

## ST. PETERS COLLEGE OBSC

## MELBOURNE



SPCOBSCMELBOURNE.COM.AU



### A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Peterites,

On behalf of St. Peter's College OBSC Melbourne Committee, we extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for making our "Starry Night" Dinner Dance a truly magical evening.



To our generous sponsors - your support made every element of the night possible, from the dazzling décor to the wonderful entertainment and everything in between. Your commitment means the world to us, and we are incredibly grateful for your partnership.

To our cherished guests - thank you for joining us under the stars. Your presence, energy, and enthusiasm lit up the night far brighter than any constellation. We hope you enjoyed every moment, from your first dance to the traditional "Kiribath" (Milk Rice) served at the end of the night.

Together, you helped create a night filled with joy, community spirit and lasting memories. We are so thankful for your continued support and look forward to sharing many more unforgettable evenings with you.

We would like to hear your feedback and thoughts about Starry Night as this will help us plan for next year. Please be kind enough to complete the survey in this newsletter by Sunday 15 June 2025.

We welcome to the club Desmond Downhall, Joseph Ginger & Buddhi Warnakula

With sincere appreciation to all our members

**Gavin Godlieb**

President 2024/25 - SPC OBSC Melbourne

# STARRY NIGHT - A PETERITE EXTRAVAGANZA

What an incredible and exciting night !!!

The energy was truly contagious, starting with Misty's electrifying performance that had everyone on their feet. Rajitha's showmanship was exceptional, delivering a captivating act, beautifully enhanced by Radhika's stunning vocals. DJ Pio did a fantastic job keeping the atmosphere lively and seamless between sets.

Reshma de Cruze's entrance and table decor added a unique touch to the evening. Desmond's masterful menu, highlighted by his delicious Negombo black pork curry, was a real highlight, with everyone raving about it. Sean Ekanayake's selection of premium liquors added a luxurious touch, elevating the overall ambiance.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, advertisers, and everyone behind the scenes, your support was instrumental in making this night such a success.

Most importantly, thank you to all 550+ guests for your incredible energy and enthusiasm. It was truly a memorable celebration, and I we can't wait to do it all again next year



**PHOTOGRAPHY BY BLUE TULIP CREATIVE**

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## ACACIA FLOWERS

When it comes to choosing flowers there are so many options and lovely flower types that it can be difficult to know what the best option is. That is why we have taken the bestselling bouquets and arrangements and displayed them all on our website.

We hope by knowing which flower bouquets and arrangements are popular, you will have an easier time choosing for yourself.



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ST. PETER'S COLLEGE



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## MELBOURNE OBSC 2025 EVENTS CALENDER

|                                   |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Mass For Departed Peterites       | Sun 6 Jul  |
| Annual General Meeting            | Fri 29 Aug |
| Young Peterites Get-Together      | July       |
| Stephen De Nicase Golf Tournament | TBA        |
| 70's Group Lunch                  | Sun 5 Oct  |
| Kingswood Rugby Sevens            | TBA        |
| Christmas Party                   | Sun 7 Dec  |

### KEY COLOMBO EVENTS

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| "Golden Gleam" 2025 Dance | Sat 16th Aug |
|---------------------------|--------------|

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

(MAY 2025 #3 )

# PINK WAVES CHARITY CRUISE

What an unforgettable event! Captain Yanine and Captain Gavin led us on a memorable sailing journey down Melbourne's Yarra River on a beautiful evening, all in support of a truly worthy cause.

DJ Imthie kept the energy high, "rocking the boat" on the upper deck, while guests enjoyed dancing on the lower deck, where the music was also streamed. A big thank you to Hillside Pantry in Endeavour Hills for providing a delicious spread of finger foods.

To our incredible guests and generous sponsors, we extend a heartfelt "Thank You" for your support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation. We raised an incredible \$3235 (Double our goal) Without further ado, let the photos speak for themselves



# PINK WAVES CHARITY CRUISE





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# MELBOURNE JOE PETE CRICKET MATCH

What a great day for cricket the weather Gods put on.

Congratulations to our boys for the great cricket and results.

## OVER 40'S (CAPTAINED BY ANURUDDHA GALLAGE)

- We won the match scoring 146 in our 20 overs with the Joes scoring 137.
- Man of the match was Pete Chrishan David and Best Bowler Ishan Ratnayake.

## OPEN AGE

- We scored 122 in our 20 innings and the Joes won as they reached our score in 19 overs.
- Pete veteran Dasun Randika was adjudged Best Batsman.



# MELBOURNE JOE PETE CRICKET MATCH



12:42 JOES vs PETES TARG 146  
1ST: Joes 040s  
Maithri Senanayke 29  
Gary Gunasekera 5  
OVER 20 Extras 19  
Ishan Rathna 4-137  
2-0-0-19



# AN INCREDIBLE RUN CHASE TO WIN THE 1978 JOE PETE

(Memories of a 15-year old Fresher by Niranjana Rodrigo)

## 1978 ST PETERS COLLEGE BIG MATCH CRICKET TEAM



**Top Left to Right:**

Suraj Abeysekera, Christopher Fernandopulle ( Kitto ), Rohan Buuljens, Viothan John, Michael Ellias, Walter Fernando.

**Bottom Left to Right:**

Ajith Dassanayake, Arjuna Fonseka, Niranjana Rodrigo, Bakir Mohamadally, Treherne Perera, Sugath Perera

St. Peter's College had a very good season in 1978 under the captaincy of Suraj Abeysekera winning "Best All Island Team" in both the Sunday Observer and Sunday Times competitions.

The Josephians won the toss and elected to bat first but were soon in trouble struggling at 60 for 5. However, a fighting knock by Michael De Silva ( 60 runs ) ably supported by Roshan Gurusinghe helped the Josephians to recover from a tricky situation and declare at 217 for 9. Ajith Dassanayake took 5 wickets.

the Peterites started their 1st innings badly and at close of play were 3 wickets for 70 odd runs. On day 2 they continued to lose wickets at regular intervals and were 120 odd runs for 8 wickets , when Ajith Dassanayake and Niranjana Rodrigo the 9 wicket pair came together and took them to 161 for 8 at Lunch, a respectable score. The Peterite's took a very bold decision that threw the match wide open, by declaring with a deficit of 56 runs.

The Josephians batted positively and were 113 for 7 wickets, one over before the tea interval. Kitto Fernandopulle decided to take matters in his hand) and bowled the last over before tea. Kitto had never bowled during the season and gifted away 14 runs in the last over including extras.

When questioned kitto replied " Do not worry they will declare and we will win the match " .As Kitto predicted, the Josephian Captain Shamilal De S Wijeyaratne, declared the second innings at 127 for 6 at Tea, I presume the 14 runs graciously gifted in the last over made the decision easy.

The Seniors of the Peterite team were very confident of chasing the challenging target. The positive confidence lasted only a few minutes, as the Peterites started off disastrously, losing their opener (Michael Ellias and Arjuna Fonseka ) in quick succession. The Peterites were precariously placed at 9 runs for the loss of 2 wickets. The Josephian fast bowlers with their tails up were bowling exceptionally well and threatening to run through the Peterites batting line up once again.

Usually a team chasing a challenging target of 184 runs in the last session with two quick wickets down in no time, would have put up shutters and played for a draw. At the commencement of the mandatory overs, the score read 90 odd runs for 2 wickets, a healthy position. Then Rohan Buuljens was out for a well-made 49 runs.

The Peterites played a master stroke to promote the strongly built Walter Fernando ahead of Treherne Pereira in the batting order, which paid rich dividends. The Joséphian, realizing that they were losing control of the match, began to employ negative tactics by packing the offside and bowling outside the off-stump. However, this did not curtail the momentum, as Walter Fernando played a cameo of an innings of 42 runs flaying the Josephian bowlers to all parts of the ground. Whilst kitto batted intelligently and continued to give him good support at the other end.

The fall of Walters wicket, brought skipper Suraj Abeysekera to the crease, who fittingly scored the winning run in fading light with a delightful cover drive for 4 with two overs remaining and with bad light threatening to stop play.

The Great victory was due to the bold declaration by the Peterites against the advice of many. Credit is also due to the Josephians for reciprocating with an equally bold declaration

# ST PETERS- UNOFFICIAL SCHOOLS RUGBY CHAMPIONS 1972

What a team .... I believe College still holds the record as the only school to have 3 sets of brothers playing in a school rugby team together:

- The de Jong's - Jeffery & Travis
- The van Langenberg's - Noel & Michael
- The Wiratunga's - Rohan and Nalyn



## Standing L-R:

Nalyn Wiratunga  
Bernard McLeod  
(TBA)  
Beverly Labrooy  
Jaan Vantwest  
Nimal Jayasuriya  
Michael van Langenberg  
Earl Serpanchy  
Noel van Langenberg  
David Nicole  
Shirley Thambinayagam  
Cicero de Fonseka

## Seated L-R:

Mr. Archibald Perera  
Peter(?) Stork  
Rohan Wiratunga  
Fr. Theodore Pieris (Rector )  
Jeffery de Jong (Capt )  
Fr. Christie Abeyratne  
Travis de Jong  
Neil Pieris  
Mr. Austin Fernando.

## On the ground L-R:

Mark Gomes  
Ronald Rodrigo.

## **WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK TO OUR SURVEY BELOW**

Dear Fellow Peterites and Friends,

On behalf of the committee, We would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended "**Starry Night**" at Springvale Town Hall on May 10, 2025. Our dances are a special dedication to you, and we continually strive to create memorable experiences that you will cherish for a lifetime.

To help us improve future events, we have prepared a short survey link to understand your experience, Please feel free to share the link with your valued guests who attended with you.

We would appreciate if you can complete this survey by Sunday 15th June 2025. A link and barcode for survey are below.

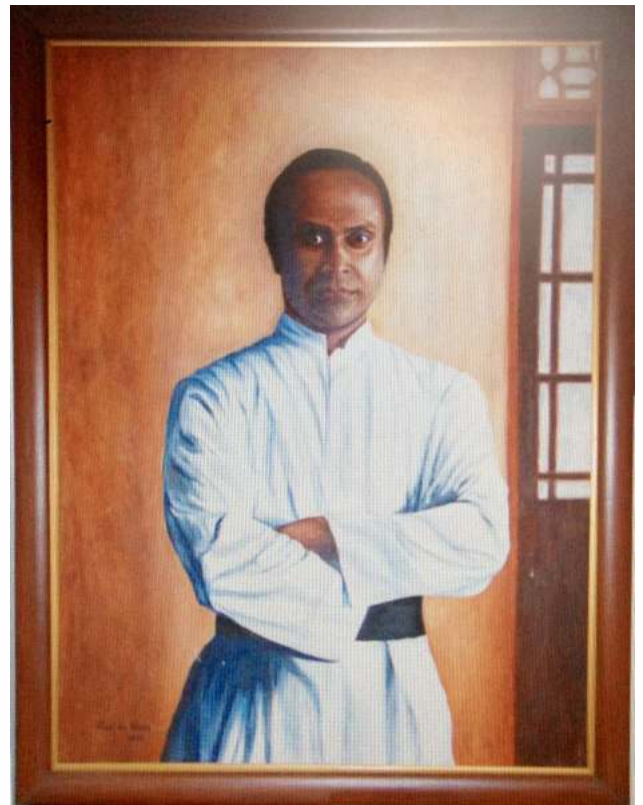
<https://forms.office.com/r/Vd51Hgxxzc>



## ALAN DE NIESE - PETERITE ARTIST

Alan de Niese is the third generation of de Niese portrait artists whose work hangs on the College Hall walls. His grandfather George and Uncle Terry preceded him. He painted Fr. Joe Wickremasinghe's portrait in 1994 in time for his retirement. By rights, two other Rectors' portraits should have been painted ahead of his but Alan felt he deserved his portrait in time for his retirement in view of his amazing, long, dedicated devotion to College.

He later painted Fr. Claver Perera's portrait. Alan's portraits were painted out of love for College and our heritage, not commissions for money.



## A PETERITE PRIME MINISTER

Ahmed Zaki (16 April 1931 – 15 November 1996), educated at College was a Maldivian politician.

In August 1972 he was appointed as Prime Minister of the Republic of Maldives and served until March 1975.



**DID YOU**

**KNOW?**

- **3 PETERITES PLAYED IN THE SRI LANKA CRICKET TEAM THAT ACHIEVED THE COUNTRIES FIRST TEST WIN AGAINST INDIA IN 1985 – ROY DIAS , RUMESH RATNAYAKE AND AMAL SILVA**
- **THE COLLEGE SWIMMING POOL OPENED IN JANUARY 1991**
- **THE INAUGURAL JOE PETE 50 OVER CRICKET MATCH IN 1975 WAS WON BY ST PETERS COLLEGE CAPTAINED BY BERNARD WIJETUNGA**
- **OUR FOUNDER FR LE GOC WAS BORN IN QUIMPER IN NORTH WESTERN FRANCE**
- **THE SWIMMER WHO CURRENTLY HOLDS THE SRI LANKA RECORD FOR THE 50M BACKSTROKE IS PETERITE AKALANKA PIERIS**
- **FAMOUS SRI LANKAN FILM DIRECTOR LESTER JAMES PERIES WAS A PETERITE.**
- **THE OLDEST KNOWN PETERITE IN THE WORLD IS YVES KELAART WHO WILL TURN 100 IN JANUARY 2026**
- **ST PETERS COLLEGE HAS HAD 12 RECTORS SINCE ITS INCEPTION.**
- **THE FIRST JOE PETE MATCH WAS PLAYED IN 1933.COLLEGE WON THEIR FIRST MATCH IN 1935 CAPTAINED BY SHERLEY ILLESINGHE,**
- **THE FIRST AIR CEYLON FLIGHT ON 10TH DECEMBER 1947 TO MADRAS WAS PILOTED BY A PETERITE CAPTAIN PETER FERNANDO.**

## KEY CLUB 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**"
- Your Editor can be reached at "**tino.delamotte@gmail.com**"

You can also find us on **Facebook** at "**SPC Melbourne**" and **Instagram** at "**spc\_melbourne**" and at our **website** "**obscmelbourne.com.au**"

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SPRING NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

- Alan de Niese and Nirranjan Rodrigo

## CLOSING NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Its been a busy few months with all that has been going on (covered in this newsletter) in Melbourne but it is really gratifying to see how our Social media has been received among our Peterite Fraternity around the world .

We have now reached 3000 followers of our Facebook page around the world , making us the second largest overseas OBU in terms of followers (Just behind UK which has 3400 followers)

A BIG thank you to all who have taken the time to be with us on this journey. We will endeavour to keep you engaged with as many original articles as we can develop and up to date college news (not forgetting our Peterite History and Heritage).

A thank you too to all who have taken the time to contribute, it has always been a joint effort.

Until next time .....live life to the fullest

**Tino DeLa Motte**

