

SPC OBSC MELBOURNE

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE



Merry Christmas
and

HAPPY NEW YEAR



SPCOBSCMELBOURNE.COM.AU

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Peterite OBSC Members,

As we celebrate the Christmas season, let us remember the true spirit of this holiday...the birth of hope, love, and new beginnings. The Nativity story reminds us of the importance of faith, humility, and the power of community. Just as the humble manger was a place where joy and peace were born, may we also find strength and unity in one another, embracing the light that this season brings.



Thank you all for your dedication and spirit throughout the year supporting all the club activities. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such an inspiring group of Peterites and their families.

This year has been filled with opportunities to grow whether it was through our events, projects, or simply supporting one another. It's your passion that keeps this club vibrant and thriving, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

Christmas is a time to celebrate love, joy, and togetherness, and I hope you'll all take this opportunity to cherish time with family and friends. Let us also remember the importance of giving back, extending kindness, and sharing our blessings with those in need.

As we look forward to the new year, I'm excited about the opportunities ahead. Together, we'll continue to strive for excellence and make a difference in our community.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to our club: Dishan Lewis, Denham Abeydeera, Rasika Jayathilaka, Keith Pereira, Jerome Paiva, Mario Offen, Nishantha Perera, Dilanta Nanayakkara, Linal Waidyartha, Suresh De Cruze, Shehan Fernando, Tyron Pereira and Dilhan Perera

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with happiness, health, and success.

Thank you for your continued support

With warm regards,

Gavin Godlieb



MELBOURNE OBSC 2024 CHRISTMAS PARTY

“Best ever OBSC Christmas Party!” That’s the resounding feedback from our guests. Lincoln of Toorak was transformed into a magical Christmas wonderland, from the festive entrance foyer and the beautifully styled photo stage to the elegant table décor, complete with a delightful Christmas croissant and Bon Bons at every setting.

George and Shehara led the celebration for our 300 guests, including over 50 excited children, with spirited singalong carols and lively dance music. The highlight of the afternoon was, of course, the arrival of Santa Claus all the way from the North Pole, met with squeals of joy from the kids.

It was heartwarming to see the Peterite family and friends come together to celebrate and foster the true spirit of Christmas. A special thanks to AJ and the Lincoln staff for a fantastic Christmas lunch. Our heartfelt gratitude also goes to our creative director, Reshma, whose stunning décor and designs truly brought the “wow” factor to life.

To top it all off, thank you to Menaka Van Der Say for surprising everyone with thoughtful QV hand cream gifts as a parting gesture and for the delicious love cake. A big thank you to Gavin and his team for organising such a memorable event.





CHRISTMAS AT ST PETERS COLLEGE

'Pacem In Terris' — the Annual Carol Service of St. Peter's College, presented by The Peterite Choir together with The Peterite Chorale, The Teachers' Choir, The Primary Choir, The College Western Band, The Peterite Ensemble, and the Peterite Orchestra who made their maiden performance.

Photos and Videos courtesy of our Former President Jerome Chandrasekera who sang with Peterite Chorale.



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE



OLD BOYS SOCIAL CLUB
MELBOURNE
Est. 1982

MELBOURNE OBSC 2025 EVENTS CALENDER

- * Quadrangular Cricket Tournament - Mon 27th Jan
- * Joe-Pete Big Match Melbourne - TBA
- * "Starry Night" Dinner Dance - Sat 10th May
- * Mass for Departed Peterites - Sun 6th Jul
- * Annual General Meeting - Fri 29th Aug

KEY COLOMBO EVENTS

- * Joe Pete Big Match - Fri to Sat 21st & 22nd Mar
- * Joe Pete 50 Over Match - Sat 5th Apr
- * "Golden Gleam" 2025 Dance - Sat 16th Aug

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE "SPC MELBOURNE"

(JANUARY 2025)

IN 2025 THE MELBOURNE OBSC IS EXCITED TO INVITE YOU TO A "STARRY NIGHT "

'In the grand tradition of Peterite themed dances which started in 2016 with "White Night" and continued with such great themes as "Casino Royale ", "A night in Paris", "Centenary Ball" , "Autumn Ball" and "Arabian Nights".....we now have "STARRY NIGHT".

This year's theme promises pure elegance and sophistication, serenaded by the enchanting sounds of Misty, creating the perfect atmosphere for an unforgettable night.

Stay tuned for more information about tickets and event details. We look forward to seeing you there.



ST. PETER'S COLLEGE
OLD BOYS SOCIAL CLUB
MELBOURNE
Est. 1982

SAVE THE DATE

For a night of
ALLURE AND ELEGANCE
St. Peter's College OBSC Melbourne Inc.
Invites you to a
"STARRY NIGHT"

Serenaded by *Misty*

10TH MAY 2025

Springvale Town Hall

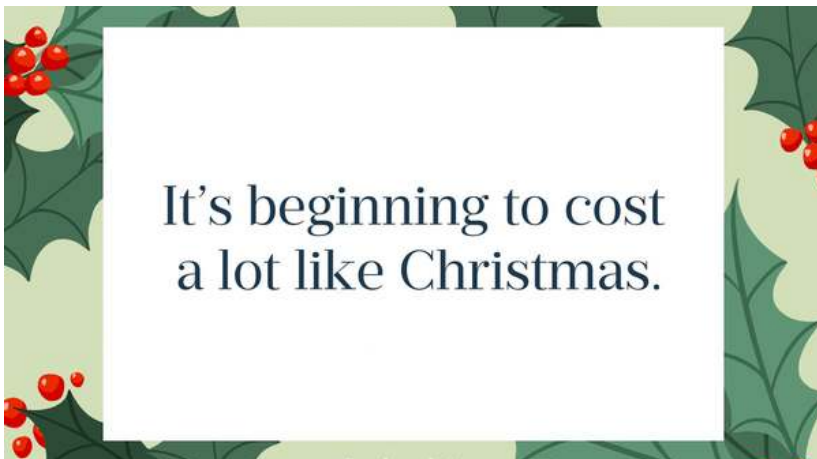
LOVI SARONGS WINS PRESTIGIOUS MARKETING AWARD

Peterite Asanka De Mel's company, LOVI Sarongs, won Gold in the "SME local brand of the year" and Bronze in the overall "Local Brand of the year" categories at the Brand Excellence awards ceremony hosted by the Sri Lanka Institute of Marketing held recently.

The LOVI brand was responsible for outfitting the Sri Lanka Olympic team for Paris 2024.



A BIT OF CHRISTMAS HUMOUR



PETERITE SWIMMER BREAKS A DECADE OLD JUNIOR SWIMMING RECORD

Asif Iqbal Muhammed Haathim of St. Peter's College broke a decade-old Junior National record previously held by Sri Lanka's current Paris Olympic swimmer, Kyle Abeysinghe at the fourth day of the Long Course National Swimming Championship at the Sugathadasa Stadium Swimming Complex yesterday. Haathim, already a standout with three gold medals, achieved another milestone in the Boys Under-15 100m Breaststroke event.



Haathim completed the 100m Breaststroke in 1:12.33, surpassing Kyle Abeysinghe's previous record of 1:12.69 set in 2014. This achievement marked Haathim's third Junior National Record at the ongoing championship, adding to his impressive tally. Earlier in the competition, Haathim also broke records in the Under-15 Boys 400m Individual Medley and the 200m Freestyle, making him the most prolific record-breaker of this year's Junior Nationals so far.

COMMERCE CLASS OF 1992

Three of our Melbourne OBSC committee members can be spotted in this photoGavin Godlieb, Sheyenne Algama and Ranil Seneviratne



KINGSWOOD RUGBY 7'S

Congratulations to St. Peter's College on becoming Plate Champions at the 2024 Kingswood Rugby Tournament

This incredible achievement is a testament to the hard work, determination, and teamwork of our boys. A heartfelt thank you to all our sponsors for their unwavering support in making this victory possible.

A special shoutout to Ravidhu Gamage from St. Peter's for being crowned the Fastest Runner on the Field, and the 4th fastest and top try scorer for college. Rueben Rode (new kid on the block) outperforming the top sprinters from all other teams.

A BIG shout out to our sponsors Facility Co., Wagon Paints, Shed Worx, Ultra Tune Moorabbin Airport, Zenith Accounting, Property Plus AU, & Monash Prestige





70'S GROUP LUNCHEON

What a fantastic afternoon of fellowship...Over 170 Peterites and their partners came together to celebrate, reconnect, and share memories. It was truly heartwarming to witness classmates and Peterites reuniting, some for the first time in years.

Keth Caterers delivered an exceptional Sri Lankan meal, complemented by exemplary music from Elmo Wells-Jansz.

We were honored by the presence of some of our most senior Peterites, including Stanmore Caspersz and Yves Kelaart—One of our oldest Peterites at 98 years young.

A huge thank you to Head Prefect Roy Parsons and his dedicated team for their efforts in organizing this wonderful event. Special thanks also goes to “Honorary Peterite” Pat Jayasinghe for her invaluable contribution.





STEPHEN DENIESE MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

What a great way to remember a distinguished old Peterite. On a sunny Melbourne day over 40 well wishers gathered for golf and a social afterwards at the Cranbourne golf club. Special thanks to the Organisers (Niro and Reshma De Cruz, Denham Abeydeera, Ajith Perera and others) and our **Sponsors (i TEA 4 U and X Golf)**

The golf winners were:

- *Winner of overall golf tournament - Denham De Silva (Stephen de Niese memorial trophy).
- *2nd Place - Hilary Taylor
- *3rd Place - Rieyal Jamaldeen
- *Closest to the pin - Ralston Brother
- *Peterite Winner - Denham De Silva



TOUCH RUGBY 6'S (SRI LANKAN SCHOOLS & CLUBS)

A huge congratulations to our team for becoming Bowl Champions in the Open Category at the Melbourne Touch Rugby 6's. The boys gave it their all and left everything on the field. Although a draw in one of the pool games prevented them from advancing to the top-tier finals, their determination and heart were unmatched.

We are also proud to share that, for the first time, Peterites competed in the Over-40 and Over-50 categories. It was a nostalgic and inspiring moment to see some of our past players who donned the blue, white, and gold Jerseys. We were privileged to have former Peterite coach S. W. Chang with us join the team on the field too. He coached 1st XV in the early '90s and 2000s.

A heartfelt thanks to all the players, the support team, and everyone who contributed to this fantastic achievement. Your commitment and effort have made the Peterite spirit shine once again



ROY DIAS - A PETERITE LION



QUOTE-UNQUOTE

Roy will be remembered for his technique, style and elegance. His immense capabilities with the bat always had something more than scoring runs. His contributions gave the game a visual beauty.

Revata S. Silva – in profiling
Roy Dias' cricketing genius

VITAL STATISTICS

	ODIs	TESTS
MATCHES	58	20
BATTING		
RUNS	1,573	1,285
AVERAGE	31.46	36.71
100s	2	3
50s	11	8
BOWLING		
WICKETS	3	-
AVERAGE	23.33	-
5 WICKETS	-	-

Like the boy who stood on the burning deck, some men are the epitome of calmness and composure. Roy Dias did more than stand at the crease; he stood tall and delivered. Those who saw him face a devastating Pakistani attack in 1981/82 likened Dias to a lone Atlas shouldering the burden of the nation.

But with typical modesty of a man capable of batting with great aplomb, the graceful batsman may well have said that all he did was play the moving ball well enough.

A Peterite schoolboy, the grownup at the batting crease came to embody a technically perfect style that bestowed on the gentlemen's game a gracious footing and visual elegance in stroke play. If there was a gap in the field – even the smallest chink in the fielding side's armour – Dias would find it. And there was the glory of his footwork and wristy dexterity to cut or drive the red cherry to glory.

His ability to stand and deliver showed early promise. A sterling 214 runs in the 1979 CC Trophy came in four matches with a titanic average of 71 plus. This qualified the oft dwarfed island side for the 1979 World Cup and Dias' carefully crafted 50 took his team to 238 for 5, which was capped by bowling India out for a paltry 191.

The stylish right-hand batsman was a vital cog in the Sri Lankan Test side for 20 matches and not surprisingly went on to become the first islander to score 1,000 runs in the longer version of the game.

In a career spanning eight graceful years to 1987, he chalked up 1,285 Test runs (at an average of nearly 37) while 1,573 in 58 ODIs – including two tons and 11 half-centuries – came at 31 plus apiece. Again, he was the first Sri Lankan to surpass 1,000 runs in the One-Day version of the game and over half his runs came in centuries or 50s.

Ironically – for cricket is a game of life's little paradoxes – this titan of a run making machine had the most inauspicious of entries into the major league. In the year that Sri Lanka gained Test status, Dias was a natural selection to play in the inaugural encounter. As Sri Lanka's vice captain and together with his indomitable skipper Duleep Mendis, he formed the backbone of the batting. And while his partner volleyed and thundered away at the other end, Dias kept a cool head and was a delight to behold with his impeccable sense of timing and a panoply of orthodox strokes.

His 295 runs (at an average of nearly 50) on what was a memorable tour of Pakistan – he scored 98 in Faisalabad and 109 in Lahore – demonstrated the ethos of a boy standing on the burning deck. With the top order going to blazes all around him, Roy Dias held his own against a blistering pace attack led by none other than Imran Khan.

And then there was the acme of his ability to save the day. Playing neighbouring India on home soil, Dias made a signature contribution to engineer Sri Lanka's maiden Test win as well as its first series victory in 1985/86. Dashing yet decisive twin 50s in the second Test set the stage for a famous triumph, and a determined but devil-may-care century in the last game when the Sri Lankans were facing defeat ensured a draw.

He once said that "cricket has earned me good friends and the association of top people the world over. Some of them are now knights." For fans in Sri Lanka, he was a cricketing knight. When Sri Lanka was promoted to test status, Roy Dias was picked for the first Test – and a rude inauguration awaited him when he was dismissed for a duck by a Bob Willis thunderbolt. But bravery was to follow: the lionhearted batting prodigy stroked his way back into contention with a fluent 77 in the second innings.

CLASS OF 1974 HOLD 50 YEAR REUNION IN MELBOURNE

It was a day most thought would never come....Meeting classmates 50 years after sitting for the Ordinary Levels at St Peter's College, Bambalapitiya. It was a truly one of those magical evenings to remember, providing us with many grand memories for the rest of our lives.

Organised by Bertie Paiva and Everard Perera in Melbourne on November 16, the Class of '74 Reunion was something that was dreamed of but never thought would materialise. Without further talk, let the pictures tell the story



FOLLOWING IN THE STEPS OF PETERITE FILM DIRECTOR LESTER JAMES PERIES

Talented Peterites, Film Director Chanaka Perera and Producers Chamika Jinadasa & John Fonseka were recognised at “Derana Lux Film Awards 2024” for their contribution to the Sri Lankan Cinema Industry.

Sri Lanka’s first ever fully animated 3D movie “Gajaman ගජමැන” won three prestigious awards, including “Blockbuster Movie of the Year”, “Jury Awards” and “Most Popular Song of the Year”



WE SAY GOODBYE TO THE OLDEST KNOWN PETERITE IN THE WORLD

We say goodbye to the oldest known Peterite in the world at 101 years, Joseph Vernon Forbes.

He was the son of William Allan Forbes & Myra Pollocks and was educated at St Peter’s College, Colombo. With the outbreak of WW2 Vernon enlisted in the Royal Army Service Corp and saw active service in North Africa and the Middle East. On being demobbed from the Army in 1946, he joined the Ceylon Government Railway (CGR) as a Guard.

On 12 August 1950, he married Vilma Rudolph.

In 1968, he took early retirement from the CGR and migrated to Melbourne in 1970. He was employed by Australia Post and worked at the Melbourne Exchange for many years.

In 2017 Vernon and Vilma moved to Corpus Christi Aged Care in Clayton.

May His soul rest in eternal peace.



PROFILING PETERITE MUSICIAN BILLY FERNANDO

Peteriite Musician Billy Fernando is a musical chameleon. Having started out as a guitarist in the Gospel band “Ezra” he moved on to drumming for the duo Bathiya and Santhush, before embarking on a career in singing in the Sinhala stream.



Billy, together with his concert band 2Forty2, create what he calls Sri Lankan music with global appeal. But it's not “modernization” in a conventional sense he says but rather an elevation of the music for global consumption.

Billy gained attention both here and abroad among Sri Lankans, for his remakes of old Sinhala pop songs like that of Amaradeva's ‘Nim Him Sewwa’. Having toured the world, including Australia and the United States, Billy tells us the reception to his music has been positive from both the young as well as the older generations abroad. According to him the younger generations of Sri Lankan expats who grew up listening to their parent's music don't really connect with it and so assume all Sri Lankan music is the same. “They go to a B&S concert and are like wow, this is also Sri Lankan?” says Billy explaining how the younger generation finds a new appreciation for Sri Lankan music once they can relate to it. But by working with the music of the generations before, he's introducing them to a new sound through the songs they're familiar with. Essentially Billy is attempting to bridge an inter-generational gap musically. “It's like giving someone who eats rice and curry some hot butter cuttlefish to eat with it,” says Billy.

The challenge the music industry faces according to Billy is to make Sri Lankan music appealing not only to Sri Lankans but also to non-Sri Lankans. Language is one of the biggest barriers he explains, suggesting that one way to go around it would be to use English lyrics to Sri Lankan music. He tells us that only a fraction of the industry actually attempts to overcome this challenge whereas the majority prefers to stick with the current status quo.

But perhaps it's not surprising that those in the industry stick to the known when change is usually viewed with harsh criticism. “When Clarence was around he did a change. People didn't like him [because of how] he sang sarala gee. But today he is a legend.” Billy points out. He notes that Clarence, as well as Rukantha, Bathiya and Santhush, took the industry forward. But adds that the last time this change came was almost two decades ago. Billy too wants to change the existing status quo and take on the challenge of making Sri Lankan music one which has global appeal.



MEMBERS NITE : 24 AUGUST 91



DALSTOUN DE ROSAIRO TURNS PROFESSIONAL IN A DUET WITH INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS MARCIE JONES.

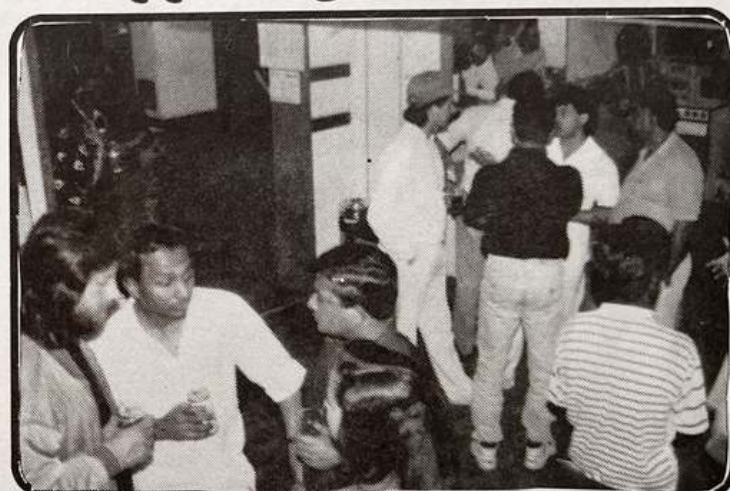


LARRY LANDERSZ FROM GERMANY MAKES HIS SECOND GUEST APPEARANCE THIS YEAR.

PETERITE CLUB : Social Happenings



DESMOND LE MERCIER WEARING CAP AND HAMISH PATERNOTT IN WHITE.



PETER DE NIESE (LEFT EXTREME), LEN DE SILVA (WITH A CAN) , ROBIN SOLOMONS (WEARING CAP) LEN VAN RYE AND MAURICE DEKKER

CRICKET . . . Lovely cricket



PETERITES TAKE THE FIELD AT THEIR HOME GROUNDS IN MURRUMBEENA IN THE YCW CRICKET COMPETITION. PAVILION (ABOVE) IS SEEN IN THE BACKGROUND.



VICTORIOUS OVER FORTIES TEAM THAT BEAT THE JOES : FEB 91
L TO R : MAURICE DEKKER, MALCOM VAN ARKADIE, REX DE SILVA, TISSA JAYAWEEERA, REX LODEWYKE, MARK PEREIRA, EVERARD HOFFMAN, DENNIS KILLELEA, AUBREY PATERNOTT & WINSTON TAMBIMUTTU

THIS IS YOUR CLUB

We need your feedback to improve.....

Please email your views, anecdotes, stories, and trips down memory lane to the Editor at "tino.delamotte@gmail.com "

You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram at "SpC_Melbourne" and our website "www.spcobscmelbourne.com.au"

Club Key Contacts

*Inquiries regarding membership or your financial status can be emailed to Rashaad Jamaldeen (Membership Secretary) at "**membership.spcmelbourne@gmail.com**"

*General Inquiries can be emailed to Sheyenne Algama (Club Secretary) at "**secretary.spcmelbourne@gmail.com**"

AND IN CLOSING A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR(A REFLECTION)

The World has certainly changed a lot since this Sri Lankan "ID" card photo of myself was taken around 1974.50 Years, seem to have gone by in the blink of an eye. Here I am now going on my 4th Year as Editor of our Melbourne OBSC(6 years into retirement)and serving under my 3rd President.Its been great to see the journey the club has taken over the past 43 years growing into a robust and dynamic group of people , dedicated and passionate in all things "Peterite".



It's also great to see the changes in College since I left in 1975.St Peters has grown into the premier educational institution in Sri Lanka excelling in Academia ,Sports and Student development across the board(In my day the only swimming facilities we had was the Canal !!!)

Thank you to Everyone who has been on this Journey with me and have a great Christmas & New Year to my Peterite friends across the globe.

Tino De La Motte

