Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney), Australia is a non-profit making organisation of past students of St Patrick’s College. This Silver Jubilee Souvenir is due to voluntary effort of Patricians. Information obtained from other journals and Google websites included in Souvenir is in good faith for the promotion of brotherhood and fellowship of Patricians around the globe. Any errors/omissions are very much regretted and the general disclaimer clause applies to this Souvenir publication.
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Short History of St Patrick

St Patrick was born in 385AD in Scotland. His father was a Roman-British army officer by the name of Calpurnius. In 400AD, St Patrick was kidnapped with a number of other teenage children and sold into slavery in Ireland. He was forced to tend sheep on a mountain in Antrim in the north east of Ireland. During his six years of enslavement, St Patrick started to communicate with God. In 406AD, St Patrick escaped from Ireland and travelled to France where he joined a monastery and studied under St Germain, the bishop of Auxerre. In 418AD, St Patrick became a bishop and, with the Pope’s blessing, set off back to Ireland to spread the word of God. From about 440AD, for 20 years, St Patrick travelled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches, which would aid him in his conversion. He developed a native clergy, fostered the growth of monasticism, established dioceses, and held church council. On 17 March 461AD, St Patrick died and it is on this day that the Irish choose to celebrate their heritage and culture today.
Alma Mater

Alma Mater blest sanctum of learning
Where the mind is adorned with rich lore
And each tutored faculty’s yearning
Is sated and taught to seek more.

Alma Mater fond nurse of my childhood
So indulgent yet prudently firm
Thy affection and smile cheer my boyhood
And Foster each heavenly germ.

Alma Mater! Handmaid of Saint Patrick
May thy mission like his soon be crowned
And our Lanka, by Faith’s spark electric
Chaste, learned like Erin be found.

Hail Glorious

Hail, glorious Saint Patrick, dear Saint of our isle!
On us thy poor children, bestow a sweet smile;
And now thou art high in the mansions above,
On Lanka’s green valleys look down in thy love.

Hail, glorious Saint Patrick, thy words were once strong
Against Satan’s wiles and a heretic throng;
Not less in thy might now in heaven thou art
Oh, come to our aid, in our battle take part.

Ever bless and defend the sweet land of our birth,
Where the shamrock still blooms as when thou went on earth,
And our hearts shall yet burn, wheresoever we roam,
For God and Saint Patrick and our native home,

(The above hymn is an ancient Irish melody with words added by Sister Agnes in 1920. When the Tenors recorded it they used the first and last stanzas only, which are shown here.)

We stand for God

We stand for God and for His glory
The Lord Supreme and God of all.
Against his foes, we raise His standard,
Around His cross, we hear His call.

Strengthen our faith, Redeemer,
Guard us when danger is neigh
To Thee we pledge our lives and service,
Strong in a trust that ne’er shall die.
To Thee we pledge our lives and service
Strong in a trust that ne’er shall die.

Message from the Editor
Angelo Arulanandam MBA, MSc. (Eng), MIT, CEng. MICE

It is indeed a great pleasure to serve the Alma Mater in every possible way and I consider this assignment of the production of the Silver Jubilee Souvenir, as a privilege. I like to thank all those who helped me in this Silver Jubilee event, especially the Executive Committee, President Arumainathan, past President Dr. Ambrose Nelson and Alfred Arulanandam. Special word of thanks go to Ferdi and Satha of the ‘InterSector’ for inviting the readers around the globe, for the contribution of articles and as a result we received articles from around the globe, such as Canada, West Indies, Sri Lanka and from within Australia.

I am also indebted to the relevant authors of past Patrician journals, as I have reproduced a number of such items including articles and photographs in this Souvenir. I consider that not only our future generation but also non-Patricians will be inspired by the contents of this Souvenir.

Patricians of Jaffna’, Australia (Sydney Branch), is a non-profit making organisation managed by dedicated volunteers. ‘To err is human and to forgive is divine’ and in that spirit, I trust that all readers will take any errors and/or omission, in good spirit. Since the formation of ‘Patricians of Jaffna’ (Sydney Branch) in 1987, we have celebrated St Patrick’s Day and Christmas occasions annually and have produced 10th year Souvenir as well as the 150th Anniversary of the birth of St Patrick’s College with the publication of Souvenir in 2000 (Sesqui Centenary Souvenir). This great publication was a milestone achievement in our history.

Our primary goals are to continue the ‘Patrician’ spirit among us around the world and to raise funds for the benefit of our Alma Mater back at home, in Jaffna Sri Lanka. On the subject of ‘Globalizing our Patrician Spirit’ - within the last 13 months alone, a lot has happened in that front; I am grateful to Dr. S. V. Bernardshaw Past President (2011) of the SPC OBA Bergen Norway and their then Committee’s gutsy decision to have organized a very successful Global Reunion in Bergen and as well as grateful to Alfred Arulanandam, on his well researched article on the ‘Patrician Pioneers of Norway’, embellishing the Patrician presence all over Norway; I am indebted to Gilroy Ponniah, Past President, SPC AA Canada and his Committee, for the magnificent Silver Jubilee Anniversary Celebration in June 2012 as well; Special mention & appreciation to Global Reunion Centenary Celebration August 2012, which was brilliantly and jointly organized by our Rector Rev. Fr. Jerome Selvanayagam of the SPC-Jaffna Alumni Association and by Brigadier (Dr.) H. L. David, the Organizing Chairman of the Colombo Branch Centenary Association, Sri Lanka, ably assisted by the President Ponrajah.

My special thanks are also owed to all other OBA’s – on their initiatives to publish their own Branch SPC Souvenirs, namely the SPC Jaffna/Colombo, UK and Canada (Mother of all Souvenirs) for setting high standards, introducing topics that are beneficial to all Patricians - both young and elderly – and inspiring and encouraging us to continue with this tradition. We also earnestly encourage the Editor of the ‘Bottled Sunshine’ W.C.M. Gunaretnam from Colombo to continue its publication for the benefit of all Patricians locally & globally, which is reminiscent of our past glory era of St. Patrick’s.

As part of the Patrician culture of motivation, the College implemented a number of initiatives in the past. St Patrick’s College, named Groussault Rd, David Rd, Rajendra Rd, Abraham House, Bonjean House, Mathews House, Dunne House, Conway House, Long House, Matthews Block, Long’s Institute, Sir Chittampalam Gardner Pavillion and Bishop Deogupillai Pavilion to honour eminent Patricians. In that tradition, we have gone a small way, continuing with the tradition initiated by Patricians of Norway by extending the list of eminent Patricians, with help received from Alfred Arulanandam. I trust that this list will get expanded as time goes by in what ever way possible.

May I reiterate that the key objectives of Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch), Australia include fostering brotherhood and fellowship among Patricians, both in Australia and abroad and to help supporting our alma mater back in our home land.

Once again, I like to thank all contributors, who helped us in the publication of this Souvenir, including all our advertisers. Our special thanks also go to Gnanasegaram Srirangan of Gnanam Art Creation, for his valuable advice on the layout, paging and publication.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2012

Seated from left:
- Mr. J. Arulanan (Treasurer)
- Mr. A. Nelson (Vice President)
- Mr. E. Arulathan (President)
- Mr. T. Arulandan (Vice President)

Standing from left:
- Mr. M. Jesuthasan (Social Secretary)
- Mr. A. Arulandan (Committee Member)
- Mr. J. Tirus (Committee Member)
- Mr. Peteringham (A.S. Secretary)
- Mr. A. Jesuthasan (Secretary)
- Mr. R. Paul (Committee Member)
The Patrician Escutcheon

and

Coat of Arms

A.E.A. Joseph

The terms were a little confusing. I had to refer to a dictionary to know precisely what they meant. Before I tell you anymore about it, I thought that I would share the information with the ignorant like me and crave the indulgence of those who know all about it.

Escutcheon refers to the shield that bears the coat of arms and the Coat of Arms is the design on the Escutcheon or the shield which is used as the emblem by a family, city or institution. So much for the definitions and pardon me if I sound a bit like Mr. FNC who used to tell us that the most useful invention ever and the most useful book in his collection was the dictionary.

I have a special place for the Coat of Arms in the Patrician shield and let me tell you why. I was one of two lucky enough to be invited for an interview for admission to the Medical School in Colombo from our class. Little did I realise as I sat nervous and trembling in that chair before the panel presided over by Professor Mylvaganam the part the Patrician shield would play that day in deciding my entire future.

I still remember many of the questions but I wouldn't bore you with them all apart from the one relevant for this article. I could not believe my luck when he told me the chap whom they interviewed just before me knew nothing of the Patrician "Crest". And so he said "could you tell us something about the St. Patrick's College crest". I was in no position to tell him that his terminology was not entirely accurate. I thought that I should let that pass. By the way I am not in a position to reveal the identity of the candidate who was interviewed just before I was. Suffice it to say that he was probably one of the best Patrician brains. He subsequently told me that when he told the panel that he knew nothing about the Patrician "Crest" the good Professor promptly remarked "are you telling me that there is a six foot crest right before your very eyes every time you walk into the College Hall and you never bothered to find out what was on the painting and here you are wanting to enter a career in which observation is all important"? Very unkind I thought to say that at an interview. Little did the Professor know I had not made a study of the painting in detail either but that Providentially I had stumbled on the original article written by Fr. Matthews expressing the reasoning behind the design of the crest.

I am sorry it has taken so long to get to the point. I will tell you now some of what I told him then and share with you the depth of meaning and the strength that all Patricians past and present could derive from it - the coat of arms.

The escutcheon has several elements in it.

FIDE et LABORE - The College Motto

This is written on a scroll and is placed at the top of the Coat of Arms. To the Patrician this is probably the most familiar element in the coat of arms. FAITH and LABOUR. This exhortation is not just applicable during school life but is equally valid right
through adult life. Many of us knowingly or unknowingly would have put the Patrician motto into practice, labouring supported by that deep faith in God. This motto has also meant the need to labour to make one’s faith a living faith.

In another scroll at the lower end of the coat of arms is the name of the College.

In between the two scrolls are the other main components. A central portion in the familiar shape of a shield is divided into four quadrants by an interjacent cross. This is partly surrounded by a twig of shamrock and a twig of laurel. The twig of shamrock is artistic licence since I do not think that the shamrock leaves are arranged on such long twigs.

The Lion
The upper left quadrant of the shield shaped part of the coat of arms interestingly has, when seen in colour a golden lion on a crimson background. I proceeded to explain to the panel that the designer put it there as an allegiance to the British crown. At the time it seemed quite acceptable since Ceylon was a British colony. The professor interrupted my description to say that he thought that it was meant to signify strength and courage, but I think that he accepted my explanation when he realised that I was quoting from an article by none other than Fr. Matthews himself. I have subsequently seen descriptions of the coat of arms where allegiance to the British crown has been modified to say allegiance to the government of the day to sound more politically correct and to be more acceptable to the Sri Lankan government who might have considered St. Patrick’s College to be a subversive power if the original interpretation had been maintained.

The open book, with the inscription ITE et DOCETE.
Set in a background of gold this is a continuation of the Lord’s command to His disciples to go and spread the good news. It is however particularly relevant in a school where we receive not just religious education but also the secular education. Each of us would recall many of our teachers who responded wholeheartedly to this call and spent their lives dedicated to the teaching profession.

The Lotus flower
In the lower left quadrant is the lotus flower on a background of gold. There is controversy as to whether this was an adaptation from the depiction of the lotus being the seat of the goddess of learning. It is unlikely that this would have been included at that time in this context. It is therefore thought that the lotus was included as a symbol of our mother country reminding the Patricks that they had to be loyal citizens as well as being loyal Catholics.

The Bees
In the lower right quadrant are the bees. These clearly signify that being as busy as bees is the key to success in life. The Patrician was encouraged to work hard and give of his best be it in the field of education sports or any endeavour in life.

The interjacent Cross
A reminder that the salvation of man was preceded by the greatest humiliation that there could ever be: Christ’s death on the cross. No humiliation or failure in life should be too big a set back to hold us back in the path of life.
The shamrocks
Set one in each segment of the cross are four silver shamrocks on a green background. These are a clear reference to our heavenly Patron St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland. I had another interruption at this point where the professor reminded me that St. Patrick was not from Ireland. I agreed wholeheartedly with him and pointed out that he was considered an apostle of Ireland and was only associated with Ireland and did not hail from that beloved country.

Coat of Arms of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Set at the site of the union of the four segments of the cross is the coat of arms of the OMI order. This was to acknowledge their contribution to the school. The vast majority of the former Rectors of the school were from this order.

Shamrock and Laurel Twigs and a musical instrument
The laurel wreaths were given to successful athletes in the ancient Roman times and signifies the rewards we receive for our temporal successes and to remind us that to aim for temporal success is a laudable goal provided it does not dominate our lives and is not treated as an end in itself. The shamrock twig is meant to signify our eternal rewards and the efforts that we must make to achieve this. The musical instrument is meant to signify harmony in life. I wonder whether the strategic location of the instrument is not meant to signify the need for harmony between our struggle for earthly rewards and our eternal reward.

Every Patrician should be proud of the escutcheon and the Coat of Arms and should continue to remind himself of the beautiful symbolism entwined in it and to live up to the glorious ideals expressed in it. Fr. Long often referred to the messages contained in the Coat of Arms and was a great example of one who lived out these ideals in his daily life.

---

St. Patrick's College Athletic Team 1957

Top row: Mariadas 80 Paul(Deva) 46 Vasz 72 Puvinajah 43 Kingsley 77 IG Emmanuel Wilfred 8
Middle row: Ferminus 78 Emmanuel 45 Marianayagam 85 Vandort Lovell 5 Maxy Alwinis Arakianather 77 Gnanasegaram 79
Seated: Capt S. Ganeshan Rector Rev. Fr. S. N. Arulnesan, M.A. Thigaranajah (Capt) MR. CEYLON 1960 MR. ASIA 1961
Mr. R. Satchilhanathan (Prefect of Games) Mr. W. G. N. Gnanaratnam
Greetings from the Rector,

Dear Patricians in Sydney,

I am much pleased to convey my greetings to the Patricians in Sydney as you celebrate Twenty five years of forming your Alumni Branch. At a time of fear, anxiety and risk of life in our homeland, you ventured on a journey to Sydney to seek a peaceful living. Amidst many worries in resettling in a new country you had also formed our Alumni Branch there and enabled to create a forum for the Patricians in Sydney to meet and sustain each other in their new life situations.

Also, you cared for your College, helping the present students with the wounds and scars of the war, to progress in education.

We gratefully remember the founder members for their pioneering effort in establishing Alumni Branch well in time, and the successive Executive Committees for their tireless effort in preserving the noble traditions handed down to us for the last 25 years.

We cannot adequately thank you for the unstinted support rendered by your Alumni to the College in recent times. You have helped the students who came from Vanni to pursue their studies here. It is with your help that our Cricket teams had a steady progress.

We thank God for the many blessings bestowed on us, through the magnanimity of many Patricians both individually and collectively.

I wish you all, God abundant blessings while you celebrate your Silver Jubilee.

God Bless you

Rev. Fr. M. Jero Selvanayagam
Rector
MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER JULIA GILLARD

NSW BRANCH OF THE OLD BOYS ASSOCIATION OF ST. PATRICKS COLLEGE
25TH ANNIVERSARY

I would like to offer my warmest wishes to the New South Wales branch of the Old Boys Association of St. Patrick’s College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka on the occasion of your 25th anniversary.

This anniversary provides an opportunity to celebrate the strong bilateral relationship shared between Australia and Sri Lanka, underpinned not only by our substantial trade and investment and development cooperation, but also by our strong people-to-people links. Australia's Sri Lankan community is estimated at 110,000 people, with ties forged through education forming an increasingly strong part of our relationship.

More than 5,000 Sri Lankan students currently attend tertiary and vocational institutions in Australia. We are the leading provider of tertiary education services to Sri Lanka, with many Australian institutions offering distance learning opportunities there.

As the fellowship and work of the St Patrick's College Old Boys Association shows, ties formed through education can last a lifetime. I appreciate the role of the Association and the broader Sri Lankan community in fostering goodwill and lasting ties between our two countries.

Congratulations once more on this significant milestone and I wish your Association all the best for the future.

The Honourable Julia Gillard
Prime Minister of Australia
The Hon Tony Abbott MHR
Leader of the Opposition
Federal Member for Warringah

Message from the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Tony Abbott MHR

PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA - AUSTRALIA

25th Anniversary

I congratulate the Patricians of Jaffna (NSW) on the occasion of your 25th anniversary this year.

The relationships we form during childhood and school days often last a lifetime. It is good to see that the sense of community fostered through your time at St Patrick’s College in Jaffna, Sri Lanka continues into your adult lives.

I also congratulate the Patricians of Jaffna for continuing to support the College and its current students.

Your anniversary is also a fitting time to recognise the contribution that has been made by people of Sri Lankan heritage to Australia. Since 1788, Australia has been an immigrant society. Successive waves of newcomers eager for a better life have enriched our culture and added a heroic dimension to our national story.

Please accept my best wishes for the celebrations which mark this milestone.

Yours sincerely

TONY ABBOTT

5 October 2012
25th Anniversary – St Patrick’s of Jaffna – Australia

I congratulate your organisation on twenty five years of activity. Our alma mater is often crucial to our aspirations, life outcomes and socialisation. Today, 42 years after leaving St Patricks College, Strathfield, I still have a group of half a dozen friends from that era and keenly attend our broader year reunions now held every five years. I should note in passing that a school memory is of the Sri Lankan cricket team, which did not at that time have Test status practicing on our school oval.

I attended a cricket game in Sydney between two Sri Lankan old boy teams, some years ago. I thus have some sense of the intensity of loyalty to the school and intra institution rivalry. When we appreciate that in Sydney, Newington was only established in 1863, Scots 1893 and St Josephs in 1881, the formation of your school decades earlier is truly historic.

Yours sincerely

Laurie Ferguson MP
Federal Member for Werriwa

25 May 2012
MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF GUEST ALEXIS INDRAJIT LOVELL MBE

From one Patrician to All Patricians

Congratulations to you all Patricians and Family Members, on this occasion. Your dedicated and humble formation of the Association of Patricians of Jaffna in Sydney, away from your homeland, some twenty five years ago and the ongoing gatherings as well as celebrations, in the name of our alma mater has paid off.

As a fellow Patrician, I feel very privileged to be a part of this Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

I also feel very proud that your the key objectives of Patricians of Jaffna include fostering brotherhood and fellowship among Patricians, both in Australia as well as abroad and to help supporting our alma mater back in our home land.

This Silver Jubilee celebration associated with the raising funds for St Patrick’s College and the needy back in our home land, is a memorable milestone. I thank all those who have supported this cause in the past and humbly request to continue with this honourable deed.

My wife and I are looking forward to enjoy this Silver Jubilee celebrations with you all.

Alexis Indrajit Lovell, MBE
Message from the President

It is indeed a privilege and an honour to preside at this 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Patricians of Jaffna, Australia (Sydney Branch) in the spirit of our alma mater St. Patrick’s College, Jaffna. I am very grateful to all of you connected either directly or indirectly with this event, for your kind and voluntary support to make this a memorable event.

First of all let me thank our Chief Guest Mr Alexis Indrajit Lovell, MBE and other distinguished guests, fellow Patricians, their family members, friends and visitors for your presence here to grace this occasion.

Year after year ‘Patricians of Jaffna’ (Sydney Branch) organised Holy Mass followed by St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in March and Christmas get-togethers in December. We entertained many Patricians, including past Rectors, Priests, Teachers and other distinguished guests over the years.

On 16th March 1997, we celebrated the 10th annual St Patrick’s Day Reunion at the Christian Brother’s Conference and Retreat Centre at Mulgoa, 70 km west of Sydney. The Eucharistic Celebration was conducted by Fr Brendon Quirk and the guest solo was John Edwards, whose rendition of “Mathave…” was memorable. Mr. Alex Arulanandam and his family from the UK joined to grace us in the celebration. The AGM was followed by a lunch, musical and games, organised by Dr. Vincent Sundrasingham, Tony Sebaratnam and Adrian Arulanandam. Mr. Braebourne Edema briefed the meeting about the contacts he had made with the OBA, Colombo. The Tenth Anniversary X’Mas Dinner Dance was held at St Paul’s Church at Dulwich Hill on the 6th of December 1997. We had over 150 guests, including children. Dr. John St. George and his wife Selvie were the chief guests of honour. Edith, Thana and other helpers decorated the hall elegantly. Anselm Jehenthnan delighted the kids with gifts as Santa. Adrian Arulanandam organised the musical items and the American auction to raise funds for the college Building Fund.

We are grateful to our many benefactors: Fr. Phil Linder PP, of All Saints Church Liverpool, for the facilities extended, Sisters of Mount Schoenstatt, the Christian Brothers Congregation at Winbourne, Mulgoa and Christian Brothers High School, Lewisham. We were honoured and privileged to have one of Dr. Anton’s past students, a priest in Australia – Fr. Brendan Quirk – officiating as the Principal Celebrant at many of our St Patrick’s Day Eucharistic Services. Fr. Ed Doran, Fr. Joe Fernando, Fr. Donovan, Fr. Lucien Dep and Fr Sahayathasan and other priests who have also celebrated the Eucharist for us. It was fitting that our Guest of Honour for the Sesquicentenary Celebration was Bishop David Cremin, Vicar for Immigration and a true Irishman.

I like to thank all Patricians, their families and friends and especially those hard working Committee Members, who worked diligently over the past 25 years for their commendable and tireless efforts.

I also take this opportunity to thank all the distinguished dignitaries who have sent good will messages and every one connected directly or indirectly with this Silver Jubilee celebrations for their kind support rendered to make this event a great success.

Eliathamby Arumainathan
Message from Dr Ambrose Nelson, Chairman 25th Anniversary Committee

This unique event binds us all Patricians from around the Globe. My participation at the Patrician Global Reunion in Sri Lanka in September this year, has given me additional impetus to make this a successful event and to raise more funds to the needy ones at St Patrick’s College, Jaffna.

It is important that we remember the humble beginning of our Association. After receiving support from Rev Fr Michael Joseph, the Rector of St. Patrick’s College in Jaffna, Australia (Sydney Branch) for the formation of Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch), Dr. Anton Arulanandam returned to Sydney in January 1986 and discussed this idea of forming the Patricians of Jaffna with Patricians in Sydney at that time. Such Patricians included Dr. John St. George, Dr. Vincent Sundrasingham, Mr. V Satchithanandan and others. From then on there were informal gatherings at residences of the senior Patricians in the spirit of St Patrick’s College for some time. In March 1987, Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch) Australia had their first formal gathering after the celebration of the Eucharist.

Ever since the formation of ‘Patricians of Jaffna’ (Sydney Branch) in Australia, we Patricians, gather each year on St Patrick’s Day and Christmas occasion to celebrate the union of Patricians and to continue the spirit of our Alma Mater, on an ongoing basis. We are now celebrating this great ‘Silver Jubilee Anniversary’ of the formation of ‘Patricians of Jaffna’ Sydney Branch, as we consider it is a privilege as well as our duty and a joy to do so.

I like to thank the Chief Guest Alexis Indrajit Lovell, and other dignitaries for spending their valuable time with us, to grace this occasion.

We have had distinguished visitors from around the world, including those from Sri Lanka including Rectors, priests and teachers such as Mr S M Christy, of our Alma Mater. They have given us their support & blessings for the continued gathering of all us Patricians, on occasions such as the one today.

I also would like to thank all those participating in this event, whether they are Patrician or not, and to those who helped us directly or indirectly. I would also take this opportunity like thank our sister college, the Holy Family Convent, for their sisterly support and their help over the years. Dedicated choir groups led by Moira Jacob and decorating assistance rendered by Mrs Ludovica Jacob and Mrs Edith Arulanandam over the years are noteworthy and we sincerely thank all of them well as Jacob Master family, Sabaratnam family, Jesudasan family and others for their special services, including decorations of the churches, celebration hall and choir services over the years.

Finally, I like to thank the advertisers and sponsors for their financial assistance.

Dr. Ambrose Nelson
My dear fellow Patrians in Sydney,

I am extremely delighted to send this felicitation message from Toronto, Canada to all the Patrians in Sydney on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of SPC OBA Sydney, Australia.

On behalf of fellow Patrians living in Canada and the current committee members of the St. Patrick's College, Jaffna Alumni Association, Ontario, I wish you a successful and memorable 25th anniversary celebration. Even though, we are thousands of miles apart, we are united in the true sense of Patrician spirit and fellowship. Recently our Alumni Association in Toronto celebrated its silver jubilee.

I would like to thank the Patrians in Australia, who made valuable contributions in the form of interesting articles to our Canadian Patrician Silver Jubilee Souvenir.

As you gather in Sydney, Australia as Patrians, you make your Alma Mater proud and at the same time renew the timeless Patrician friendship and fellowship. You also give a very powerful witness to the success story of globalized Patrians of Jaffna.

Buoyed by a strong sense of Patrician team spirit, I'm highly confident that Sydney OBA would continue to generously support our Alma Mater to achieve new heights as one of the top-performing educational institutions not only in Jaffna but also in the Indian sub continent.

Wishing Patrians of Jaffna in Sydney best of luck and continued success. May your OBA grow from strength to strength and celebrate many more joyful anniversaries in the coming years.
I am delighted to pen a few words in as you celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the St Patrick’s College, Jaffna OBA, Sydney, Australia. My congratulations to all members of OBA Sydney as you celebrate your silver jubilee. We, the Patrician family in UK rejoice with you and wish you all the very best and hope your association exists for many many more years to come.

Old boys associations around world have been a tremendous help to our college as they build their lives again after thirty years of civil conflict. Your associations’ contribution to our Alma mater has been recognised by all. We all are grateful to the great scholars and administrators who made this school a great catholic institution. We admire the dedication of the Sydney Patricians, who had been volunteering their spare time to raise funds to our Alma Mater, we pause and reminisce with gratitude to past presidents and others EXCO members of Sydney OBA.

I take this opportunity to wish President Arumainathan and the Executive members of Sydney St Patrick’s Old Boys Association all the very best on your Silver Jubilee celebrations. May St Patrick guide you and intercede for you all.

“Fide Et Labore”

Joseph Constantine
President
SPC AA UK

Patron
Rt. Rev Dr T Savundranayagam
His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna

Vice Patrons
Rev Fr J Selvanayagam The Rector, St. Patrick’s College
Rev Fr. Sebenesaratnam, The Chaplain, Tamil Chaplaincy, UK

President: Joseph Constantine
Secretary: Ramesh Ramo Treasurer: Desmond Joseph.
On behalf of the executive committee of Jaffna Holy Family Convent Alumni Association, Sydney, Australia, It is my honour to send our greetings and best wishes to Patricians of Jaffna, Sydney, Australia on this auspicious occasion of your Silver Jubilee.

As you mark the 25th year of serving in true spirit of your motto "Fide et Labore", you have every reason to feel proud of your achievements and accomplishments of many missions. We extend our warmest congratulations to all Patricians on this great occasion.

I sincerely believe that the Patricians of Jaffna, Sydney Australia would strive to continue with its noble objectives and serve with greater zeal in the years to come.

I wish the function a grand success and a bright future to the Patricians of Jaffna, Sydney, Australia.

May God Bless you all.

Bhanu Padmasiri
President
Message from the Catholic Association of Sydney Tamils (CAST)

It is with delight, I pen these few lines to the Patricians of Jaffna, Sydney to commemorate the 25th Anniversary on the 28th October 2012, as well as to express our congratulations and gratitude, best wishes for the fun filled celebrations.

This is a special occasion for me as the President of the CAST and as the Chairman of the 25th Anniversary committee of Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch). I am proud to say the year 2012 was a year of great achievement for the Patricians of Jaffna, Australia for celebrating the Silver Jubilee of its inauguration in Sydney. This is primarily due to the efforts of late Dr. John St. George, Dr. Anton Arulanandam, Dr. Vincent Sundrasingham and Mr V Satchithanandan, in forming the Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch) some 25 years ago..

On behalf of the Catholic Association of Sydney Tamils, once again, I wish all of you a pleasant memorable gathering and to renew your friendship and commitment towards our Alma Mater.

HAIL GLORIOUS SAINT PATRICK, THY words were once strong….

With Best Greetings
A.L.Nelson
President
Catholic Association of Sydney Tamils
Origins of St Patrick's College, Jaffna

(This article has been reproduced from publications connected with St Patrick’s College)

Compiled from an article titled "The Birth-pangs of St. Patrick's College," by the former Bishop of Jaffna, Rt. Rev. Dr. B. Deogupillai & the book "Notes on Jaffna - Chronological, Historical, Biographical - From 1505 onwards" by John H. Martyn - a historian.

In 2010, St Patrick's Jaffna is celebrating its 160th year. Below is a brief summary of its origins

In 1834, after nearly 300 years when Ceylon was part of the Diocese of Cochin (India), His Holiness the Pope Gregory XVI established Ceylon as a separate Apostolic Vicariate. About 1839 when St Mary's Catholic Church was being built, the Catholics of Jaffna petitioned the Holy See to send a few European priests. This resulted in a small band of Italian priests, of whom Fr. Bettachini was the first to arrive in 1843.

In 1847, Dr. Mazenod, the founder of the Order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) sent another band consisting of Fr. Semaria at the request of (who was by then) Bishop Bettachini. Thus, the beginnings of St. Patrick's College, Jaffna, Sri Lanka is closely linked with the First Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Horace Bettachini. In 1850, the Jaffna Catholic English School was founded by Bishop Bettachini. Fr Mauroit was the first manager and Mr Patrick Foy, an Irish gentleman, was the first principal. The teachers were Mr William Marsh, Mr W. Santiagupillai, Mr G.S Ariyanayagam Pillai, Fr Xavier, Mr. MacDonnell, Mr. Paul & Mr. Veeravagu.

In 1857, Rt Rev Dr John Stephen Semaria, Bishop of Olympia, succeeded Dr. Bettachini. In 1860, the Ceylon School Commission, after representations made by Fr Bonjean, gave an annual grant of one hundred and fifty pounds and also renamed the school, the Jaffna Boys Seminary.

In 1861, Bishop Semaria went to Europe and returned with (among others) Brothers Conway and Dowling. With the appointment of Brother Conway as principal of the Boy's seminary, a new era of progress began in the school with ten members of staff. Brother Conway managed the school for 8 years and died on 22 February 1870. Dr Bonjean who had succeeded Bishop Semaria as Vicar Apostolic of Jaffna took great interest in developing the Jaffna Boys seminary.

In 1879, the Very Rev Fr Soulier, Visitor General of OMI came on a visit to Jaffna. Bishop Bonjean had left for France in 1879 for the General Chapter of the oblate congregation. On his return to Jaffna in 1880, he decided to amalgamate the preparatory ecclesiastical seminary and the Jaffna Boys seminary under the title of St. Patrick's College and applied to the Department of Public Instruction for registration of the College as a complete High school under the Revised code.

The College under its present name was opened on 10 January 1881 and Rev Fr J R Smythe was the first principal of St Patrick's College. Rev Smythe was the son of a Protestant Clergyman and while a Police Magistrate of Jaffna, resolved to join the Catholic Church and was ordained on 8 December 1868. The foundation stone of the large College Hall, measuring 105 X 22 feet was laid on Sunday 4 December 1881.

Rev Fr Patrick Dunne - who came to Jaffna as Br. Dunne in April 1885 - was the 5th principal. During his time, the College came to be regarded as the best in the island for its academic achievements. Rev. Fr Dunne found the time amid his duties as Principal to publish a system of shorthand he had invented for Tamil and in 1900, he published a concise Tamil - English Dictionary.

Silver Jubilee Souvenir 1987-2012
Mr S Abraham who had been a student of the Jaffna Boys' Seminary and had been appointed a teacher in the sixties, retired in May 1901. Maths was his favourite subject.

In October 1901, Rev Fr Dunne retired after 16 years and went back to Europe. When the College decided to form Houses, it was decided to do so using the 1st 4 letters of the alphabet - Abraham, Bonjean, Conway & Dunne - named after the various luminaries in its development. Around 1951, "Conway" was renamed "Matthews" and later "Abraham" gave way to "Long".

Rev Fr C.S. Matthews joined the tutorial staff in 1905 and Rev Fr T M F Long joined the staff in 1920 and both subsequently became Rectors. The Matthews Long era from 1905 to 1954 was the College's golden era. In 1954 the missionary era came to an end and Rev. Fr. S.N. Arulnesan, a past student of the college became its first indigenous Rector (1954 to 1960).

St Patrick's College (2012)

![Main Entrance Matthews Block](image)

![Long Block Long Block, Matthews Block & Chapel](image)

![Fr. M. Dutreuil OMI Rector 1903-1914](image)

![Rev. Fr. J. Boyett OMI Rector 1923-1929](image)

![Rev. Fr. C. Mathews OMI Rector 1937-1940](image)

![Rev. Fr. T. M. F Long Rector 1920-1925](image)

![Rev. Fr. T. M. F Long Rector 1920-1925](image)

![Rev. Fr. C. Mathews OMI Rector 1937-1940](image)
DR JOHN ST GEORGE - FROM ATCHUVELY TO AUSTRALIA

What drives Patricians of the calibre of Dr John St. George to leave the shores of Jaffna in droves? May be Dr John – the eminent Gynaecologist and Surgeon knows the answer; but even if he does he is very much of a dignified gentleman to speak ill of the Sri Lankan tragedy that continues to eclipse Jaffna and the rest of the resplendent Isle. To reiterate that the language impasse led to the exodus of many Sri Lankans is to underscore the political panacea & the intransigency that disintegrates the Island Paradise. Despite the fact that John was born in Malaysia (then Malaya), the smiling, impeccably attired, methodical surgeon from his native Atchuvely has made it good since 1975 in the Promised Land down under, as Australian Dorothy Mackellar poeticized – ‘the sunburnt country’. Not only was the young lad instilled the rudiments of religious fervour in his formative years by his God-fearing parents, but also he was influenced by his devoted uncles Fr B A John, a former Vice Rector, Fr L. Ponniah, Vicar General, and his aunt, Sister Mary of the Cross.

Another versatile Patrician and relative, Fr J P E Selvarajah, who, amidst the political despondency of the communal divide in the peninsula, will bear credible testimony of the generosity and benevolence of the St Georges family towards St Mary’s Cathedral and other missions in the Jaffna Diocese. But the young John owed his religious up-bringing to his beloved father and mother – Mr Samuel & Mrs Rakini St George – who not only inculcated the infra structure of self-discipline and perseverance, but also raised five siblings with great fortitude – Anton St George of Autos and Palm Court fame, Joseph the Barrister, John the Surgeon, Charles the Professor of Veterinary Science, Victor the Planter, and Alfred the Physician (UK). Anton St George was a towering figure in Jaffna. The OBA in Jaffna prospered under his Presidentship. It should be recalled that when Edith and I visited Jaffna in January 1983, Anton and his charming wife, Mrs Mangalam St George, were magnanimous in their generosity. It was a distressing day for Jaffna and St Patrick’s when Anton passed away. So heart-broken was John by the profound affection for his eldest brother, that the sad news was conveyed to us on the phone early hours of the morning to enable us to make the travel arrangements for John’s departure to Colombo. On a happier note, we had the good fortune of Anton’s wife, Mangalam, gracing the Patricians’ Yuletide dinner in 1998 in Sydney.

Although St Patrick’s College laid the academic foundation for his formative years, John entered the portals of the Ceylon University Medical College from St Joseph’s College, Colombo, graduating as a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in March 1950 with Distinctions in Forensic Medicine, Public Health and Parasitology. Not only did John excel as an exemplary student, but also he shone in sports as well, captaining both the invincible Athletic and Soccer teams respectively. A contemporary of John, and Patrician, Mr T S Selvakumaraswamy, who lives in Sydney, reminisces his goal-keeping prowess for four years. Selva, who was a boader in the Hindu Hostel, (although Selva was a Church of England Anglican, and later a convert after his marriage to Wilma), recalls the happier days of his boarding life before the erection of the Matthews Block that was declared open by the then Prime Minister Dudley Senanayake on the 12 April 1950, Another famous expatriate, who lives in retirement in Sydney is Mr N C Rajanayagam (popularly known as N.C and a former Vice-President of our Association), had the distinction of first captaining the Second Eleven, and in 1947 the First Eleven Soccer.
It was a treat to peruse Dr John’s certificates in Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, 220 yards hurdles influenced by the long standing tradition set by another renowned Patrician - the great Kibuka, and coached by the magnificent B R Motha who was later to serve as Chairman the AAA Officials committee during my initial period as Honorary Secretary, for both the Amateur Athletic Association of Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Schools AA (Public Schools AA...If I may digress, I was appointed by the then Sports Minister, Hon. K B Ratnayake, (a product of Hartley College, Jaffna), as Sri Lanka’s General Team Manager of the 39 member Seventh Asian Games contingent to Tehran in 1974, as well as the Athletic Coach of the nine-member team that won five Gold medals in the 400m and 4 by 400 metre Relay respectively establishing two new Asian Games Records in Tehran).

Although John established himself with sterling sporting honours, nothing would deter the determined lad from Atchuvely from pursuing his medical career in the United Kingdom accumulating a string of prestigious postgraduate degrees – MRCOG (1958), FRCS (Edin.) 1959, FRCOG (1970) and FRACOG in 1979. The sky was the limit in achieving the academic excellence for the Patrician who epitomized the ‘Espirit de Corps’ of the noble values of unity, courage, loyalty and fearlessness. Not only was Dr John elected Fellow of International College of Surgeons (FICS) in January 1968, but also he was awarded the coveted Langley Memorial Prize by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1974. On his return to Ceylon, John continued his lucrative medical practice in the Public and private sectors, functioning as House Officer, Senior House Officer, and Registrar in Medicine, Surgery, Obs. & Gyn. Orthopaedics and Public Health, and as Consultant in Obs. and Gyn, Government of Ceylon (Aug. 1959 –July 1964). Dr John’s contemporaries - Dr Sidney Jayawardene who was also his best man for his wedding, Dr V.Rasanayagam, Orthopaedic Surgeon, and Dr Tony Gabriel always extolled his admirable qualities. The intransigency of the political crisis lured many professionals including our effervescent Vice-President, Dr Vincent Sundrasingham, to the land of fair dinkum in search of fresh pastures exacerbating the brain drain. John was no exception. He served in North Central State, Nigeria as the Chief Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. (March 1972-August 1975). Dr John was selfless in sharing his hard earned medical expertise and skills both as a teacher and examiner to midwives, interns in Ceylon as well as in the University of West Indies (1970), Ahmadu Bello, Nigeria (1973) and University of Ibadan, Nigeria (1974) before immigrating to Australia in 1975. As a disciplined, determined and dedicated doctor, Dr.John found time and energy in researching and publishing over twenty papers for the greater benefit of the medical fraternity. The manifestation of John’s dedication to his medical career is epitomized in his act of kindness as well as his willingness in meeting and helping people let alone helping his loved ones with a generous heart. When Fr Jesunesan, the former Vice-Rector of St Patrick’s, visited Australia, he was eager to pay a courtesy call on Dr John. Due to a tight schedule, we opted to surprise the Doctor at his Burwood Surgery, where without much hesitation, Dr John performed a minor surgery in removing a mole on the unsuspecting Vice-Rector’s cheek! We recall with nostalgia that Dr John coaxed two other eminent Patricians to attend the St Patrick’s day celebrations earlier. One of them was Dr S Balakrishnan who was resident in Perth and now deceased. Second is another world renowned Patrician – Dr M Vannithamby – a Nuclear Physicist who is very much actively involved in Research in Sydney and in Queensland.

Besides keeping medical records, as a world traveler, John was meticulous in maintaining historical records. He was a member of the Scientific team that was entrusted with the investigation of the miracles of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. His knowledge of the Holy Land is encyclopaedic as the writer holds in his possession an itemized itinerary Dr John kindly charted for our visit to the Holy Land in 1988. Not only did Dr John recall to me the piety of the Passion play he witnessed at Oberagammau, but Dr John believed in the poesy of Rudyard Kipling who immortalized the quality of life thus:
Father in Heaven, who lovest all,
Oh help Thy children when they call;
That they may build from age to age,
An undefiled heritage.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That in our time, Thy Grace may give
The Truth whereby the Nation’s live.

Teach us to rule ourselves always,
Controlled and cleanly night and day;
That we may bring, if need arise,
No maimed or worthless sacrifice.

At the heart of Dr. John’s accomplishment lies the strong foundation laid at St Patrick’s College under the tutelage of two Rectors - Fr Charles S Matthews, Fr Timothy Long as well as his mentors at St Martin’s Hostel, Jaffna. Behind the success of his medical career (and the five children) remains his charming wife and positive thinker - Selvaranee - affectionately known to the Patricians as the indefatigable ‘Selvi’. Their abode at Albyn Road remains an open house for the Patricians (and his extended family), who often enjoy the lavish hospitality at Committee meetings that culminate in dancing and group singing often interspersed with the energetic Vice President, Dr Vincent Sundrasingham’s rendition of Satchmo’s ‘With the Saints go marching on’; Anton at the keyboard, Dr John himself faultlessly doing the Baila, joined by N.C., Tim with his Elvis Presley twist, Bonny Rayappu, Robert Anandarajah, Peter Seemampillai, Vincent Balasingham, Jovan, Tony Sebaratnam, Abraham, Arumainathan, Lazarus, Lawrence et al not forgetting Angelo’s humorous anecdotes. In 1990, the Patricians feted the golden Jubilarian, Fr Alston Maruthanayagam, a former Rector, at Dr John’s residence. Fr Alston also was the chief celebrant at our St Patrick’s Day Eucharistic Service. Edith and I had the prescience of driving Fr Alston to the Boy’s Town at Engadine, New South Wales, a visit that was the highlight of his visit to Australia. John and Selvie’s home became the venue for another celebration of the Holy Eucharist by the Silver Jubilarian, Dr(Fr)Anton Mathias, when he visited Sydney in 1998. Dr John was more than elated in hosting Lucien Keil, the veteran sportsman, who now lives in Canada.

Dr John retired from active medical practice on 30 June 1998, after an unfortunate motorcar accident, that resulted in a partial stroke, relinquishing his lucrative medical practice at Burwood, Lakemba and Auburn. It is our fervent prayer that Dr John’s remarkable resilience will regenerate his active participation in his day to day life’s chores. To keep John’s company, as the English poet John Keats evoked

...is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

John’s religious devotions are phenomenal. The 1983 holocaust in Sri Lanka prompted John and Selvie in initiating a Saturday Prayer Group for Peace for all religious denominations at St Martha’s Church, Strathfield – bringing together Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian devotees. Although the idea was well received by the majority of the Sri Lankan Diaspora, one medical practitioner stooped so low in defaming the religious devotion as a stunt in a controversial publication released after the 1983 holocaust. Thanks to the vision and mission of John and Selvie, Novenas to our Lady of Perpetual Succour are held weekly since January 1996, at 4.00 p.m. at Christ the King Church, Yagoona with the affability of the active Parish
Priest, Fr Graham McIntyre and parishioners – the kind natured Mr Paul Fernando and his family et al. Borella comes alive at Bass Hill but for the Carillon sounds. The large wooden cross that adorns the beautiful Christ the King Church above the altar is testament of the benevolence of Dr John and Mrs St George. The exodus of Sri Lankan refugees was a watershed in 1995 that motivated the concerned St Georges and the Fernandos in inaugurating the Novenas for Peace in Sri Lanka.

In Australia, John demonstrated his loyalty to his first Alma Mater as the foundation President of the *Patricians of Jaffna – Australia* (1987-1998), and currently serving as first Life Vice-Patron. Significantly, the great Jubilee year also marks Dr John’s 50 years of devoted healing service to humanity. Dr John’s uncanny sense of humour is exemplified in the following episode. Dr John, in a rare shopping spree for his favourite sweets, had gone to a local Cake shop and asked for a cake. The woman behind the counter replied in not so eloquent English, ‘No sell egg!’ A family friend, Dr Leo Wanigaratnam, recalls that on one occasion, when Dr John reached for his wallet to settle a Saturday dinner fare for his guests at a Chinese Restaurant, he was unperturbed to find his wallet missing. On his return to the Burwood Surgery on the following Monday, the good Doctor was pleasantly surprised to find the wallet deposited in the mailbox by a conscientious patient with everything intact – cash, credit cards etc. The incident is a manifestation of his deep faith not only in humanity but also in the Divinity. All his children attribute his remarkable success to the religious foundation and discipline laid at St Patrick’s College. The steadfast success of the children itself is symbolic of his far sighted vision of achieving the great Australian Dream.

Dr Lourdes St George-White has emulated her father's footsteps by fulfilling the coveted position as a leading Gynaecologist in Sydney, raising three gorgeous daughters – Phoebe, Siena and Trinity with her family oriented and talented husband, Spencer, who is an avid artist and classical guitarist extraordinaire. Dr John’s sons – Dr Bernard and Dr Jude pursue their own medical practice as Specialist Psychiatrist and Dental Surgeon respectively. Although Bernard had his early grounding at St Patrick’s, he is nimbly supported by his adorable wife, Usha, a medical graduate, and his two studious sons – Nirenjen and Ahilan. Jude’s dental experience at Oxford stands him in good stead as a much sought after Dental surgeon. Of John’s daughters, the genial and gracious Geraldine is a highflying Chartered Accountant who manages her own firm of Chartered Accountancy in the corporate world, while Mariana, a graduate Accountant, helps her amiable husband, Dr Ravi Emmanuel (son of another Patrician), who has successfully built up the Burwood practice following the tradition of his father-in-law. As a young mother, Mariana, with her infectious smile, saunters about raising three charming children – David, Gregory and Kirstin. Behind their uncanny success lies the caring and visionary mother, the ebullient Selvaranee St George, who has ingeniously fashioned in facilitating all the commercial and medical services in one building at Burwood. Dr John’s munificent nature has won him many grateful patients and friends universally. In the words of Lord Mencius, the great man is he who does not lose his child’s heart. Perhaps there lies the spiritual strength of Doctor John who holds the record in delivering thousands of babies all over the world! He is a man in a million, a living legend and nature’s own gentleman. Both Atchuvely and St Patrick’s remain as ‘spots of time’ (to borrow Wordsworth’s phrase from *The Prelude*) in our imagination in the Australian Diaspora. No souvenir is complete without a tribute to one of the greatest Patricians in the Sesquicentenary Anniversary of our Alma Mater – St Patrick’s College, Jaffna.


(*Reproduced from the 2000 Sesquicentenary Edition of the Patricians of Jaffna Australia*)
A Dedication to Dr. Anton Arulanandam's work for the Old Boys' Association
PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

“If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples; even though some of them still look down on me”.

-Saint Patrick

From its inception until his untimely passing, Dr. Anton Arulanandam – a man that each Patrician of Jaffna could call their brother – gave his spirit and dedication to ensuring that each member of our diaspora could unite. I write this not merely as his biological brother, but as an admirer and supporter of this godly and worldly man and hold his memory to me as if he still walks the earth today. I truly believe, in my heart, that each Patrician and their friends and family who have met Anton Annan (brother) has been changed for the better.

The saying goes great minds think alike and Anton Annan and our dear Dr John St. George were no exception. Twenty five years ago, in 1987, their dream to unite old Patricians of Jaffna living around the world was materialised and given the name “PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA”. Its centre, obviously, was Sydney and gained support from other capitals in places such as United Kingdom, Canada, Norway and France. Dr Vincent Sundrasingham was also a major ally to Dr John and Anton Annan and without his support; Patricians of Jaffna, Australia would not be the esteemed success it is today. Former Science teacher of St Patrick’s College Mr Satchithanandam was one of those who lent significant support, especially for the formation of the Association. The work of successive presidents Mr. Nelson Ambrose and Mr. Jovan Titus and Mr. Arumainathan for the Association was appreciated, seeing them as not simply as protégés but good friends. Anton Annan enjoyed and appreciated the dedication and hard work given by my other brothers in Sydney, Tim and Angelo towards the Association. The Association was created with a number of goals in mind; firstly to bring together the “Past students of St Patricks College Jaffna, Sri Lanka” and re-establish that network, secondly to provide support to those who had recently left Sri Lanka and financial as well as other support to our beloved school back home, thirdly to provide opportunities to celebrate and appreciate each others’ company and fourthly, to pay respect to our Alma Mater and our Patron Saint St Patrick. Anton Annan did not only have this clear vision but a genuinely loving personality which, combined with his phenomenal organisational and leadership qualities, took the Association from a mere concept to a reality.

Anton Annan embodied the qualities that not only each of us strive to attain, but were taught at the college and derived from Saint Patrick himself. He strived for inclusiveness at each function he attended – talking to both newcomers and old members. He gave each of us hope, even and especially during his last few years. For those who were struggling to settle in Australia or come to terms with a new way of living, he shared his wisdom and encouragement. Anton Annan’s inherent love for music, good food and celebrations shaped the Association in a way that, if contemplated on, allows Patricians of today to enjoy the humanity of our patron Saint Patrick. The Saint Patrick’s Day and Christmas Celebrations were a cause to be proud of – Anton Annan’s ideas and love for charity raised the College out of its war-torn state and gave hope to its students. Furthermore, Anton Annan was both an exceptional student and teacher (and athletics) in both Sri Lanka and Australia – he learned from his teachers, shared this wisdom with his students and in turn, learned from his students too.

Anton Annan’s love for love and life transcended all ages, both genders and each culture – he brought together each of us in the hope that we would share in his love for the happiness of
others and strive to support each other in every circumstance. His tireless work for the PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA – AUSTRALIA was not, and hopefully will never be, wasted for he inspired each of us to remain united. Anton Annan took responsibility for the Association when Dr John became ill and to his very own last days, loved the Association for what it was – a wonderful, talented, hilarious group of men who were tempered with love and knowledge. In nearly every speech of his for Patricians’ functions, Anton Annan would say “behind every successful man, is a woman” and in his case, he had Edith Acca – a strong woman to whom my daughters look up to – and their love for each other was an inspiration to all. I believe all that Anton would wish to see for the next twenty five years of this loving Association is that we do not lose the spirit of unification and compassion with which he built the foundations of PATRICIANS OF JAFFNA – AUSTRALIA. I doubt we could ever lose something that is so central to the Patrician spirit, just as we have not truly lost this incredible man.

An extract from The Island Online News from Sri Lanka:

Dr. Anton’s PhD thesis was on, "Imagining and Remembering Home in Australia – a Study of a Sri Lankan Tamil Diaspora".

Dr. Anton, an old boy of St. Patrick’s College, Jaffna was a prominent official in athletic circles having functioned as the General Manager of the Sri Lankan Contingent in the 1974 Tehran Asian Games and 1972 Delhi Asian Games. Sri Lanka won two gold medals in the 1974 games with W. Wimaladasa setting a new record in the 400 meters and the 4x100 relay team winning gold. He held many positions in athletic circles including Secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association of Ceylon and founded Ceylon Athletics Coaches Association.

Dr Anton is best remembered here as Founder/Secretary of Patricians of Jaffna (Sydney Branch) and recipient of National Edmund Rice Award from Christian Brothers Oblates, for his meritorious service to the Christian Community, during his 50 years of teaching career.

Hail glorious Saint Patrick.

Adrian Arulanandam family from Canberra, ACT
29 October 2012
REMEMBERING ST PATRICK’S… FROM AUSTRALIA WITH LOVE

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing… John Keats.

Succinctly symbolized by John Keats, St Patrick’s remains a joy for ever cascading as a shooting star in the sesquicentenary year! Its loveliness increases year by year despite the diluvial dilemma in the Jaffna peninsula.

The Enigma of Father Long

Who would have dreamt that when we were students at St Patrick’s College, Jaffna, in the fifties some of us would follow the footsteps of Fr Long – the Cambridge luminary, and end up in Australia in fashioning a Patrician Diaspora? In the dichotomy of ‘push and pull’ factors of migration, whether the Prince of priests was pulled, or pushed to Australia, after 31 years of dedicated service to humanity, will always remain a substance of speculation. History records that it was during the time of the newly elected Bishop Emilianus Pillai, an eminent son of Jaffna, that Fr Long’s illustrious career in Jaffna was abruptly ended. In the words of Fr John Francis (Rector 1976 –79), who was the last Patrician to see Fr Long alive at the Oblate Scholasticate, Dublin, Fr Long was taken ill in London enroute to Rome and was admitted to hospital on the 28th and died in London on the 30th April 1961. The mortal remains of the adopted son of Jaffna were laid to rest in his beloved Dublin, on the 1st of May 1961. Fr Long’s last words to his prodigy, Fr John, were,

“I am going to Rome. Next time I’ll come and stay longer… Be a man of prayer. When you are worried, pray, when you are happy, pray and thank God.”

Fr Long’s gracious mother thanked the Lord for the four children and confided, ‘I have sacrificed three sons.’ She was referring to all the children who served the Lord’s vineyard as priests and nun respectively.

My father, Abraham Santhiapillai Arulanandam J P., who worked for twenty one years under two Rectors, Fr Charles S Matthews¹ and Fr Timothy Long, before he switched to the learned profession as an English teacher, knew the strengths and weaknesses of the two visionaries. Unlike Fr Matthews, Fr Long, for reasons unknown, never learnt the Tamil language. Yet he was respected by the Jaffna man for his charisma. As Prefect of Studies under Fr Long’s administration, Fr Charles S Matthews was always amenable to staff and students because of his conviviality. To say that Fr Long advocated a cultural divide in the form of elitism is to undervalue his colossal impact on the country’s bureaucrats who revered him. Where would the expatriates be without the elixir of English language? Behind the stern exterior of Fr Long was the intellectual interior that permeated a decree of discipline and devoutness. It was difficult to gauge the master disciplinarian, especially whenever Father Long screamed at the staff or students, whether he was acting or real, like President Reagan.

Fr Long normally began his daily ablutions² with the celebration of the Eucharist at 6 a.m. in his own upstairs chapel that was adjacent to his study. As altar servers of St Aloysius’ Confraternity, some of us were rostered to assist him on occasions. The neatly attired, old faithful stocky Austico was always ready with Fr Long’s breakfast and daily newspapers, always prepared with precision all the meals including Fr

1. According to my late father, I was named after Fr Charles S. Matthews who as Rector at the time, not only solemnized my father’s wedding to Catherine but also baptized me later, thus inheriting his name Charles as my second name. Timothy, who is the current Secretary of our association was named after Fr Long while my only sister, Patricia was named after St Patrick’s.
2. The school commenced in the morning with a Rosary in the Chapel. A bell hung on a mahogany tree tolled for five minutes. Any one caught coming late incurred the ignominy of vilification. Fr Long also produced a prayer book, a copy of which is still in the possession of our ex Vice President, Mr Braebourne Edema who lives in Sydney.
Long’s afternoon Tiffin of Bread and Butter. Little wonder that when Fr Long left Ceylon for Australia he would have certainly missed the domestic help as it was and is the custom to do your own chores such as cooking, cleaning, laundering, polishing shoes in the Promised Land. Fr Long’s afternoon siesta was no secret as one could spot the impression of the cane pattern of his easy chair on the back of his white cassock as he sauntered across the school corridors bouncing up and down, without a hum absorbed in his Breviary during the afternoon session. Occasionally when he strolled past the classrooms an innate hush filled the arid air as staff and students alike paused for a moment in awe and admiration of the man mountain! While at St Patrick’s, Fr Long kept himself fit and healthy playing his favourite game of Tenniquoit in his own court in the College quadrangle. His fierce serves were awesome coming from a six-footer as he normally won his games against senior prefects with aplomb. Sometimes yelling at top of his voice, it was a delight to see him with his red tongue hanging out of his smiling mouth, and looking very well pleased with himself after scoring a winning point! On and off he had medical treatment for an eye infection from his own pupil and eye specialist Dr Sivasubramaniam.

The impact of Fr Long on Students

The Senior Scripture (Apologetics) classes, comprising over eighty students, were conducted in the School Hall as they rapt in awe as Fr Long went about expounding the profound mystery of the Trinity and the Proofs for the existence of God. It was discipline with an Irish flavour as Fr Long demanded undivided attention from everyone. He instilled into us that punctuality was paramount to our well being. Anyone who violated the dictum was severely humiliated. Normally the culprits were either ordered to be seated ‘Yogi’ style with legs crossed on the large table on the stage, or asked to bow before the tall mahogany trees that stood as sentinels on the Quadrangle. The school commenced with a bell hung on a mahogany tree by the boxing ring tolling for five long minutes by the bell keeper. On his return from the United States after his fund raising crusade, Fr Long brought in new ideas. One was the abolition of corporal punishment; but in its place spiritual chastisement was substituted as he believed in the maxim that punishment must fit the crime. The second was the staging of the Passion Play. After the abolition of “Mr Patrick Cane” on Fr Long’s return from America, the late comers to school were brought to the Boxing Ring in the quadrangle during the morning recess, and they were swung one by one up and down three times on a large tarp to the cheers of the fun hungry students. It was intended to be good humour until one day one of the boys rolled over the rug on to the wooden ring. The rest was history. Sometimes such incidents incurred the wrath of the local community that was divided in their affiliation to the Alma Mater as they often did during Inter Collegiate Soccer and Cricket fixtures. Suffice it to say that after a solitary incident involving players and spectators, sporting fixtures against St John’s College Jaffna were suspended for an indefinite period.

Fr Long’s staging of the Passion Play became an annual feature during Lent. The newly acquired land near the Lower school -the ‘Thitty’- with its sand hill nestling with palmyrah trees became the solemn setting for the highly acclaimed Passion Play which featured Mr Krishnarajah as Jesus. My younger brother, Alfred, who is now a Canadian citizen, played a prominent role in later years when the Play was staged in front of the Matthews Block. Although the play was staged in English, thousands of people from all parts of Ceylon witnessed the greatest dramatic spectacle Jaffna had to offer!

The Influence of Staff

The Administration of the main office fell under the shoulders of the faithful D James and my father, Arul, who were at the beck and call of Fr Long. My father was recruited by the former Rector, Fr Charles Matthews, after a Chicken pox infection that not only blinded my father’s right eye but curtailed his higher education at St Patrick’s. Yet my father went about his tasks courageously. Lab Joseph knew more about the practical aspects of science than the Science teachers who were mostly imports from Kerala. Dominic looked after the College bookshop with Edirmanasinghe. They worked closely with the Head Master, Mr A J Selvadorai, who used after shave sparingly, while his Deputy Mr M Jacob demonstrated

3. The stern discipline imparted by the Irish missionaries, The Christian Brothers in Australia, was not different in the fifties and sixties. Most Patricians whom I have interacted with Canada, UK and Australia in our travels are frank about their disciplined life at St Patrick’s but not so happy with their children’s promiscuity in their new countries of adoption - the new Diasporas.

4. Fr Long called him by his shortened name – Arul - a name that has become easy to pronounce, for even the Aussies down under like it that way!
his conventional diligence as the meticulous cadet master. The armoury came under the watchful eyes of Selladurai. St Patrick’s was blessed with a fine array of English teachers such as Messrs K A Subramaniya Iyer, F N C Saverimuttu,5 Armstrong, Kanagaratnam, Santiapillai,6 Keil, and Maths teachers Pancras, E A Selvanayagam, Mattias, Krishnaraj of Jesus Christ fame. They were all charismatic teachers who carried out their tasks conscientiously. Mr B R Motha and Mr N Kandiah were much sought after sports leaders in their own right.7 They were joined by another sports fanatic Mr P E Rajendra. The indispensable Britto Motha was Fr Long’s right hand man in organizing school carnivals, sports meets etc. I recall the time when Mr P Saverimuttu returned in triumph after completing his Master of Arts at Cambridge. Of the staff such as Ms Kuria Kose (Basketball coach), Mr Johnson stood out as an excellent Botany teacher, always impeccably attired in full suit and tie. Among the veteran Tamil teachers were Messrs Francis, Jacob, F C Thuraisingham, Sethukavalar and Antonympillai. Mr Antonympillai’s son Ruban was one of the first to attend our inaugural meeting in Sydney. The canteen, which was efficiently run with mouth watering masalai vaddais costing five cents and patties fifteen cents each, was always crowded during the morning recess. The talented Fr Marcelline Jayakody – artist, poet, musician and photographer looked after the school dark room adjacent to the Canteen where I was instilled the rudiments of developing and printing.8 Fr Charvet was the silent musician who demonstrated his supreme skills at the chapel organ.

**English as a Passport to success**

The effect of English education imparted in our formative years had prepared us well in withstanding the language barrier in Australia. As a young student, the slogan ‘**Read – a Book-a-week**’ on the pillars of the corridors had a lasting impact on us. It was Charles Dickens who wrote that ‘**if you can read books and books, you can read people like books.**’ Mr K S Santiapillai in his dual role as Sacristan and Librarian, who was always helpful to students, recalls that Fr Long, after reading about four books a week, would donate his personal library collection of books to the seven hundred odd books in store for us in the College Library which had two sections. (Mr Santiapillai had enough stamina to work night shifts at Mahendra Theatre where we frequented for late shows with limited concessions given by the kind soul). Not only did Aubrey Collete’s cartoon of Fr Long’s ‘**He Comes from Jaffna**’ but also the library walls were adorned with portraits of famous writers from Shakespeare to Dickens and PG Wodehouse who was a Nazi sympathiser! Fr Long was unimpeachable in the selection of his staff. In the Primary we had Mr & Mrs Lawrence who drove to school in their black Austin. Mrs Lawrence used the cane sparingly sometimes on the knuckles. It should be recalled that Mrs Lawrence always had a cuppa in the afternoon with a plate of murrukus that would make our mouths water during her lessons. Mr Keil was outstanding as an English teacher in the middle school. I remember him imparting his tips on punctuation – the importance of a **comma**. The life of a man hung on a comma, he would reiterate. He cited an example on the large black board with an anecdote of a man sentenced to be hanged and offered a reprieve. A telegram was sent to the place of execution by the Governor.

**HANG HIM, NOT RELEASE HIM.**

If the typist had placed the **comma** in the wrong place, what would have been his plight?

**HANG HIM NOT, RELEASE HIM.**

I recall with a sense of nostalgia, the talented Mr F J Armstrong, who impacted me greatly with his poesy and drama in his renderings of Sir Walter Scott’s **Lochinvar**, short story **Ultima Thule** and R L Stevenson’s **Walking Tours**. Mr Kanagaratnam and Mr. Armstrong were instrumental in producing **She stoops to Conquer** in which I was to act the female leading role but ended up as a play back singer as well and in a drunken scene. Somehow I was not inclined to do a female role in attending dancing classes under the dancing teacher, Miss Fry, at her residence near Nallur. At the end of the season, Mr Kanagaratnam was lavish in his hospitality in entertaining the whole cast to dinner at his residence at

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5. Affectionately known as F.N.C, he was acclaimed as a great Latin Scholar, also noted for his wit and sarcasm.
6. A man with a golden voice, always well dressed, he accentuated every word and was a pleasure to listen to him at Inter-Collegiate Athletic meets.
7. Both were prolific smokers – Mr Motha carried a tin of Bristol cigarettes while Mr Kandiah sported a packet of Capstan.
8. Fr Jayakody inspired us to sing. We learnt how to sing songs such as, Esse marutha, Siri Padé, Whispering Hope, etc. It was also in the school hall that I first learnt to play the grand piano – strains of ‘Bhanumathi’s ‘Manum Mayilum’ from the Tamil Hit **Strange Brothers** and hits from **Chandraleka**. One of the dance songs was used for the Tamil play **She stooped to conquer**.
Moolai Road, renamed Groussault Road. Although I admired the wit and sarcasm of Mr FNC Saverimutthu, it was Mr K A Subramaniya Iyer who instilled me the dynamics of Shakespearean drama. His echoes of ‘the evil that men do lives after them’ are heard long after we have left school. As a hard marker, the highest mark given by Mr Iyer was around three or four out of ten and that was good enough for me to gain a distinction in English Language at St Patrick’s at the SSC. Not only Mr Subramaniya Iyer but also my father’s inspiration motivated me to further my tertiary education after nearly thirty years of leaving St Patrick’s in successfully undertaking part-time - a double Masters in English Literature and English Honours respectively at the prestigious University of New South Wales culminating in the production of a Thesis – *The Paradox of Elizabethan Revenge – From Horestes to Hamlet*. Thanks mainly to the marvellous encouragement afforded by my wife, Edith (a Bridgetian), and my younger brothers, Alfred Eugene (Canada), Aneclete Timothy, Angelo Mariyan, Adrian Walmsley (ACT), Alex Julian (UK), an my dear departed sister, Angeline Patricia who met her untimely death in 1986, after attending my fathers’s funeral due to want of medical facilities in war-stricken Jaffna. Edith’s steadfastness in persevering in the education of her mature pupil – Catherine Arulanandam must be admired!

The health of the students became the concern of Mr C W D Alwines who had his own tennis court at David Road. As a health fanatic, he pioneered the milk campaign by offering a glass of Milk Cocoa during school hours. We would file into his class room, gulp the glass of Cocoa (supplemented at five cents per glass), refreshed for another period of concentration. Once I was approached to do a cover design for a health book for which Mr Alwines presented a generous cheque for Thirty rupees.9 Mr Alwines was devastated when his daughter, Nelia, a medical student succumbed to leukemia. His eldest son, Gaston joined the priesthood and his brother Guy was outstanding in his leading role as Macbeth echoing Shakespeares’s lines in the penultimate Act… *life is a tale, told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing!* Patrician Ernest MacIntyre, who has written and produced many plays in Sydney, played the supporting role as Lady Macbeth corresponding to the Elizabethan convention of boys starring in female roles. Ernest’s talented brother, Gandhi, who has also acted in many TV and theatrical productions in Australia, is a much sought after p/t visiting lecturer in Drama at the University of Western Sydney.

The House system comprising Abraham, Bonjean, Matthew and Dunne drew weekly meetings that afforded the opportunity to demonstrate not only our literary talents but aesthetic as well. A contemporary of mine, Dr M Jeyaratnam, who has a lucrative practice at Coventry of Lady Godiva’s fame in England, recalled with some nostalgia his favourite Tamil songs rendered by me at Dunne House meetings. In 1999, when my wife and I passed through Coventry on a thirteen-day tour of Britain, Ireland and Scotland and Wales, we were deeply touched by Dr Jeyaratnam’s gracious gesture in visiting us into the late hours of the night at such short notice. It was a memorable reunion of two Patricians after a lapse of many years. UK Alumni also feted us as the guests of honour at their annual sports meet in Finchley in August. Edith and I were grateful for the opportunity given to us by the energetic Dilip, the President of the UK Alumni. The sing-along that followed the sports meet was inspirational and memorable. Despite the tyranny of distance that keeps us apart, somehow we are able to get by against all odds.

**St Martyn’s Seminary**

St Martyn’s Seminary with its Catholic Boarding,10 abounding with its fifteen foot walls, was a prominent land mark in Jaffna. The sheer sprawling grounds which accommodated a beautiful grotto of our Lady of Lourdes erected in 1938, was also the venue for many Soccer, Cricket, Athletic, Carnivals and even for musician, Thiyagaraja Bhagavathar, and comedians Krishnan and Mathuram until the opening of the newly completed three storey Matthews Block adjacent to St Patrick’s Road in 1950. The financial wizard, Fr Selvaratnam, discharged his onerous duties as Bursar sometimes cashing cheques for us at his Office in St Martyn’s Hostel not far from the refectory, and the Piggery that often became the butt of students’ shenanigan!
In *A War Diary from Jaffna (Feb.1998)* Patrician Rev Dr Savundra who fled Jaffna after the Exodus for his own safety, recalls that during the civil war, the priests at St Martyn’s had a difficult time in keeping at bay some of the starving security forces who played cat and mouse game in search of fine fodder for dinner! Dr Savundra writes…

We are told that the seminary is out of bounds for all the troops, but I see this man going in as though he is entering into his own house. I ask him the reason of his entering. He says that his own companions are already inside. We go behind him to find three soldiers trying to hide themselves behind the flower garden on the road leading to the Director’s room. There are two gunny bags with mouths tied up. These two bags are full of fowls and ducks stolen from the seminary. After telling them not to come to the seminary any more, we untied the bags and let the birds go. The birds are thankful to us for our timely intervention!

Sri Lankan troops are enticed by the pigs of the Minor Seminary. The troops managed to get a tacit approval from the retired Bishop to have a pig for them. They had to fire six shots to bring halt and to kill the pig!! The taste of the pig does not dwindle in them and they make several stealthy visits to the seminary to steal animals and birds… They have killed peacocks, the pet birds of the Seminary and Arul Ashram are the hunting grounds for the soldiers. (p.59-60, 5 December 1997).

It was ironic that the pigs, that were fed on the remnants of the meals of the boarders, appeared in turn on the hostel menu on special occasions! Fr Savundra records that ‘St Martin’s seminary lost six milking cows as victims of shell fire!’ (p. 31). Fr L A Augustine, in his dual capacity as Principal of the Middle School and Warden of St Martin’s Hostel always had his plate full. Always with a smiling countenance he ran the hostel and the choir competently.

The Australian Diaspora

When I turned up for an interview for a teaching position in Sydney, the Headmaster, Brother Quentin Brady looked at the character reference from Very Rev Fr TMF Long, MA Cantab., remarked that he had met Fr Long on the 3000 mile train journey from Sydney to Perth many years before. Fr Long left a landmark in Australia by establishing a new school - Iona College, Lindum in Queensland. It was said that St Patrick’s loss was Iona’s gain. Fr Pat Moroney, OMI. Rector of Iona, in a tribute to Fr Long summed it up thus -

We claim some small share in your pride and achievement, because after leaving St Patrick’s he came to Australia and founded this school, Iona College. We have no doubt that the wisdom and educational and religious vision that Fr Long brought to his work of founding Iona College, Brisbane, Australia, was honed and deepened by his work and life at St Patrick’s.

When my wife Edith and I passed through Limerick in September 1999, we thought of Fr Tim’s birth place. For a souvenir, I purchased a book of Irish Limericks at Fr Long’s native Limerick that still abounds with nature’s splendor and majesty. In 1961, Ireland commemorated the fifteenth hundred anniversary of the death of St Patrick by declaring it a Patrician year and it was fitting that Fr Long’s body would be laid to rest in that memorable year. The excerpts of the Funeral oration of the remarkable man who spent more than thirty years since 1921 after his ordination in 1920 are worth recalling-

“… a bright star, a brilliant sun in the firmament of Jaffna, giving warmth, light and glory to St Patrick’s, to the town, to the Peninsula and the whole island of Ceylon. But he claimed to be first and foremost a Jaffna man himself. He loved the Jaffna man himself. He loved Jaffna. He lived for Jaffna. He worked for Jaffna.”

Leaving Ceylon was a traumatic and haunting experience for us. Haunting because ever since an army gun was pointed at me during a 72 hour curfew in 1958 in Jaffna, my thoughts were of seeking a shelter in a far off place. Finally a breakthrough occurred after the successful Seventh Asian Games in Tehran, of which I was to lead a National contingent of 39 members as General Team Manager cum National Athletic Coach. It was a triumphant red carpet welcome with four state Ministers waiting to felicitate our record breaking golden relay team and the 400 m Gold medallist and record breaker – W. Wimaladasa. In digressing from the Games euphoria, let me dwell on the background of our Alumni in Australia. When
my father, Mr A S Arulanandam, JP passed away on the 31st December 1985, Edith, my brother Angelo, my sister Patricia (named after St Patrick’s), her husband Joseph and I made the arduous trip to the war-stricken Jaffna on the New Year’s Day. A chance meeting with the Bishop Deogupillai, and Fr G A Francis Joseph, the Rector, at our home ‘St Jude’ Cathedral Road, confirmed my thoughts on inaugurating an Alumni in Australia. It was the ‘old school tie’ that prompted some of us such as Dr John St George – a leading Gynaecologist, vibrant Dr Vincent Sundrasingham who was then active President of the Sydney Tamil Association, instituting an ‘Old boys’ Association’ in Sydney. An ex-science teacher, Mr Satchithananthan, also had mooted the idea with us. We had the inaugural meeting that took the form of a pilgrimage on St Patrick’s day 1987 to Our lady’s Shrine at Mt Schoenstatt, nestling in the majesty of Mulgoa. In drafting our Constitution we came upon the concept of Patricians of Jaffna, rather than the Old Boys Association as it was felt that the adjective ‘old’ was obsolete. Hopefully, in the new millennium, it is anticipated that the children of Patricians will shoulder the responsibility of commemorating the Annual Reunion in the new Diasporas as full-fledged Patricians!

Let me turn to a sore point. Not only in Australia but also in other countries, enrolling members is a worrying concern in raising funds for our Alma Mater. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed that Mr Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else is not a superhuman as everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Who will pitch in to do things that Someone Else has done? It is ironic that the Tamils are likened to ‘the Scotsmen of Ceylon’ as W.T Keble noted in Ceylon Beaten Track, …the joke about the stinginess of the North in both England and Ceylon perhaps springs from the same cause as the Tamils do the same service for the Island of Ceylon that Scotsmen does for England in supplying many of the leaders in the Civil Service and in business…” 11 Fr Long’s Building Project needs every Patrician’s support.

Our visiting religious dignitaries

The tyranny of distance was no barrier to the visiting dignitaries from Sri Lanka. Of the many Patricians we felicitated were our past Rectors – Fr T A J Maruthanayagam, Fr Francis Joseph, Fr John Francis, Vice Rector Fr Jesunesan (OMI), currently serving as Regional Consultant for Oceania in Rome, and other Jubilarians, Rev. Dr Anton Mathias, Rev Dr Savundra, Rev Dr. S J Emmanuel from Germany, Fr Francis Navaratnam from Philippines, Fr Guy De Fontgalland from Bandarawela, veteran dramatist Fr Saverimutthu, Fr Paul - Superior OMI and Rev. Dr Chandrakanthan from Canada. Our active Chaplain – Fr Sahayathasan has adapted to the changing landscape in Sydney.

We are grateful to our benefactor, Fr Phil Linder PP, of All Saints Church Liverpool, for the facilities extended to the Association for our Christmas fund raising activities. I was honored and privileged to have one of my ex-students in Australia – Fr Brendan Quirk – officiating as the Principal Celebrant at many of our St Patrick’s Day Eucharistic Services. Fr Ed Doran, Fr Joe Fernando, Fr Brendan Quirk (Snr. now in Queensland), have also celebrated Masses for us and so are Fr Donovan and Fr Lucien Dep, Our gratitude also goes to the Sisters of Mount Schoenstatt and the Christian Brothers Congregation at Winbourne, Mulgoa for the use of the excellent facilities for our Annual reunions. It is fitting that our Guest of Honour for the Sesquicentenary Celebration is Bishop David Cremin, Vicar for Immigration and a true Irishman.

Patrician Diasporas round the Globe

Of the Patrician Alumni, apart from the OBA Colombo presided by Mr B J Vincent, United Kingdom has the largest number of Patricians headed by the determined President, Dilip Tisseverasinghe, and the Executive Committee with Vice Presidents - A Dominic, Dr Anton Sandrasagara, Christy Joseph, and the indefatigable Secretary Prabha Swampillai supported by the financial wizard, Mr A B Andrew, as the Treasurer. Our best wishes are extended to the Alumni in Canada spearheaded by the inspiring team of the first President Raymond Santiago, Felix R B Yogarettnam (President), S F Xavier, A P Mathithayan, R.L Xavier, Ravi Amirthavasakam, and Albert Santhiapillai et al, and France ably led by Mr K J Packiarajah, Vice President A F Gerard, Secretary A V Damian, & Treasurer A T A Selvarajah, and Norway coordinated by Mr Joachimpillai Lawrence, Melbourne by Dr Bruno Jesuthasan. They must be

complimented for sustaining the Patrician spirit among the few who respond to the call. Our Central Management Committee's support is much appreciated.

In conclusion, it is my fervent prayer that Patricians in Australia will heed the call for funds for the building programs initiated by Rt. Rev Dr Thomas Savundranayagam, Bishop of Jaffna and the current Rector Fr A I Bernard.

Anton Arulanandam 20 October 2000
(Reproduced from the 2000 Sesquicentenary Edition of the Patricians of Jaffna Australia)