

FLOREAT

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Autumn 2013



Photo Gallery

Royal Thomian Matches
Melbourne & Colombo
Golden Oldies Luncheon

Tributes

Mr. Gamini Salgado
Mr. Sivapathasunderam

Floreat Editor
Dinesh Chelvathurai

Floreat Design & Concept
Dimi Arachi

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A Royal Treble
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A ROYAL TREBLE

The Annual Old Boys Cricket Match in Melbourne which serves as a precursor to the Big Match in Colombo was held on Sunday, March 3 at the Mulgrave Reserve. Unlike in the previous two years where the weather gods were not kind on us, this game was played in glorious sunshine.

The Royal veterans came into the game not having tasted victory since 2007 while the younger Royalists were also smarting from recent defeats at the hands of the Thomians.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed throughout the day with the “papare” band in attendance as well as a DJ who brought back memories of yesteryear with old favourites blaring over the sound system. There were Sri Lankan short eats and lunch on sale throughout the day for all those who dropped in to catch up with long lost friends. A great day of fellowship was had by all.

The twin wins in Melbourne foreshadowed the result of the Big Match in Colombo and the Royalists led by DevindPathmanathan went on to pull off a stirring 7 wicket victory, the first win over the Thomians since 2006. Melburnian Royalists featured prominently in the victory with our own Dilip Somaratne who took over as Director of Coaching, masterminding the win and Shaw Wilson who was the Guest of Honour, presiding at the awards ceremony.

All in all a glorious fortnight for Royal cricket.



For the statistically minded, the brief scores of the games in Melbourne were as follows:

Over 40 Match

STC 93/8 in 20 overs (Leon Lewis 34, Claude Reid 11, Ransi Fernando 4/16, Dinesh Chelvathurai 2/14)

Royal 94/3 in 18 overs (ShyamSideek 31 Rtd, Kingsley Rajasingham 30 Rtd, Dhillaran Sivaratnam 11, Dinesh Chelvathurai 10*)

Royal Won by 7 Wickets

Open Match

STC 95 in 20.5 overs (ShanakaPerera 2/3, LakmalAbeysekera 2/11, DilanNanayakkara 2/15)

Royal 98/4 in 22.2 overs (SahanPerera 30*, ShanakaPerera 25*, ChehanSenasekera 14, DilanNanayakkara 12, Dimitri Siriwardena 10)

Royal Won by 6 Wickets

Awards

Over 40 Match

Best Batsman Leon Lewis (STC)

Best Bowler (Royal) Ransi Fernando (Royal)

Man of the Match ShyamSideek (Royal)

Open Match

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Best Batsman | SahanPerera (Royal) |
| Best Bowler | LakmalAbeysekera (Royal) |
| Man of the Match | ShanakaPerera (Royal) |
| Eddie Gray Award (Royal) | SahanPerera |

The Royal teams were as follows

Over 40s

Dinesh Chelvathurai (Capt), Ransi Fernando, Sajith Mendis, HemanthCooray, ShyamSideek, Dhillaran Sivaratnam, Rajeev Peiris, Kingsley Rajasingham, N. Ramesh, PankajaNaotunne, MangalaAkkaravita, RuchiraHewavitharana

Open Game

ShanakaPerera (Capt), DilanNanayakkara, ShamilSamarasinghe, DimitriSiriwardena, SahanPerera, Sanjeewa. Udumalagala, LakmalAbeysekera, ChehanSeneasekera, NawodhaGanegoda, KavishJayasinghe, Kishan

134th Battle of the Blues





**ROYAL THOMIAN MATCH
MELBOURNE**



Golden Oldies Luncheon – A Crab Curry Special!

The Golden Oldies Luncheon which was held on Sunday 10 February at the Mt Waverley Community Centre was an enjoyable occasion where several Old Boys and their spouses renewed their friendships in a convivial atmosphere.

Our Patron, Hon Judge Christopher Weeramantry (1937 Group) addressed the gathering and also kindly donated the proceeds from the sale of his books to the Association to be used for funding the Loyalty Pledge. Also present was former Royal Cricket Captain, T Nirmalingam who was holidaying in Melbourne.

Nihal De Run did an excellent job as MC and bingo caller for the afternoon. Chef Reza did an excellent job with a mouth-watering crab curry and a special thanks to Athula and his Organizing Committee for an excellent afternoon.



A Tribute to Mr Sivapathasunderam (Affectionately known as “Screw”)

Dear Sir,

In this chapter of Life, you're breaking away from us too soon. Wonder where you are, sir? In your own ways and style, you may whisper you rejoiced life and gave us a simple lantern of light to find the mysteries of Life.

Looking around, undeniably, you were the one to give me a jolt and to inject the passion to seek the solace of the sub-atomic world. You are alive among the sub-atoms with us.

Today, we practice your teaching daily as we push the atomic sciences to get these 3D-silicon circuits to perform in the desired range of pico-seconds to femto-seconds. The atomic “fundamentals” you described are still alive in my aging mind and will not hesitate to beg, borrow or steal the knowledge, if I ever let to dance again in this Life.

I cannot resist recalling, you speaking of C.V Raman and spectroscopy. I hadn't the damndest idea what it was about. I will have to give it a re-read, just for kicks. Wishing I'd tried harder.

In the early 80s at Royal, you called me “that Nadarajah - that useless fellow who lived on Jawatta Road”. It cracks me up.

Now, I hear you ask, “Where do you think you going, Nadarajah? Sorry, being in your way. Sir, It's easy to look back and see you in a rolled-up sleeve and starch white shirt, strolling through the classroom. You made sure the window of the class rooms were open wide. You desired the freshness and the openness. You always had a smile of mystical proportion. You had a few of us guessing whether you were really annoyed at our stupidity or the lack of aptitude to learn Classical physics. Sorry, you came into our life when our fledging mind was being moulded by the aurora of Testosterone. We were on high “octane number” natural hormones and bordering ADHD. We did not need growth hormones.

Let's blame it on as there was no ‘chemistry’ in learning Physics ! However, you sensed and sympathized with our boyish gender weakness and strengths. You understood why we aimlessly rode our Road Master bikes or rolling around on the rugby grounds for notoriety. Your teaching and punishment were duly noteworthy. At times, you too watched us play “book cricket” when you came in as the relief teacher. You were comical too.

You broke down and simplified a few complex equations well. One that resonates well is , the closest distance two perfect & symmetrical atoms can ever be is , eight times its own self-described volume- in Classical

Physics. Gosh! How true this model never working with human relationships. Let's not go there!

Keep the tab open! I still owe you a new copy of Nelkon & Parker, Sir. I willingly poured copper sulfate solution with rusted screws on your newly acquired British edition of the famous print. I cannot recall the motivation for this devilish behaviour. Sorry and surprised now. It was not the kiss of death, then. With all calmness, you made me dry the book on the

ledge and endorsed my Student Record Book, “Unruly behaviour; poured CuSO₄” and handed me over, to class Prefect- Vasi , who marched me to the legendary disciplinarian, Mr. E. C Gunasekera to correct the defiant adolescence behaviour out of me. It was a short walk. I'd been there before.

Looking back, it was an unjust deal. I performed a mere three days of detention in front of VP's office. I ruined your book. It was the only copy you had. Then, two months passed along; you announced your departure to a foreign land. I asked you whether I could buy the same “must have” book for A/L. You handed me over the same “stained book” with a boyish smile and advised me to do London A/L. I followed your advice. You never asked for a payment and made me promise not selling to the “kadalay vendor”, seated at the main entrance.

The “stained book” was indeed a charm. It got this scatter brain a grade of “A”- to many folks' surprise. Since then, this hobo grew confident wings to fly into any situation of technical complexity and to come out alive. I still have the ‘stained “Nelkon & Parker” physics text book in the study. It's a token of academic defiance. That's all the book , I ever needed in Life.

It hurts like hell, wishing somehow, I could have had few rounds of hot chocolate drink on the wintry day of Dec 29, 2012 and exchanged our “Goodbyes”. I was in the outskirts of Toronto. I made a lethal mistake and took you for granted. Your soul jumped out of the confinement of the Atomic Quantum Well of Energy - something you told us to study and find out. I know you are happy somewhere far away from the grasps of gravity. You are untouchable now, but you touched us all. I always have had a special corner for you in my crazy mind. You taught me to say “Hello” to Life. Wish, I am able to give you a hug!

You are Cool!

Respectfully

“Nadarajah” that useless fellow who lived on Jawatta Road.

Vish Nadarajah

Dallas, TX USA

Jan 2013.

Gamini Salgado

An Outstanding Old Royalist

The passing away of Gamini at the age of 89 on 18th March 2013 left a depth of sadness to all who knew him.

A Royalist from Royal Prep in January 1932 to March 1942, he had an outstanding career as an allround sportsman and was captain in cricket, a coloursman in rugby, athletics and boxing.

Cricket – he captained Royal in 1942 and made a century in the Royal-Thomian match which we won.

Rugby – he was a wing forward and was in the 1942 team that beat Trinity for the first time.

Athletics – he was an excellent sprinter when Royal won both the Talbot & Jefferson Trophies at the Public Schools Meet in 1940. It will be noted with pride that he withdrew from the finals of a sprint event to reserve his energy for both relays which we won.

Boxing – In his latter years in College, he took up the noble art of self-defence and in his only appearance at the Stubbs Shield, won the heavyweight division and the Best Boxer's Trophy.

Gamini was an above average student and obtained his London Matriculation Certificate in 1941. Due to his allround excellence, he was awarded the prestigious Donhorst Prize.

However, the only one blemish in his long and admired College career was when the Principal E.L.Bradby found it necessary to “de-badge” him as a Senior Prefect for a fortnight for failing to appear at a Drill Ceremony without a valid reason. Such was the discipline at Royal in that era.

Gamini was the first Ceylonese in the post war planting profession. He worked for 23 years on Rubber and Tea Plantations for the Ceylon Plantations Co Ltd. During that period his sporting career was cut short but he did represent the Up Country XV vs Low Country in the Annual Rugby Tournament and also the Ceylon Rugby Team in the All India Tournament.

At the age of 58 after a long planting career, he served as a member of George Stuart & Co who were managing agents for many companies until the estates were nationalised.

He was a devout Anglican and leaves behind Irene, his wife for 62 years, and their children Gihan and Iromi.

I was privileged to know him for 80 years.

Trevor Jansz



Photo taken at the reunion of some of the Royal College centenary cricketers with their master in charge and coach. Coach Gamini Salgado was the oldest living captain of Royal College. Here (from left) Harischandra Nanayakkara, (master in charge) with Rajiva Wijetunge, Ranjan Madugalle, Ashantha de Mel and (seated) Gamini Salgado (coach).

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Thus I have heard.....

"The legendary catch of 69"

The Royal tales have a rich oral tradition. Whenever Royalists gather together in whatever part of the globe, the conversation soon drifts back to the school boy days. Whether it is a recollection of a cricket match or a classroom incident, the tale is narrated to a faithful audience who hang on every word with great anticipation. Over the years the same yarn is retold over and over again. Each iteration is naturally richer than the previous one. The family members of Royalists to whom the tale is familiar tend to look at each other with raised eye brows with a 'haven't we heard that one before' look.

Unlike the Buddhist oral tradition which subscribes to strict canonical rigour, the Royal oral tradition encourages creativity and out of the box thinking. As decades go by there is significant blurring between fact and fiction, but the tale goes on.

Watching the big match as a school boy was such an incredible and special experience. While at Royal I remember being at all big matches from the captaincy of SS Kumar to the captaincy of SSG Lawton. My recollections vary.

As a youngster at my first big match I remember my confusion. What were all those fielders doing behind the wicket? In the school yard cricket only the wicket keeper stood behind the two school bags that represented the stumps. There were no 'back runs' allowed!

I do not recall much of my final big match as a school boy either. May be as senior students we had other more pressing matters to attend to. In any case, a draw was a foregone conclusion that year. Under Lawton's captaincy every single match leading up to the big match was a draw, including the 3rd term games. So why would the big match be any different? Oh yes, Jagath Pattiarachchi did score a century. I remember because he was our class mate. But I wonder how many others remember that inning. However, Pattiarachchi can justly claim that he scored more runs in that single knock than Ajitha Pasqual (our other class mate) did in 5 big matches. Pasqual, after an illustrious career as a banker, is now counting out the money for Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). As for skipper Lawton with two Ss before his name, he converted from Shanta (Shanthikumar) to Sam (Samuel) after migrating to Australia. Sam has put his 'drawing experiences' to good use by taking the responsibility to draw up train time tables for the Melbourne Railway.

So the focus must come down to the one and only big match Royal won, while we were still in school. This is an account of the 1969 Royal-Thomain match that has evolved over the years through the rich Royal oral tradition.

Thus I have heard....

The year 1969 was a special year for us year niners (now calling ourselves the Olive Group). We had never witnessed a Royal victory at a big match before. In the previous year we had come close but the Thomian grit had prevailed at the death. There was a strong belief in the Royal camp that this time victory would come our way

under the single minded leadership of Eardley Lieversz.

Even Kadalay, the iconic custodian of Royal cricket of that era, had predicted a Royal win after a drought of 18 long years. However, Kadalay had warned against the Thomain foursome. The wickets of Jayasekera, Kariyawasam, Wijeysooriya and de Saram had to be taken quickly. But there was general air of confidence that Royal's formidable spin attack consisting of Asitha Jayaweera, Sunimal Yapa and Beverly Paul would triumph in the end.

For the first day and a half the match progressed according to the form book. The Royal team was in a commanding position. Thomians commenced their 2nd innings with their backs to the wall. Would they be able hang on until stumps? It was crunch time.

Drama unfolded in the very first over. The dangerous Ajith Jayasekera was bowled neck and crop by Royal's J Thalayasingham. As the stumps lay scattered on the ground it was impossible to judge who was in greater shock,the batsman Jayasekera (Current CEO of Sri Lanka Cricket) or bowler Thalay who had hardly taken a wicket during the entire season. The Thomain skipper Prabodha Kariyawasam too departed after some resistance. However, Dijen de Saram together with Nimalka Wijeysooriya held on grimly.

It was said of Dijen de Saram that when he digs in even wild horses would not dislodge him. It appears that a great deal of planning and cunning went into his dismissal, much more that Gotabaya, Fonseka, et al ever considered prior to the final battle at Pudukuduirippu. Interestingly, the Royal coach Colonel FC de Saram was Dijen's father. As far as papa FC was concerned this was an instance when old school ties mattered more than mere family ties.

The strategy was to lure stonewaller Dijen into a false sense of security so that he would momentarily step out of his shell and open out. So the trap was set. After tea, best fielder Samarage was sent to the boundary line. He was specifically told to wear a white sun hat and not the colours hat. The fielder would then blend seamlessly with the stewards dressed in full white and straw hats manning the boundary line to prevent student invasions. As planned, Asitha Jayaweera bowled a 'juicy' hip-high full toss on Dijen's leg stump. Dijen unaware of the invisible fieldsman on the boundary swung the ball to the mid-wicket region for what he thought were safe runs.

But was the ball falling short? Was the fieldsman too deep? Shantha Upali Samarage flew in from the boundary line like a hawk swooping on its prey. Covering over thirty metres (recent eye witness accounts claim forty metres!), he dived forward to hold breath taking catch inches off the ground. Finally, the stone had been breached. The last Thomian bastion had fallen!

For the record, Yapa added the final nail to the Thomian coffin. Tailender Wijeratne was adjudged lbw to Yapa 18 minutes before 6 pm,..... and then the Royal camp erupted. To this day the echo of the Royal cheers that resonated in 1969 can still be heard in Sydney, during big match time. And then the indelible 'once in a life time' image of running, diving Samarage floats slowly into view.

Niranjan Selvadurai

Was Samarage Stung?

Olivian Niranjan Selvadurai who wrote an article reviving memories of the 1969 win, to this year's match winning Royal Souvenir for the Royal - Thomian cricket match, lives in Sydney. The 69 Royal skipper Eardley Lieversz (now reduced to Lievers by service provider Telstra) also lives in Sydney. It is a mere coincidence.

The losing captain Praboda Kariyawasam, a fine cricketer himself, was a guest of honour at this year's match and is a regular walker on the Mt. Lavinia beach. Ajit Jayasekera who has since recovered from the shock, wants to forget the 69 match. There are noises that the winning team might be in Colombo next year to celebrate completion of 45 years after the win. As per protocol, the Thomians will be invited with provision for RSVP.

The 1981 Royal Souvenir for the Big Match carried "The True Story of the 1968/69 Season" titled "The Unintended consequences of Mediocrity (or how Royal won despite the Captain)". It explains that an important decision that was made was to include an extra bowler and go in for the game with just one wicket keeper. It adds that the Vice Captain from a minority community woke up only intermittently when fielding during the match. The writer was Lieversz, who made it to 49 before being run out going for the 50th or LBW. The Thomians claim they had him LBW 49 runs before. Eardley explains that the Umpires considered the possibility that the ball might have gone between the stumps without disturbing the bails.

Very likely before 1979, this colourful sun tanned ex-Royal skipper during a period of insanity or inspiration (take your pick) climbed the tall communication tower next to the Oval to place the equally colourful College flag at a high vantage point. We have a faint recollection that it was taken to the summit on the second day but we are certain that he did not watch the entire match from there.

It was in 1969 that Neil Armstrong (not a Royalist) hopped across to the full moon, as he saw it. The Royalist was another Armstrong who once carried on with the sister of an Air France air hostess. She developed Viral Hepatitis A, spent some time at the General Hospital and then later changed her mind. Our Armstrong escaped in 1983 claiming he was Neil. The Electricity Board accounts clerk rummaging through some lists told his office colleague with a fuel filled orange barley bottle in his left hand "A - ape - handata - giya - mahaththaya "

In 1969 some of Niranjan's Grade Nine classmates/batch mates decided to play a game of cards in a second floor classroom on the West Wing. There are eye witness accounts of a small bicycle being taken via the staircase to this same classroom. It has never been established to this date, why a bicycle meant for two was needed to play a game of cards.

Contract bridge was beyond the scope of some those present. So they opted for 304. It was just before the cricketer played the Ace of trumps that the athlete, hockey player or another cricketer noticed some activity outside the window. The Bees were resting having just returned from a futile effort to extract honey from the nearby tamarind tree and were feeling frustrated.

There was no premeditation. It was a spontaneous action. The first missile that struck was enough to disturb the hive. Bees being Bees, they headed straight to the grounds where Shantha Upali Samarage and many sportsmen were at practices. Many were stung and some needed medical attention.

Shantha and a group of representative sportsmen made a bee line to the nearby swimming pool and dived into the well chlorinated water. The pool after much delay had been opened only the previous year, probably in anticipation of such an event.

When Samarage dived to take the catch at the Oval it stung and stuck. The Bee stings were sharper. Dr. Samarage who was once attached to the Panadura Base Hospital, now plays village cricket in Yorkshire where the catches come much easier.

From Beyond the Boundary

Deva Mylvaganam

A - The perpetrators (now called Bee Keepers) committed perjury and in the absence of eye or crown witnesses escaped punishment despite severe interrogation by our much respected sectional head Mr. S H Perera.

B - The Air France air hostess was Sri Lankan.

C - Destiny may have had a hand in the Royal Victory. BNR Mendis who was to have captained the Royal side in 1969 crashed his O - Levels.



1981 Batch Reunion

Six days in breathtaking Bali was a great appetizer for our main event as we took wing to Colombo to be joined by 20 others from Sri Lanka, UK, USA and Canada. Rest of our batch mates from other classes also assembled at the Cinnamon Grand on March 6.

Appropriately named "The Celestial 50" by the Group of 81, the organisers put up a show to remember. Uditha Devasurendra and Amanda Weerasinghe who played a significant role in organising the gala event welcomed the Group of 81 at the pre-dinner drinks.

The evening opened to the sounds of the Army Brass Band courtesy of Brigadier Ravi Ratnasingham, a key member of the Group of 81.

Hair loss, weight and "where have you been" were the common themes as friends embraced each other, some after 32 years.

The old boys were reminiscing about the good old days with lots of chatter and laughter. Cameras were flashing away in the background to capture some of the most memorable moments of our lives since leaving school. The boys wanted the pictorial evidence to show their families and friends and to boast about the landmark event.

The elegantly dressed attractive partners of the organising committee then handed the "party bags" and ushered the old Royalists and their partners into the main hall. It was a fantastic setting with great ambiance to accommodate the 240 guests. The MC, a fellow Royalist welcomed the guests. Uditha opened the event with a speech and passed the baton to Suith Satkunam, one of the masterminds of the Bali Celebrations, who welcomed the group and took us down memory lane. Sujith thanked the organising committee for unveiling such a fantastic event.

Medical Professor Deepaka Weerasekera gave his batch mates and partners an informative and entertaining talk on the "ageing process" with visuals to make sure that his talk would make an ever lasting impression on the audience who by now had some liberal doses of strong beverages. The crowd began dancing to the music played by "Misty" the leading band in Sri Lanka. There was no stopping the Group of 81 on the dance floor. They were dancing to all the tunes, new and old and yet no tune could stop that sudden moment of nostalgia when a long lost batch mate and friend was seen from across the dance floor and the sudden realization that the Group of 81 was once more back together in Sri Lanka. From then on the music was a complement to the thundering laughter, the clinking (or rather smashing) of scotch glasses, the slapping of arms around old friends, and thus the reunion of the Old Boys of 1981. The Baila competition brought out the youth and vocal skills of some of the boys who showed they were still teenagers at heart. Partners brought out the emotional and the romantic side of the old boys.

Sri Lanka's culinary delights added spice to the night and the ever-obliging waiters ensured that the boys were well lubricated throughout the night. The event ended at dawn to the sounds of the College Song and the clicks of the cameras. The boys were looking forward to a couple of hours of fun with the goodies from the party bag before the Royal Thomian Cricket Match.

At the Big Match, we were privileged and thrilled to watch Devind Pathmanathan come straight from his sick bed and lead Royal to a famous victory. For most of us his late uncle Gajan and his father Dayalan (Di) were heroes during our school days and it was great to see young Devind lead from the front to beat the weather and the Thomians.

Monday after the Royal Thomian was the final yet most important act of our celebrations. The *papare* bands had gone silent and our battered bodies had barely recovered from excessive partying.

Dressed up for the occasion with the College tie we walked into the most hallowed institution in Sri Lanka. As we entered the through the silver gates our hands quickly checked to see if the shirts was buttoned. The fact that we had a tie made sure the shirts were appropriately buttoned. Our senior school days were under the watchful eyes of the Late E C Gunasekera. Even though Kataya is long gone we could sense his spirit as we walked into the College premises. His strict rules and discipline have made us into what we are today.

Seeing our teachers in the school premises was an unreal experience. Most if not all of them were younger than us when they taught us the most important lessons in life.

The function was held at the Royal College Skills Centre. A large number of old boys from the Group of 81 and about 30 teachers graced the event.

Miss Chelliah, who tried her best to impart some of her Chemistry knowledge to us, had barely changed and looked the same teacher who had a tough time controlling some unruly elements in our class. She was thrilled to see us talked in glowing terms and said we were one of the best classes under her watch.

It was also great to see the teachers from Royal Junior School. All of them had aged but grey hair and wrinkled skins were no barriers to their enthusiasm as they greeted us with open arms and wide smiles like their own children.

Mrs Samitha Samaraweera, who taught some of the boys in Year 1, was there and gave her boys a motherly embrace. Mr Sunimal Silva and Mr K H Amaradasa, long-serving teachers, made the effort to come to see their students.

Uditha Devasurendra, the main architect of the batch reunion in Sri Lanka, delivered the welcome address. Vaseeharan Kumaradasan expressed his appreciation in Tamil.

Royal College Principal Mr Upali Gunasekera in his address highlighted the respect the old boys still had for their teachers.

The 81 Group showed their gratitude to their teachers with a token gesture. They also made a donation to their alma mater, which was accepted by the Principal and the secretary of the Royal College Union Mr Manjula Ariyaratne.

Sujith Satkunam delivered the vote of thanks and once the formalities were over the old boys and the teachers walked across to the Orient Club for a fabulous lunch, which brought the curtain down on one of the most memorable times of our lives.

With so much fun and satisfaction from this reunion the Class of 81 is already planning for the next one. The rumor is we don't have to wait for 10 more years!
Aynkaran Sivaratnam & Siva Ilankesan



1981 Batch Reunion – The Bali Leg

The Royal College class of 1981, recently convened for a reunion as part of the overall RC class of 1981 “*Celestial reunion*” marking the group turning 50 years of age.

The “first leg” of this much anticipated gathering kicked off in the exotic island of Bali on 23 Feb for 5 days. An appropriate prelude to the main event a few days later in the Pearl of the Indian Ocean; the *original* exotic island paradise Serendipity, now Sri Lanka.

A group of 20 grown men converged on the Sanur Villas just as excited as their first school excursion some 40 years prior. Sculptured faces then, now filled with natural botox but still bearing the underlying semblance of rugged good looks from another time – a long time!

They came from near and far, across the oceans from all continents. The organizers Sujith Satkunam, Dr. Senan Nagaratnam and Aynkaran Sivaratnam had constructed an unenviable reunion program.

The group filtered into Bali over Saturday 23 Feb. Unconventional immigration processes somewhat startled our “westernized” class mates who are very much akin to the strict impersonal protocols we have come to put up with in major airports. Shiva Nithianandan arriving from USA was dumbfounded when his passport was whisked away from him by an unremarkable “official” visa expeditor – for a mere \$10 he was fast tracked via the diplomatic channel saving him an hour of lost time in an immigration queue and able to join the festivities as quickly as his running between wickets playing for college some 30 years ago.

Others in the group looked on in disbelief as Dr. Senan was seen directing a group of “officials” (nothing has changed from his school days!) in an effort to get the reunion group to the poolside bar for much needed rehydration from the long flights. The good Doctor’s slick moves in the pool as captain of the college swimming and water polo teams was once again brought to the fore.

The Sanur Villas was an idyllic location somewhat cut away from the hubbub of Kuta. The exclusive property with 4 buildings housed 8 each, overlooked the Bandung straits and was surrounded by rice paddy. The infinity pool with built in bar was sufficient incentive for long lazy days by the pool. Though the setting was tranquil and conducive for kicking back, those serene sentiments seemed the last thing on the group’s mind. Further encouraged by the wonderfully adaptable hospitality of the waiting staff who recognized the warm bonhomie and camaraderie of the long separated friends; they rose to the occasion.

A gala welcome dinner with traditional Balinese dances and an adaptation of Rama & Sita themed theatrical presentation set the mood right taking us back to origins of Lanka. This was followed by a very willing band with two of Bali’s finest specimens as lead singers to further stoke the fast returning youthful exuberances of the now raucous group. The dance moves and the pelvic gyrations witnessed (mainly on the dance floor!), raised doubt as to whether the Kings – Elvis and Wacko Jacko had

indeed passed away. At least for that evening in seemed there were multiples of them in every shape!

Just as the group seemed to be tiring, Hiran Muthiah, instigated a revival by getting the band back for the last night of the Bali reunion. Having surveyed the carnage of the previous musical evening, he along with the organizers conjured up a plan to improve the balance of supply and demand ensuring the dance floor was packed just as the Queens hotel, Kandy or the Taprobane in Colombo Fort during the post Bradby shield dances.

Notwithstanding the amorous atmosphere, Doctor Q aka Sivanugen was propagating responsible conduct and self-preservation (or was that protection?) alternating with his camera work looking for the “shot” always with a wide angle in recognition of his subjects. Ana Wal Banana was confusing our “guests” with his guru pitkar philosophical meanderings one moment and then doing a “sarong dance” sufficient to put any Scotsman to shame! Lanket the walking sport encyclopedia, was inquisitively “keeping score” and providing a “Bristol sports round up” on the hour! Sujith had cast all cares away and was content to alternatively nurse different shapes – of bottles.... hic! Despite a good medical presence it seemed impossible to extricate Niranjan’s fingers from his tongue as he sampled the delicacies of the archipelago.

Despite the focus on having a good time, the organizers had not forgotten to bring the group together for a moment of somber reflection as we remembered comrades who had moved on to that land beyond. Floating candles were cast adrift in the calm waters as we reminisced & dwelled on shared moments of the past. A very touching moment in the midst of blending days & nights of fun!

It was a wonderful start to what was to come later as the group marched onto Colombo for a road trip to Trincomalee with the rest of the batch, a combined batch dinner dance culminating with the Roy-Tho in Colombo.

As the group bid our wonderful hosts “Terima Kasih” as the last word out of that lovely country, the first word learnt on arrival however was “Pijet”.

NB: The above is a vague recollection of the reunion and cannot be admissible in a court of law as an accurate account of proceedings.

Hiran Muthiah



Still Looking Good!

L-R Mike Wille (RC Capt 1957), Mainah Wijesinghe (4 Balls 4 Wkts Twice-1957), Lorenz Pereira (RC Capt 1958) & Fritz Crozier (RC Capt 1956)



The Olive Group of Royal College

Logo



Want to promote your Year Group ?

RCOBAA would like invite all Royal College year groups to use the RCOBAA WEBSITE ,FACEBOOK and Floreat as a medium to promote and inform others about their activities and projects.

For further info contact :president@rcobaa.org.au

The G64 Reunion - "Friends Forever"

December 15th 2012 was a significant date in the calendar for the Royal College '64 Group; it was the date of their "Friends Forever" reunion, marking the occasion of their entry into the seventh decade.

The event was some time in the making, the idea having first been mooted a couple of years earlier. From an "yes Machang we must do something about it" stage the idea gradually gelled and took shape, and with the formation of an organizing committee, gathered momentum. The committee, headed by Prasanna Kannangara did a fantastic job, ensuring that memorable evening was in store for us.

Around 90 of our classmates (from a total complement of about 210) attended, along with some 30 spouses. It was a great privilege to have eight teachers including our Principal Mr Bogoda Premaratne attend the event.

Old boys flew in from the four corners of the earth - Canada, US, UK, Australia, Hong Kong. Shantha Arangala, Sandy Jesudhasan, Mike La'brooy, Janek Ratnatunga, Athula Ratnayake, and Inji Wijegunaratne made the trip from Melbourne. For a few of our friends, including Mike and Sandy, it was the first visit to Sri Lanka since leaving the island.

Picking up old threads, intervening years falling away and resuming from where we left off, "is that really you machang?", "what happened to your hair?", abounded. Cameras flashed to capture the moment for posterity. The well stocked bar ensured that the good stuff flowed freely, aiding and abetting the festivities.

As the formal items of the evening's program - the welcome speech by Prasanna, Rohan Jayaratne's walk through memory lane on our school days, Nalin Gunasekara remembering absent friends, classmates no longer with us - drew to a close, the dancing began. It was then that an absolute highlight of the evening occurred - the entry into the hall of a Papare band, which threw the well lubricated crowd into a frenzy.

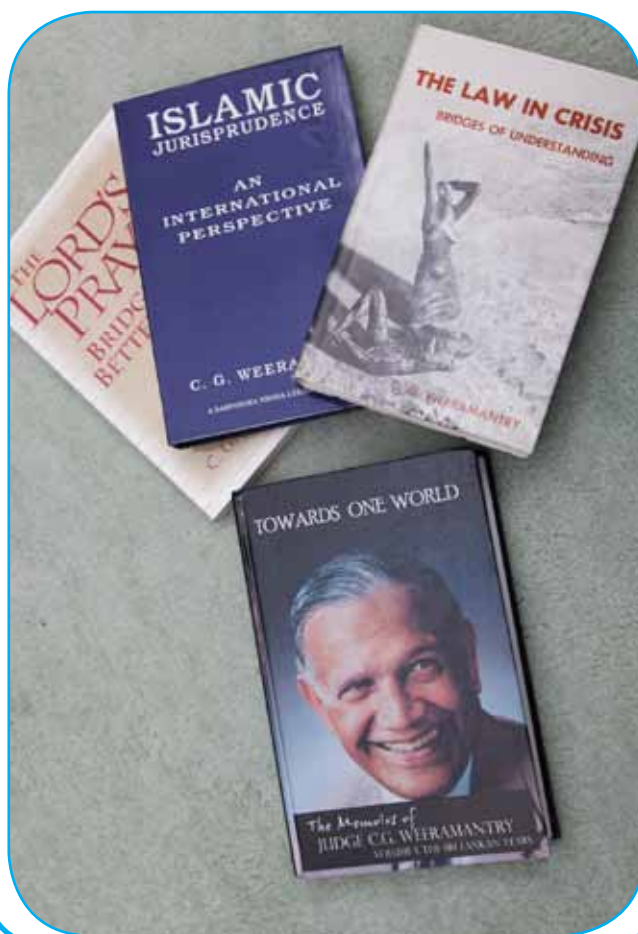
Festivities drew to a close in the early hours of the morning, leaving behind an indelible set of memories that we will cherish in the years to come.

A few books authored by our patron Judge C.G.Weeramantry and donated to RCOBAA at the Golden Oldies Luncheon are still available.

Among them is one set of his memoirs (\$50.00) The other books are priced at \$10.00-15.00 All proceeds to be used for funding deserving students at Royal College. A very interesting read for students of law and laymen alike.

Contact: info@rcobaa.org.au or

0419645851for details.



Register of Member Services

The RCOBAA committee has introduced a new initiative whereby members have the opportunity to share with the wider Royal College community the professional and/or trade services that are being offered by the member. These services will be published in the Floreat as well as on our website and should be in the format below:

John Smith

Catering Services

Cater western cuisine for all functions big or small. Have been in the business for over 20 Years

Email: johnsmith@gmail.com Website: johnsmith.org.au Tel: 1234 5678

Should you wish to list your services, please send your details in line with the above example to

info@rcobaa.org.au

Member Services

Bala Balachandran – Mortgage broker

Website www.homeloans.com.au/bala-balachandran

Mobile 0403 201 375

Fax 03 9515 4898

Nithy Chellappah

Architectural and design services
Specialising in extensions, dual occupations, new design and construction services
email: chellappah.n@gmail.com or

Ph. 0413 138 180

Nihal de Run

CEO & Coordinator

www.proectbeap.org

Lal Jayasinghe - Smasher Cricket

Australia Level III / High Performance coach / New Zealand Level III / ECB senior coach / CA -ACC Level II Coach Educator

Email Lal for details of the winter training program

lalj64@hotmail.com / PH: 0468656520

Dr Shahnaaz Ozeer, BDS, GDGP, MCGDP, Dip Clin Dent Restorative and Oral Medicine (NZ)

General Dentistry including 3D imaging services.

1254 Plenty Road Bundoora Vic 3083
(Tel: 03 94677760) &

119 Jukes Road Fawkner Vic 3060
(Tel: 03 93595697)

www.dentserve.com.au

email: dentserve.dentist@gmail.com

New Members

It is fantastic to see the Royal college community in Melbourne growing by the day. Since the December 2012 edition of the Floreat we have had in excess of thirty "Old Boys" joining the RCOBAA.

On behalf of the RCOBAA committee, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who joined us over the last three months

- Abdullah Mahmud, Asela Wijeratne,
- Channa Jayathilake, Hasanga Wijetunge
- Dilan Nanayakkara, Dilum Goonasakera
- Gamini Jayasinghe, Ganesh Ganeshalingam,
- Janaka Seneviratne, Jivaka Fernando,
- Lindsay Ferdinands, M B U Namal Fernando,
- Mangala Jayawardene, Dammica Wickramaratne
- Manoj Perera, Nihal Kodituwakku
- Pankaja Naotunne, Pasan Manawadu,
- Peminda Jayasinghe, Sahan Perera
- Prasad Herath, Rajeev Peiris, Ralph Wickremaratne
- Ruchira Hewavitharana, Ruchira Abeygunawardena,
- Saminda De Mel, Sandy Jesudhason,
- Sanjeewa Udumalagala, Kapila Epasinghe
- Shyam Sideek, Sohan Silva, Nimal Fernando
- Shihan De Silva and Yohan Kumarage

Aynkaran Sivaratnam

Up Coming Events

Touch Rugby 7's Tournament

Royal Vs Trinity Vs St. Thomas

15th June 2013

BRADBY NIGHT

A combined night of celebrations with the Trinitians

----- Live streaming of the game -----

Further details will be posted on Facebook and via mail outs to members

Annual Dinner Dance

20th July 2013

BOX HILL TOWN HALL

AGM

15th September 2013

(Sunday Lunch)

RCOBAA Committee

| | |
|---|---|
| Judge Christy Weeramantry: <i>Patron</i> | |
| Dr. Clarence Muthiah , Fred Kreltshheim <i>Vice Patrons</i> | |
| Athula Ratnayake: <i>President</i> | |
| Venura Welagedara: <i>Vice President</i> | General Committee: Nihal De Run Indrajith Wijegunaratne Charith Jayathilake Chatura Liyangama Harsha Maligaspe Subash Silva Dinesh Perera |
| Riza Muthaliph : <i>Vice President</i> | |
| Piyal Gunaratne: <i>Secretary</i> | |
| Lilith De Silva: <i>Immediate Past President</i> | |
| Dhammika Perera: <i>Treasurer</i> | |
| Aynkaran Sivaratnam : <i>Membership Secretary</i> | |
| Dinesh Chelvathurai: <i>Editor Floreat</i> | |
| Dimi Kahaduwarachi: <i>Web Master</i> | |

RCOBAA committee contact details

President

Athula Ratnayake P: 0419 645 851 E: president@rcobaa.org.au

Membership Secretary

Aynkaran Sivaratnam P: 0401 120 007 E: membership@rcobaa.org.au



NEW MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM

Royal College Old boys In Australia Association Inc.

Member Details

Membership Categories

First name

Surname

Street no/Name

Suburb

State Post code

E- mail

Phone no: Year Group D.O.B.

| | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| | Ordinary Member <i>(No Restrictions)</i> | \$35.00 |
| | Retired Member <i>(Members over the Age of 70 yrs)</i> | \$25.00 |
| | Country Member <i>(Not living in the state of Victoria)</i> | \$15.00 |
| | Paid Up Member <i>(Member Age 60 yrs or more – a one off membership fee for life)</i> | \$350.00 |
| | Student Member <i>(Age less than 25 yrs –Part time Or Full Time Student)</i> | \$10.00 |

Spouse nomination section (Optional)

Spouse/Partner Name

Spouse/Partner Signature

Please forward completed form with remittance details to:

**Membership Secretary
RCOBAA
PO Box 796
Mt. Waverley VIC 3149**

Remittance Details

By Cheque (drawn in favour of RCOBAA)

By EFT Bank **CBA** BSB **063010** Account **10010447**

By Credit Card

Card No:

Exp. Date : mm yy Card Type: Master card VISA

Card account name:

Amount: Subs+ Voluntary Donations = \$

Signature: Date:

Effective: September 2011. NB: Annual Membership falls due on 01st July each calendar year.