali Bhutto Trophy in the company of school boy cricketers of the caliber of Ranjan Madugalla, Yohan Goonasekera, the late Anura Ranasinghe and his College team mate Ishak Sahabdeen, all four of whom went on to represent Sri Lanka. Ajit Ganeshan was yet another Thomian in this star studded U19 cricket team. Incidentally, the Thomian side of 1976 led by Sasi Ganeshan became the All Island Champions, and two others in the team, namely Saliya Ahangama and Guy de Alwis also had the distinction of representing Sri Lanka thereafter. Lalith's contribution to this champion side was immense.

Noteworthy cricketers and their cricketing performances are many. Savored for the moment and then destined to lie forgotten in dust covered score books, until remembered by old teammates reminiscing about the "good old days". However, in Lalith there is a difference. Even though we lost him suddenly, ten years ago, his memory lives on amongst us, not merely for his sporting accomplishments but more for his gentlemanly qualities. Soft spoken, polite, well mannered, perfectly groomed and above all, honest, he remains in our memories, whether as friends, teammates or opponents as the "GENTLEMAN" amongst us. May his tribe increase.

ESTO PERPETUA

Team Mates 1975 – 1977



STC OBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2010

For further details of each of these events, please contact the relevant Executive Committee Member or visit the OBA website at www.STCOBAaust.org.au

EVENT	DATE	VENUE	OBA Ex-Co CONTACT
Seniors' Lunch (photographs on OBA website)	16 May '10	Mechanic's Hall, Oakleigh	Trevor Mendis (03) 9773 2768 0411 631 531
Transfiguration Service	01 Aug '10	St. David's, Moorabbin	Mark Nanayakkara (03) 9772 2438 0408 990 146
Annual Dinner Dance	14 Aug '10	Park Hyatt, Melbourne	Chris Varney (03) 9700 6174 0414 643 766
Members' Night	02 Oct '10	TBC	Glen Mendis (03) 9723 2280 0417 005 570
Golf Tournament	31 Oct '10	TBC	Trevor Meares (03) 9763 9825 0402 338 637
Thomian Night	20 Nov '10	Polish Hall, Roweville	Peneeth Goonawardena (03) 9702 3726 0404 213 166
Carol Service	11 Dec '10	St. David's, Moorabbin	Ashton Anthonisz (03) 9702 5326
AGM & Dinner	12 Feb '11	Mt Waverley Youth Cntr	Trevor Meares (03) 9763 9825 0402 338 637
Royal Thomian Stag Night	25 Feb '11	TBC	Trevor Meares (03) 9763 9825 0402 338 637
Royal Thomian Cricket Match	27 Feb '11	TBC	Trevor Meares (03) 9763 9825 0402 338 637



S. Thomas' College Old Boys' Association

presents

A Nite in White Satin

Annual Dinner Dance

7.00pm on Saturday 14th August 2010

The Park Hyatt, Melbourne

A Three Course Meal & an Open Bar

*Music for Dancing featuring Rendezvous & a Special Guest Artist
Gents in Black Tie or Lounge & Ladies in Elegant Eveningwear*

\$120

STC OBA (Australia) Members

Help us keep you informed of OBA and STC news. If you don't see your name please contact the Membership Secretary - Trevor Meares [03-9763 9825 / 0402 338 637 / tameares@bigpond.com]

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APONSO, Roshan

APONSO, Suren Dyal

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Chris Lawton | (03) 8794 9680

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Peneeth Goonawardena | (03) 9702 3726 | 0404 213 166

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Asfan Thajudeen | 0422 713 284

Nabil Mubarak | (03) 9562 9291 | 0405 258 776



S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka O.B.A.
Australian Branch Inc
ABN 18 114 799 661
PO Box 2337, Mount Waverley, 3149
www.stcobaaust.org.au

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I desire to become a member of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia, Sri Lanka O.B.A. Australian Branch Inc. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the Association for the time being in force

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Given Names:					
Address:					
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Telephone/	Home:	Business:			
E-mail:	Mobile:	E-mail:			
College Branch Attended:	From:	To:			

Signature of Applicant: Date:

I, a member of the Association, nominate the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Signature of Proposer: Date:

I, a member of the Association, second the nomination of the applicant, who is personally known to me, for membership of the Association.

Signature of Seconder: Date:

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☐ Membership renewal ☐ Change of Address

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PAYMENT METHOD

NOTE: 2010 subs = \$25; Full-time students' & pensioners' concession = \$10.

☐ Cash/Cheque/Money Order* for \$_____ is enclosed (Cheques to be in favour of S.Thomas' College OBA)

☐ I have credited STCOBA's account online at CBA, Mount Waverley BSB 063-151, Account No. 1002-9468, having clearly recorded my name as remitter for identification purposes.

☐ Debit my Credit Card Number:

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