



BLUE WHITE & BLUE



Newsletter of the Old Josephians' Club of Australia

October 2017

President's Message

Dear Fellow Josephians , Friends and families,

I consider it to be another accomplishment in my life to have had the opportunity to be able to serve my Alma Mater from many miles away.

When I took office as the President of the Old Josephians' Club of Australia two years ago, I did consider it a challenge to continue the exceptionally and commendable strides my predecessors had made towards making the Joes OBU a success, over the past 36 years. Without doubt I have to say we are one of most closely knit groups in Australia, with one focus- to give back to our Alma Mater for the discipline and values she has inculcated in us, which continue in good stead even though we are domiciled in a different country.

When I took up office 2 years ago, the committee identified 5 key areas to focus on, they were:

- Membership Drive
- Communication (News Letter, Web , Face Book and Linked-in)
- Future Projects
- Sponsorships
- Old Joes Welfare

We set up subcommittees with responsible committee members taking ownership and focusing on implementing actions to see that we achieved our goals in the designated key focus areas.

I am happy to report that we have been able to achieve what we set out to do with the able support of all the subcommittees and the wider members in and out side the Joes OBU commit-

tee. I thank all of you for your steadfast support. I am ever so grateful to all of you. In addition the waves of support came from the general membership and the Past Presidents who were so understanding and encouraging of the work being carried out by my committee.



During the two year period our Associations many sports and social activities reaped the desired fruits of building a stronger bondages among fellow Josephians' and also building a capacity to embark on projects in College as has been over the years. Our improved communications via the social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn have brought us into the new era of almost instant and constant communication allowing us to engage the membership and well wishes almost instantly. You will also agree our News Letter is too well presented and informative. The Web Page is impressive too. All these have been possible , thanks to the dedication and the competence of the committee members.

This years Dinner Dance was a huge success with 560 + guests with many positive comments and feedback , it was a sheer team effort.

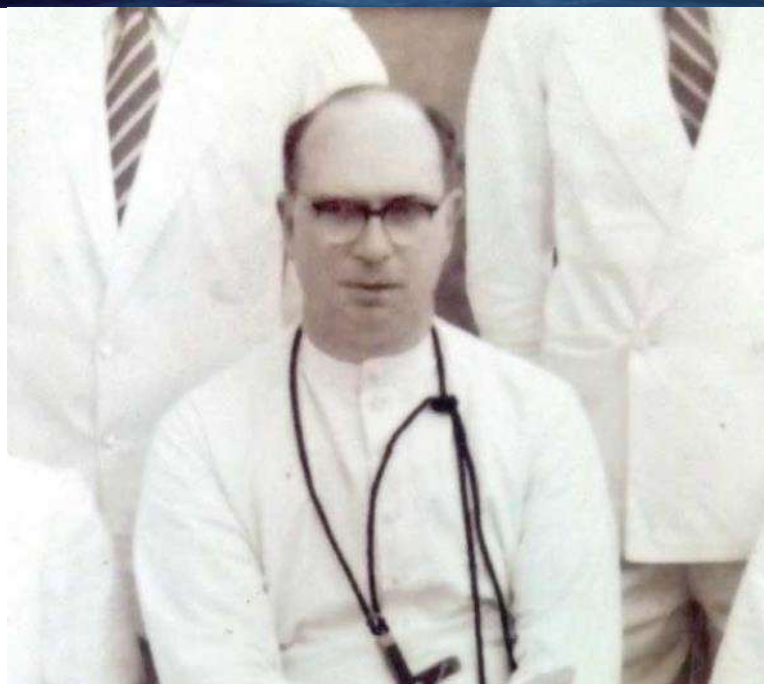
As I bow out as your President my desires rise even higher for the greater success of our OBU. I wish the incoming president and the new committee all the very best and commit my support to the committee in the service to my Alma Mater.

My humble prayer and wish is to see success continue in the spirit as it has been ***till the mountains disappear.***

Mohan Perera

OCT 29, 2017
Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Old Joes Australia

Sun 6 PM · Walawwa - 'The Bungalow' at Sandown Regency · Noble Park



For Sergeant Major, the Rev. Fr. Alphonse Margesz, OMI, Vice Rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, 1948-1965, on his 110th birth anniversary giving due honour and respect to the humble & valuable services rendered to St. Joseph's college & our great nation, Sri Lanka, Sept. 28th 1907 to Sept. 28th 2017.

Once the sound of the bell is heard one could see Fr. Margesz or better known as our dear Vice Rector, moving along from corridor to corridor and from class to class of St Joseph's College with a box of chalk in one hand and a black board duster in the other. The classes are quiet when there are teachers in them and noisy when there aren't any. One such day our class was noisy so Fr. Margesz walked in and asks who is supposed to be the teacher here today? Why is he not here? The third question would normally be what is the subject to be taught in this period today?

Whether we say Physics, Chemistry, Algebra, Geometry, Arithmetic, Statics Dynamics, Trigonometry, Botany or Zoology. Fr. Margesz would ask where you boys stopped at the last class you had. Fr. Margesz would then get to the black board keep his box of chalk on the desk and continue from where we had stopped at the last class whatever the subject would be.

Fr. Margesz was so keen in our educational programmes that he took every step to teach any of the subjects to get the class going. Not everybody could change from subject to subject like one could change from channel to channel on a television set just as he had it all well programmed not only in his head but also in his heart. We believe that this was Fr. Vice Rector's God guaranteed talent and a dedicated service both well mastered. As a result of this today we see that every student who had learnt in his classes is doing yeoman service in society in the fields of Engineering, Medicine, Law, Armed Forces, Politics, Church Ministry or Social Media.

During his time the Lab-boy in the bio-lab who worked under Fr. Margesz was Mr. Laus.

The last French Missionary Tributes to Rev. Fr. Alphonse Margesz

He told me of this incident. You have been an altar server faithfully serving the Rector's or the Vice Rector's mass, (pujahver) every Sunday at 6 O'Clock hours without fail for many years. You may not be aware that I clearly remember that on one such Sunday this mass which starts sharp at 6 O' Clock started at about 6.05. Later when I was seated having breakfast in the refectory with the Sacristan, Mr. Marcelline, I asked him "Why did the mass, the Pujahver, start a little late today about 5 minutes, after 6?"

He replied "Fr. Margesz, did not start the mass because the student of the college, who comes to serve the Rectors Mass every Sunday was a little late. The Swami waited till the boy came and got dressed up in his red cassock and it was only after all that did the Swami start the Sunday Service. I responded "I never heard of a priest ever waiting till the altar boy arrives to start a mass. Are the altar boys so important?"

On Monday, the next day, when Fr. Margesz came to the bio lab Mr. Laus asked the Swami why he had to wait till the Altar Boy came. Fr. Margesz, the Vice Rector whom the College Minor staff refer to as Praanser Swami responded in good Sinhala with a French accent. "This is to show the closeness of the altar boy and the priest. It is a new development coming from the Vatican II Council in session now in Rome. Fr. Margesz was always up to date in everything. When he was in class teaching Geometry the Triangles, circles or cyclic quadrilaterals drawn on the on the black board and his Sinhala letters on the black board written for certain explanations were like computer printed stuff because Fr. Margesz was an excellent artist.

Many students of St Joseph's College both the young & the old who learnt under, knew or came to know of Fr. Margesz and experience the depth of his great Ser-vices, al-ways remem-ber this missionary priest as one who has helped us greatly to fit right into the path of KNOWLEGDE & VIRTUE, in scientia et virtute.

*Fr. Margesz: A philosopher
and a conscientious
scientist*

Written with the help of the clerics and altar boys of my University Entrance class of 1964/65 under Fr. Margesz our Vice Rector. They are Fr. Leo Perera, Fr. Clement Waidyasekera, Fr. Nihal Nanayakkara, Fr. Joe Anthonypillai, S.J. Fr. Mervyn Perera, PC Romesh de Silva, GM Suresh Britto.

*By Chap. R. R. W. F. Pereira,
OBU SJC Former Chaplain to the British Royal Navy
Port of Colombo*

The last French Missionary Tributes to Rev. Fr. Alphonse Margesz — Continued.....

Sergeant Major. Fr. Alphonse Gerard Lucien Margesz, OMI, was born on September, 28th 1907 in the little industrial town of Lille, in Northern France. During the First World War he served his portion of compulsory military service for the French Army and rose to the rank of Sergeant Major.

He commenced his primary theological studies in the seminary in Liege Belgium and completed his higher studies at the Gregorian University in Rome obtaining a doctorate in Philosophy. He was ordained minister on June 26th 1932 and came to Sri Lanka on January 30th 1933. He chose Sri Lanka for his missionary work due to the influence of Very Rev. Fr. Peter Pillai OMI, the first Sri Lankan Rector of the French Missionary College, St. Joseph's. Very Rev. Fr Peter Pillai OMI was able to see the profound sterling value of Fr. Margesz OMI, his contemporary when they were at the Gregorian University in Rome.

In 1948 he was sent to the Catholic University of Washington, USA where he obtained a MSc. Degree in biology. On returning to Sri Lanka he took duties as Professor of Biology at St. Joseph's College, Colombo, and served as Vice Rector for 15 long years. Besides being a philosopher he was also a conscientious scientist, a Mathematician of repute and a talented Musician who trained and conducted the choir. He had a botanical garden at St. Joseph's College where he was able to make a single rose tree

bear Red, Yellow, White and Pink roses. He was a beautiful singer who sang with a rich baritone voice and last but not least he was a gifted artist.

It was during his time of service at St. Joseph's College that he was awarded the Distinction "Chavalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Academique" by the French Government for the services he had rendered in the field of Education.

Fr. Margesz was sent to Rome to do a course in the Judicial Process of the Matrimonial Court and practised this ministry at Borella. While he worked here I used to visit Fr. Margesz in his room and often I had to walk back very silently in order not to disturb our dear Vice Rector lying in bed in his white cassock. He used to do this due to fatigue in his mid seventies.

On Monday the 7th 1985, a car at the Archbishop's house was to take Fr. Margesz to the doctor. But Fr. Margesz did not come down to the car. He was in his bed in his white cassock. He had breathed his last that day, a feast day of his Congregation.

By his students Fr. Clement Waidyasekera OMI, OBU SJC & Chap. R.R.W.F. Pereira UK. Dip. Tech, OBU SJC.

We celebrate the life of a distinguished Josephian — Mr Laksri (Laki) Fernando



Laki was born during the Height of World War two on the 26th July, 1944. He joined St. Joseph's College in 1948 where he completed his academic education in 1962. After leaving St Joseph's College he joined The Browns Group where he did his Articles and then moved on to Hentley Garments where he worked until he migrated.



He was a perfect gentleman with a very quiet and calm nature. He was also a very distinguished and a proud Josephian. He always upheld the college traditions. After migrating to Australia in the late 1980s' he joined our Club and served on the committee for many years and in the mid-1990s', he also served as Social Secretary alongside his lifelong friend and classmate Denver de Rozairo who was President at that time. He always carried out his duties with great honour and distinction.

He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and members of the Josephian community. May his soul rest in Peace.

The Memorial Service will be at St. Pius's X, 419 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West at 1.00 pm on Saturday 21st - October - 2017

WE BID FAREWELL

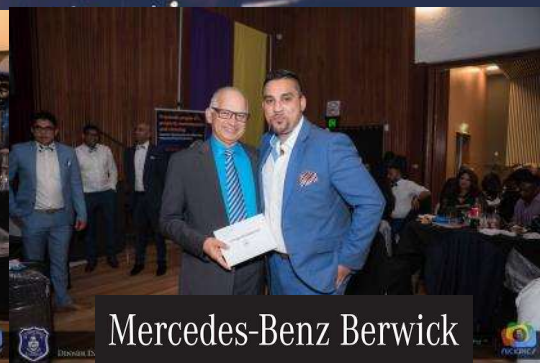


The Membership and committee of the Joes OBU in Victoria, bids Farewell to all our Josephian brothers who have passed away during 2017 and in recent times. A special thank you goes out to the families and the old boys who dedicated themselves and helped in creating and continuing the Joes family in Victoria. We who enjoy the benefits friendships and comradery will always be thankful to you. God Bless the families and RIP our brothers.



The Joes Masquerade Ball 2017

A night to remember



THE WINNERS OF THE EVENING

1st Prize—Sponsored By Travel Glen and Emirates

2nd Prize—Sponsored By Cinnamon Air

3rd Prize—Sponsored By Mercedes Benz Berwick

4th Prize—Sponsored By Spartan

5th Prize—Sponsored by EGO Pharmaceuticals





JOES SPORTS WRAP UP — *By Susilough de Silva Wijeyeratne*



Rugby Champs Tour South Africa

The Joes Champs will be touring South Africa from the 15th to 22nd October on the back of a spectacular performance in 2017. The team recently won the Milo Presidents Trophy 2017 which was its first major tournament victory.



St Joseph's College Beat Asian International School in the Final of the Jathika Pasal Under 17 Basketball tournament by 58 points to 53. Shehan Fernando was adjudged the Best Player of the tournament



SJC OBA UK
Contributes to
college Basketball
and Tennis.

Susantha Senanayke presents a contribution on behalf of the OBA UK

Soccer — Juniors outmanoeuvre to win against St Peters while Seniors lose Fr Stanley Abeysekera Trophy 3 – 1



Results of the Junior Matches

Under 12 A SJC 1 SPC 0

Under 12 B SJC 2 SPC 0

Under 14 SJC 2 SPC

The Oldest Catholic Schools In Colombo

01 St. Benedict's College



Location: Colombo 13
Foundation Year: 1865



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

The mother of catholic education in Colombo, remedy the oldest catholic educational Institute in Colombo, St Benedict's Holds the undisputed position of the trend setter in Catholic education and has contributed immensely towards the establishment and development of other catholic schools.

The College was inaugurated in 1865 by the Benedictine Monks. The school consisted of few classrooms and a small staff at first. In 1868, the De La Salle Brothers took over the administration of the College. Since then the school has been headed by many Brothers who belonged to the La Sallian Community.

04 St. Lucia's College



Location: Colombo 13
Foundation Year: 1880



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

Started as an English Medium school by the Bishop of Colombo at that time very Rev. Fr. Thomas Cardinal Cooray. A school under the protection of the Kotahena conference of "St. Vincent de Paul" 1880 The parish priest of St. Lucias Cathedral had managed the School for poor children since 1880. Bro. Alexander Basil together with the Parish priest Rev. Fr. J. Miliner O.M.I gave much prominence to the study of English and raised.

07 Holy Family Convent



Location: Colombo 04
Foundation Year: 1903



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

02 Good Shepherd Convent



Location: Colombo 13
Foundation Year: 1869



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

Good Shepherd Convent was established over 100 years ago on Colombo's highest point, like a light set on a towering hill.

It was the Benedictine Italian Archbishop of Colombo, Rt. Rev. Sillani, who initiated the first Catholic Convent, yet it drew upon the efforts of a French Saint Mother Euphrasia to plant the seed which has now become a mighty tree through whose portals thousands of girls have passed through.

On 15th April, 1869, Rev. Sr. Mary Anucita Marandi, Sr. Mary Suzanne Cardiff, Sr. Euphstie Joseph and Sr. Mary Sacred Heart Masi arrived in Sri Lanka consequent to a request made in 1867 by the then Bishop of Colombo, His Lordship Hilarion Sillani to Mother Mary of St. Euphrasia Pelletier (now St. Mary Euphrasia), to set up a school of the Good Shepherd order. The Rev. Sisters had been given a grand welcome which was followed by a Thanksgiving service

05 St. Joseph's College



Location: Colombo 10
Foundation Year: 1892



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

In 1892, the idea of a Catholic College emerges with the proposal of the Archbishop of Colombo Rt. Rev. Fr. Christophe-Étienne Bonjean.

On 6 January 1892, a pastoral letter was sent to all the priests espousing the desirability of building a Catholic Private College to cater to the Elite in Colombo. In April 1892, St. Joseph's College was provided the support of other catholic institutions, notably the administration of St. Benedict's College.

10 St. Peter's College



Location: Colombo 04
Foundation Year: 1922



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

03 St. Joseph's College



Location: Colombo 14 - Grandpass
Foundation Year: 1870's



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

St. Joseph's College was functioned as a branch school of St. Benedict's college, Kotahena from the time Brothers took its management fully in October 1905. Principal as well as other teaching Brothers of this school traveled daily from St. Benedict's college until the residential community of Grandpass commenced in 1925. A Brother had always being the Principal of the school except for a short period in 1990's.

06 St. Bridget's Convent



Location: Colombo 07
Foundation Year: 1902



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

St. Bridget's Convent, Colombo 07 is a leading Catholic girls school in Colombo. It was founded on February 1, 1902 by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd order, making it one of the earliest mission schools of the Roman Catholic Church of Ireland in Ceylon.

On 1 February 1902, at the request of Most Rev. Dr. T. A. Melizan O.M.I, Archbishop of Colombo, St. Bridget's Convent was established as the second house of the Good Shepherd congregation for the education of young ladies. It was the third school in the Colombo area opened by the nuns.

08 All Saints' College



Location: Colombo 10
Foundation Year: 1904



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

The Eight catholic school and the fourth Girls school established by the church.

09 De La Salle College



Location: Colombo 15
Foundation Year: 1905



PRESENTS **OLDEST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN COLOMBO**

De La Salle College, Colombo is the only school in Sri Lanka dedicated to the Patron Saint of Christian Teachers St. John Baptist de la Salle, founder of the congregation of De La Salle Brothers of the Christian Schools in Latin: "Fratres Scholarum Christianarum"

The tenth catholic school and the seventh Boys school established as St. Joseph 's College South to cater the growing demand in the area. The Founder Rector was an Old Benedictine Rev. Fr. Nicholas Perera who served for over 20 years.

Josephian Walk 2017



St. Joseph's swimming for 27 years — Coach Ruwan Manawadu

St. Joseph's College holds a proud record of winning the Sri Lanka All Island Swimming championship for 14 years in succession and the man behind the scene is none other than their coach who had rendered his untiring services to lift the Joes to the present position in schools swimming.

Ruwan Manawadu an old Mahindian got his first appointment to serve as an assistant swimming coach from 1982 to 1990 in the Rathduwa and Ratgama areas in Galle District. He came to the limelight when under his guidance Dodanduwa Piyarathana Madya Maha Vidyalaya finished as the second runner-up in a schools swimming competition.

St. Joseph's College recognising Manawadu's capabilities as a swimming coach was offered an assistant coach's post in 1990 till 1999. He was appointed the head coach in 1999. Manawadu is involved in Jose swimming for 27 years.

Speaking to the Sunday Times the experienced coach said in the early days only a handful of children at St. Joseph's took up swimming as there were only two or three schools took part in this water sport. Later when recognised schools like Ananda and Nalanda along with a large number of schools around the country took up this sport competition became tougher and tougher every year.

He went on to say further that swimming has reached a high standard with the modern day scientific training. At St. Joseph's swimming is started from under 9 year age in the schools academy. At the start the tiny tots are coached to learn the basics in all four strokes. Later they picked the best lot and trained them in technique and endurance. These classes are held in the mornings starting at 5.15 am. In the final stages the swimmers are taught to compete in higher level competitions.

He also said that the swimmers at St. Joseph's are all out to maintain their proud record in swimming by winning the schools

championships and after they concentrate more on their studies rather than continuing the sport to the next level.

Manawadu proudly said that swimmers under his guidance had represented the country at Olympics, Commonwealth Games, South East Asia and Asia level. Conrad Francis competed in Olympic Games in 2000 and 2004 while Milinda Wickremasinghe and Nilmin Arasakularatne represented the country at Commonwealth Games.

Ashen Fernando, Sahan Rupasinghe and Eshan Sovis took part in the Asian swimming championships. Three Josephians – Kaushal Manawadu, Panduka Gunasekera and Fabian Perera – have taken part in the World Life saving Championship for three consecutive years in Australia.

As seniors concentrate more on the A/L exam it is very difficult to get them for training in the morning and evening. He also said that for the last few years he couldn't produce a swimmer to represent the country as the boys devote their time mostly for studies. You can't blame the boys for that as they will have to face the present educational trend.

Manawadu paid a rich tribute for the Rector along with the other staff members, parents and old boys for their noble support helping him to take Josephian swimming to the highest level and for the students for their dedication, application and sacrifice making his job easy.

Pic. By Priyantha Wickremarachchi



Robotics, Coding and Design Education comes to SJC

Old Joe & CEO of Create Lab Singapore Thilan Wickramasinghe and Co-Founder Dhruv Vohra met with Rev. Fr. Rector to launch coding, robotics and design thinking education for the Primary Schoolers of St. Joseph's College. Create Lab is Singapore's leading 21st Century learning school with partnerships with the Govt. of Singapore, Google & Softbank. Their award-winning programs are developed together with academics from Oxford, MIT & Singapore's top universities. St. Joseph's College will be the first public school in Sri Lanka to offer international-standard coding, robotics and design education to their students.



One reason people resist change is because they focus on what they have to give up, instead of what they have to gain

- John Assaraf