

Calling for your support to Sub-committee's fund raising efforts

Sydney Bens plan help to Tsunami victims

A tsunami relief aid (TRA) sub-committee consisting of Max Perumal, Harold Christie-David, Gordon Rebeira and Michel Jason has been established for the specific purpose of organising fund-raising events on behalf of the Sydney Bens.

All Sydney Bens are urged to support the TRA sub-committee in their efforts to raise much needed moneys to assist the tsunami victims in Sri Lanka.

The funds raised is to provide aid and relief to Sri Lankans affected by the recent tsunami that devastated the country.

Rehabilitation of schools and projects related to education are the preferred areas of support.

A separate bank account will be established with a one-off deposit of \$1000 from Sydney Bens funds to assist the TRA sub-committee to get fund-raising efforts off the ground.

The sub-committee will report its plans, activities and progress to the Executive Committee with a monthly memo addressed to the Secretary.

A proper record of all funds received and expenditure incurred



When the tsunami came to Sri Lanka...a stunning pictorial as the Boxing Day tidal wave menacingly ravages the coastline.

must be maintained in the usual manner for audit purposes. Such records will be produced to the Executive Committee on a regular basis, when requested. All donations and contributions received must be receipted and acknowledged where practicable.

The sub-committee will identify beneficiaries of relief aid and

submit this information to the Executive Committee for approval prior to sending any money overseas.

The TRA sub-committee will wind-up all activities no later than September 30, 2005 and any funds remaining in the TRA account at the time of winding up shall be transferred to the Sydney Bens account.

Cedric and Jane are northward bound

Sydney Bens' OBA secretary Cedric Pereira and his wife Jane have taken up the gauntlet and chosen to leave behind, among a host of friends, a homely Wentworthville, splendid Sydney, a spunky NSW in exchange for the breeze and brine of Hervey Bay (near Bundaberg) in Queensland.

No doubt, their amiable faces and sunny smiles will make numerous new friends among Old Bens, Sri Lankans and others in their new abode; we trust that old acquaintances left behind will ne'er be forgotten too. Cedric and Jane are welcome to look us up whenever they choose to trip down south.

Sterling effort

Cedric has contributed a sterling effort as Secretary for just over two terms on the OBA executive committee and placed his broad

shoulders to the tiller whenever the need arose.

Jane provided considerable support to Cedric all the time and also helped on a hands-on basis at all Old Benedictine events.

The OBA executive committee and all Sydney Bens and their families offer Cedric and Jane a sincere and heartfelt thank you and wish you a safe journey and very green pastures on the other side.





SYDNEY BENS' NEWS

Bulletin 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*

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COMMITTEE

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Treasurer: Lionel Machado
Social Secretary: Hynsworth LaFaber
Sports Secretary: Sri Fernandopulle
Committee Members:
Doug Jones
Robin Candappa
Auditor: Max Perumal

SYDNEY BENS

Support the Tsunami Relief
Aid sub-committee.
They need your help

Bens young ones high achievers in HSC



Achieving top honours in the 2004 High School Certificate examination were Ruvani Perumal, Asela Mallawaarachy and Shaun Christie-David who attained rankings in the high 90s. Also obtaining excellent results was Robert Almeida.

FROM THE PAST

Most progressive school in the Colony



Wyoming (NSW) resident **Mr Harris Anthonisz** sent this 1907 photograph of St Benedict's Institute (as College was then known) to his friend Old Ben **Max Perumal**. Max's correspondent hails from the Dutch Burgher community of Sri Lanka. Mr Anthonisz writes: "When the Dutch (VOC) governed the Maritime Provinces of Sri Lanka (Ceylon) the Catholic Church was not permitted to establish their schools in the Island. [It was] the English who made it possible for the Roman Church to establish their schools in the Island.

"The photograph and the following extract are from *Twentieth Century Impressions of Ceylon*: edited by Arnold Wright and published in 1907: 'While there is no mention of any Catholic school being in existence in 1846, six years later 31 had been established, and sixteen years later, there were 96 Catholic schools, with 4208 pupils. In 1903, 34 405 pupils, of whom 14 435 were girls, were receiving instruction in 379 Catholic schools. English was not taught in all these schools, the principle adopted being knowledge of the European tongue was not advisable where it would have had the effect of making the natives discontented with their condition and causing them to give up agricultural and other pursuits for inferior and precarious positions in the Town. But Catholic schools have been opened where they were wanted and where the parents could afford to pay for an education. At the head of these English schools in the diocese of Colombo stands *St Benedict's Institute, Kotahena, Colombo, the largest and most progressive school in the colony, which gives education to more than 1000 boys and is conducted by the Christian Brothers.*'

Well done guys! All Sydney Bens join in wishing you all success as you embark on your chosen University careers.

Our felicitations also go out to the respective Benedictine parents: Max and Nilkanthi Perumal, Upali and Tamara Mallawaarachy, Clem and Shiranee Christie-David and Ronnie and Avril Almeida.

Tell us about it

Sydney Bens News learnt of the successes of Ruvani, Asela, Shaun and Robert because we were told

about them. Otherwise these achievements would have gone unsung. Maybe there are other offspring of Old Bens out there who did well and we cannot recognise their achievements.

This newsletter is your vehicle of information about Benedictine life in Sydney. So please use it to advantage. If you have anything of common interest to share, make your editor's life a little easier by letting him know. Contact Doug on (02) 9894 7449 email: dougjay@tpg.com.au.

D'Abbreras notch a notable

50

Maureen Happenstall was only 15 when the debonair Wolstan D'Abbrera first laid eyes on her. It all happened because her brother Ivor unwittingly invited Post & Telecommunications co-worker Wolston to visit him at Ivor's parental home in Madampe.

Soon after, Maureen's father took up position as postmaster Dehiwela and Wolstan (a well-

Donten and Joseph to begin his collegiate education as a boarder at St Benedict's.



known cricketer at the time) took a single quickly enough to entice the young lady to play tennis with him on the courts at St Mary's Catholic Church there. A love match ensued and Wolstan wooed and wedded his wife of 50 years in 1954.

On Wednesday 29th December last, Mr and Mrs D'Abbrera in the company of sons Claude, Rick and Chris (who's still looking for the perfect partner) and wives Patricia and Genevieve with grandchildren Catherine, Richard, Timothy, Nadine and Dannica celebrated the occasion with a well-attended Thanksgiving Mass at their South Strathfield parish of St Anne's and Parish priest Father Ray Weaver soon had the couple to renew marriage vows. Family and friends feted them at a reception thereafter with The Henly Bay Restaurant in Henly (NSW) as the venue.

Born in Sri Lanka in 1920, Wolley (as he's affectionately known) was educated at St Benedict's College, Kotahena and today holds the distinction of being the 'oldest' Old Benedictine.

It was mid-January 1928 when Wooley joined his brothers

block. In preparation for the Matriculation in January 1940, Mr Weerasinghe took it upon himself to give Wolley private tuition in the subject and what other Latin teachers could not accomplish over five years, Mr Weerasinghe achieved in six months. Wolley scored a pass mark in Latin at the examination.

As a boarder he was able to devote all his time to cricket, a game in which he excelled. He played in the Under-16 team in 1935 and, in 1936, was selected to play in the College First XI when he was only 15. Wolley's first game was against Zahira College at Maradana and being short in stature, he naturally wore short pants for the game. He was top scorer for the side and a newspaper headline the next day read: "Top scorer for St Benedict's makes debut in shorts".

When the new cricket ground at Bloemendhal Road was opened Wolstan had the privilege of leading the College XI against an Old Boys XI. The first inter-College match on the new ground was against St Thomas' Mt. Lavinia and Wolley was the first captain to lead a College side on to the new ground.

Of his 12 years' at College, there was one teacher he never forgot – Mr Weerasinghe (his Latin teacher). Wolley excelled in the Classics but Latin had always been his stumbling

The D'Abbreras migrated to Australia in 1973 and Wolley sat for the Public Service examinations in his adopted country, passing with flying colours. He was soon appointed to the Australian Taxation Office in Sydney. A true Christian Brothers' boy, Wolley also made sure his three sons, Claude, Rick and Chris were educated by Christian Brothers and admitted them to the Brothers' school in Lewisham.

Maureen, always a caring wife and dutiful mother, also worked as a wards clerk at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney, a position she held for 18 years. Not only that, when Wolley had heart by-pass surgery in 1992, Maureen looked after his every need – she still does. Always commandeering, Wolley still thinks he's captaining a cricket team and (confidentially, of course) according to his niece Cheryl, Wolley, at a youthful 85 years of age, is a **spoilt brat!**

The couple's love match started more than half century ago is as strong as ever. Here's to a long partnership!

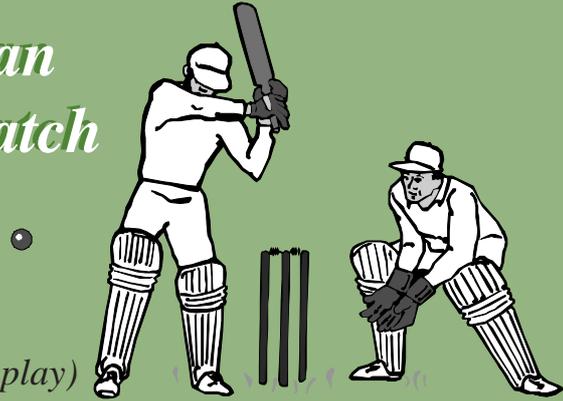
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **FEBRUARY 20** - Cricket match: Vs. Old Joes (see Page 4)
- **MARCH 6** - Golf & BBG Day (see Page 4)
- **APRIL 30** – Curry Night (details to be notified)
- **JUNE/JULY** – Harbour Cruise (details to be announced)
- **JULY** – AGM (date & venue to be notified)
- **NOVEMBER** – Date & venue to be notified)

Benedictine - Josephian limited overs Cricket match

on Sunday February 20
at Ritchie Benaud Oval
North Parramatta
9.00 a.m. start

(over 40s & sons of Bens welcome to play)



Lunch & refreshments on sale at kiosk

PLAYERS REQUESTED TO BRING OWN CRICKET GEAR

Bens interested in playing please contact
Sri Rajan on 9623 3847 ASAP

Old Ben's Golf & Family BBQ Day

at
Rosnay Golf Course

(UBD 231 H9)

Weymouth Avenue, AUBURN

on Sunday March 6

Tee-off 8.00 SHARP

and Family Picnic & BBQ

next door at the Auburn

Botanic Gardens.

GREEN FEES \$20.00

**Golfers MUST book in advance
& make payment of green fees
when booking.**

Contact: Doug Jones 9894 7449

**Gordon Rebeira 9837 1317
without delay**

