

**D**on't let the chill of winter keep you at home. Come on over and dispel the blues at the Old Bens Winter Frolics on Saturday June 7. Sled up to the Don Moore Centre on North Rocks Road by 7.00 PM Five hours of frolicking will warm the cockles of any heart.

So bring your friends and zip on over. For a lazy \$35 per person you will enjoy a fine dinner with Gordon & the KOPYKATZ to stoke heart-warming music to blaze away the evening.

## Bens Winter FROLICs

**More, more, more!**

And there's more, you will receive five (5) raffle tickets each at no cost to you.

There's still more - yes it is BYO refreshments BUT, each table of 10 will have two bottles of wine as well. Now guys and gals, what more can you ask for? .

One more thing. You must contact one of the following, place your bookings and, most importantly, send your remittance to be assured of a seat for you and your friends.

What are you waiting for? Pick up that telephone & call Tony (9894 7795); Ranjith (9630 2070) Sri (9484 6711) or Lionel (9863 2716). The only way to get the warmest spot in the house. Phone right now.

## Strict rules for Year 1 admissions to College in 2009

**A**pplication forms for Year-1 admission for 2009 will become available for collection from April 26 through to April 28. Selection is based on merit only. While every effort will be made for the admission process to be user friendly, strict guidelines are in place to prevent any misunderstanding concerning the admissions.

**Guidelines are:** • The following documents must be presented when collecting forms – the child's Birth and Baptismal

Certificates, parents' Marriage Certificate and the Family Book.

- Parents unable to collect application forms for whatever reason, must appoint a proxy/guardian in writing and this document must also be presented along with other essential papers.
- Old Bens, members of the Clergy or any other person recommending an applicant, must do so in writing and this letter must be attached to the application at the time of submission. Old Bens are also requested to bring their OBU Membership cards. (NOTE: These must be strictly adhered to as School Authorities and the Admission Board are unable to accept such recommendations after an application is rejected).
- All donations pledged by

parents of selected candidates should be remitted directly to the College bank account and deposit slips must be produced and official receipts obtained from the Welfare Office in College. **(IMPORTANT: No other payments should be made to any individual or group as selection criteria are based PURELY ON MERIT, depending on total marks obtained at the interview and NOT ON DONATIONS PLEDGED).**

All parents, Old Bens and others interested in having children admitted to College are requested to strictly follow the above procedures because neither the Admission Board nor the College Administrators can entertain any further enquiries in regard to rejected applications.

### Wolstan D'Abrera

*First Patron of the Sydney Bens, Wolstan D'Abrera is unwell and under treatment. He is at home at the present time and is responding well to the medication. A one-time captain of St Benedict's First XI cricket team, Wolly is determined to fight on. In Maureen, his wife of more than 50 years, he has a wonderful and loving carer. All he asks of his Old Ben friends is "say a little prayer for me".*

Greetings from the Committee



**Sydney Bens President Tony Appathurai and the entire Committee wish all Sydney Bens and all their families**

**and loved ones a Happy & Holy Easter. We extend our sincere wishes to all Old Bens in Australia and overseas.**

**May the Risen Lord shower you abundantly with all His Salvific Graces and Blessings. May Peace, Happiness and Good Health be with you always.**



## SYDNEY BENS' NEWS

Newsletter of the NSW OBA Inc.

*St Benedict's College  
OBA (NSW) Inc.  
Founded in 1993*

### OUR MISSION

*Promote loyalty to and assist  
our Alma Mater at all times,  
foster social and sporting  
interaction among Old Bens  
everywhere.*

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President:** Tony Appathurai

**Vice-President:** Ranjith  
Velayuthen

**Secretary:** Sri Fernandopulle

**Treasurer:** Lionel Machado

**Social Secretary:** Hynsworth  
LaFaber

**Sports Secretary:**

**Prakash Fernandopulle**

**Gordon Rebeira**

**Roger Weneden**

**Julian Pillai**

**Gerard Pathinather**

**Sherwell Fernando**

**Cliff Willenberg**

**Auditor:** Anton Massillamany

**EDITOR & LAYOUT/  
DESIGN**

**Doug Jones**

**email:** [deejay20@aapt.net.au](mailto:deejay20@aapt.net.au)

## CURRENT IN KOTAHENA

### *Management changes*

Bro. Janaka Fonseka has been appointed Sub-Director of the Collegiate section, while Bro. Vernon Perera is the new Principal of the Primary school. Another change is that Bro. Praveen has been placed in charge of the Year 6 section.

Bro. Niran Perera, former Sub-Director, is away in Rome doing a course in Religious Formation and Education.

### *English 'as she's spoke'*

Conversing in English during school hours and at recess time is mandatory to all students. This is a laudible move to uplift standards and improve English among students in all class levels.

### *Scholarships*

So that needy students seeking admission to College can be assisted in a proactive way, a new scholarships committee has been set up under the chairmanship of the Director Bro Granville Perera. The Sponsorship Committee is seeking donors to provide funds or undertake to sponsor at least one student. Due to the generosity of Old Bens and well wishers 98 students were provided with scholarships in 2007.

Details of the number of students in different class grades who can benefit from such support

is listed in the College web portal: [www.stbenedictscollege.org](http://www.stbenedictscollege.org).

### *Sports*

**HOCKEY:** Old Bens trounced the Colts 4-2 in the Pioneer Shield B division run by the Colombo Hockey Association.

**CRICKET:** ● Bens First XI cricket team registered a convincing 9-wicket win against Lalith Athulathmudali MV in their Lemonade Trophy Schools limited over match played at Kotahena on March 14. Paceman Surin Silva and spinner Dilanka AWARDt captured 3 wickets each to keep the MV score to 116. Bens replied with a winning 117 for the loss of one wicket. Bens have two more vital games to play against St Peter's and D.S.Senanayke MV.

● SBC gained first innings points vs St Anthony's Katugastota at Kotahena. In reply to the visitors 197, the Bens, helped by two superb 50s from Chanaka Wijewardene and Amila Perera, notched up a formidable 252 for 8 dec'd.

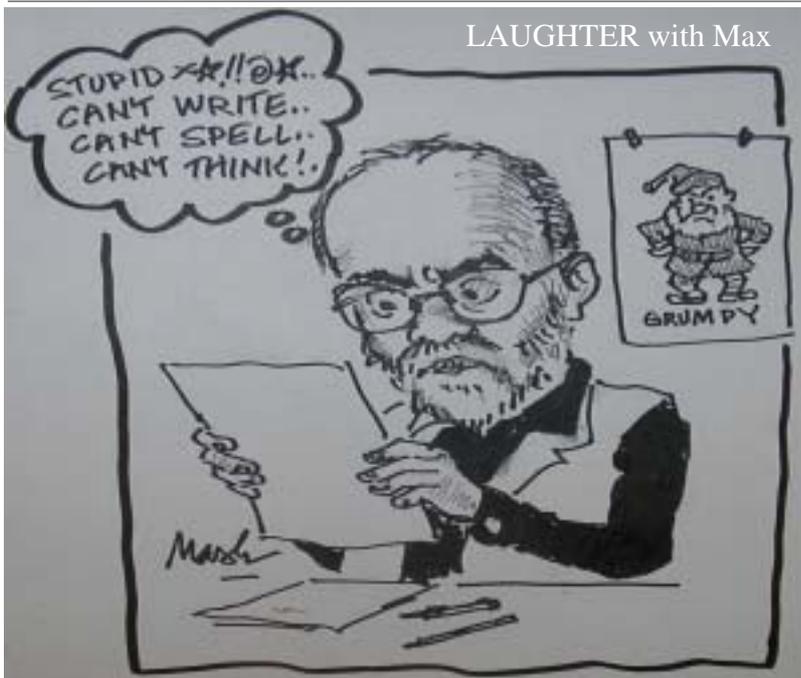
### *New gym*

The new power gym, constructed at the La Salle Building adjoining the College playground, will be named after Rev. Bro. Gladstone Oliver, a former Director of the school. The work is nearing completion and opening of the facility will take place before the school closes for first term holidays.

### *New swimming pool*

Management has given the nod for the construction of a new swimming pool for College, a move welcomed by all present and past students of College.

LAUGHTER with Max



## Gerreyn's back

Our favourite cartoonist Max Gerreyn returns to these pages with his usual flair.

Nobody's safe from the bite of Gerreyn's cynical pen. He has picked on your mild-mannered editor this time who will, naturally, cop it sweet.

Gerreyn has put the editor on notice that his satirical eye will be cast on some of our other committee members as he sketches on his merry way.

## Children pay tribute to Joe and Muriel Rodrigo

The Rodrigo children (beg pardon, they are adults now!) insisted that their unassuming dad and mum have a big party for their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Despite protests, the children went ahead and held a celebration on Sunday February 3 at the Holroyd Function Centre in Merrylands.

And what a tribute sons Jeremy and his wife Eisvaree, Russell and wife Savithri and daughter Geraldine, aided and abetted by grandchildren Jerome, Joseph, Ramon, Raminda, Thilani and Kishani planned and presented for about 120 friends and relatives and their families as a fitting tribute to Joe and Muriel Rodrigo.

Among guests were their flower girl, now Mrs Suranganie

Abeyesundara, who travelled all the way from Sri Lanka. Close friends attending were Dr Douglas Arndt and his wife Vilma, Dr Lionel "Chokka" Fernando and wife Mallika who flew in from New Zealand. Dr Appiah 'Tupps' Tharmarajah and his wife Swarna.

### Married

For the record, Joe and Muriel were married on February 3 in 1958 at St Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya with the late Rev.



• *Fifty years of wedded bliss.*

Fr. O. Morelli, an American Jesuit, officiating.

Son Russell was MC and Anthony Subramaniam's camera captured the event for posterity.

### FATHER & SONS CRICKET

## Do dad's have what it takes?

"On a bouncy wicket, the bowlers took the upper hand earlier on, making some batman chase the ball only to get caught, while others were chased by the ball and had to duck and weave," Max Perumal observed. "Quick reflexes saved another from serious damage when a sharply rising ball only kissed his chin, luckily causing just a minor grazing".

This was the first Fathers and Sons cricket match organised and there was a tremendous response to the game. It was great to see the enthusiasm from the youngsters and the spirit in which they played the game. The keenness shown prompts organisers to consider making the Fathers and Sons encounter an annual feature.

The first was a 30-over game where Ronnie Almeida's team captained by Sebastian Pillai won the game with two overs to spare. Clement Christie-David took 2 wickets. Harold Christie-David's side, with Dayan Jayamanne as skipper, were bowled out short of the required score, with Max Perumal capturing 2 wickets.

### Force to reckon with

This game was followed by a 12-over Fathers versus Sons match that resulted in a tighter finish. *It showed that the older guys were still a force to reckon with*, one dad maintains. Sons voice different opinions.



• (Above) A superb pull shot to square leg.

• (Left) Howzat? The slip's not impressed.



## RECONSIDER YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We have about 105 names of known Old Bens on our OBA list. Of these, 36 are recognised as financial members. Sadly, the rest have ceased paying any subscription whatever. The full list of the Sydney Bens is on the College website [www.stbenedictscollege.org](http://www.stbenedictscollege.org). Click on the link to Sydney Bens and go to Members.

*We invite all Old Bens to return to full fledged membership of the OBA. All you have to do is to make a single payment of \$125.00 and that will make you financial for life.*

Your very energetic OBA in Sydney holds several social and sporting activities frequently and more interactive events are planned for the rest of 2008. Your full membership will be most welcome and you and your family will immensely benefit from your proactive participation with the OBU.

**Please consider seriously of becoming a full-fledged member of your OBA. The OBA needs you.**



Allan Gunasekera new  
President of Vic OBU

**Patron:** Nihal Fernandopulle  
**President:** Allan Gunasekera  
**Vice President:** Anselm  
Gunasekera **Secretary:** Glen  
Joseph **Treasurer:** Navam  
(Fred) Martyn (acting) **Social  
Secretary:** Frank Pereira  
**Editor:** Ramsay Gunasekera  
**Committee:** Srinath  
Jayawardena, Lalith Lowe,  
Deelipa Fernando, Mahinda  
Jeronimus.

## Sebastian scores scintillating century vs Old Wesleyites

New Life member Stanley Sebastian hit a hurricane 126 (8 sixes and 14 fours] to help the Sydney Bens beat the Old Wesleyites in an annual 40-over cricket match played at Castle Hill on 15 February. The Wesley bowlers had no clue to Stanley's scintillating and crackerjack innings. Stanley was ably assisted by Ronnie Almeida (42 not out) in

in a 150 run stand in safely overhauling the big score of 205 set by up the Wesleyites. Roshan Pathinather was the most successful Bens bowler capturing 3 wickets.

**Scores:** Old Wesleyites 205. Sydney Bens 207 for 5 wickets; The chief guest at the match was Canadian Old Ben Michael Alvis, who was visiting Sydney

### More cricket pictures

All cricket photos by Fred Herft



• Fine bowling style!



• A healthy collection of Fathers & Sons

### Nabeel Dole - swimming star

Benedictine student **Nabeel Dole** participated in the Junior Swimming Championships in

Islamabad (Pakistan) recently winning a Bronze medal in the 50m Breast Stroke event.

Earlier at the 2007 Junior National Aquatic Championships in Sri Lanka, Nabeel won the 50m and 100m Breast Stroke events. Nabeel established a new record in the 50m event setting a time of 35.81 secs.

Also an outstanding athlete, Nabeel is the first Ben to compete in an overseas swimming event.

## OBITUARIES

### Mrs Queenie Anandappa

We are sad to inform the death of Mrs. Quinee Anandappa, beloved mother of Old Ben Max Anandappa, former President of Old Bens UK, mother and mother-in-law of Pam and Tony Appathurai. Her Husband Bede and other sons Franklyn, Trevor, Gladwin and Hillary are all loyal Old Bens. May she rest in peace.

### Dion Raymond

Perth resident and Old Ben Dion Raymond passed away suddenly in Dubai on Jan. 4.

### Roger Joachim

Old Ben Roger Joachim passed away in Perth on

January 25, after a year-long battle with cancer.

### Malcolm Mack

Malcolm Mack passed away in Sri Lanka after a brief illness.

Malcolm leaves behind his wife Suzette and daughter Natasha.

### Neville Alles

Neville passed away in September 2007 in Hertfordshire (UK). He was a Life member of the Old Bens UK.

### Nihal Soyza

Nihal passed away in Sri Lanka in November 2007. He played in the 1964 College champion cricket XI and was a fine athlete.

### Fredrick Silva

Fred was another all-round cricketer in the late 50s. He passed away recently.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2008

**JUNE 7** – Winter Frolics 7.00 pm  
Don Morre Centre, North Rocks  
(Details on Page 1)

**AUG 16** - Bens Golf Day. Tee-off 8.20am SHARP - Rosnay Golf Course, Auburn.

**DEC 8** - Bens X'mas Party  
Don Moore Centre, North Rocks