

St Patrick's College Jaffna Old Boys Association



Melbourne, Australia

Established 1992

P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Website: www.spcaustralia.com

Email: secretary@spcaustralia.com

Newsletter 31

Facebook: www.facebook.com/spcobamel

September 2017



Our Objectives

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.



Never think hard about the Past, it brings Tears ... Don't think more about the Future, it brings Fear ... Live this moment with a SMILE, it brings Cheer.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Patricians

As we celebrate the 25th year of the formation of our OBA, I believe that felicitations and congratulations to ourselves on our growth and achievements over the years are in order.

We commenced our Jubilee Year with a grand Family Day in January 2017 and followed it with one of the well-attended St Patrick's Feast Day celebrations in recent years. Fr Jeyaraj Rasiah, SJ (Former Jesuits Provincial Superior of Sri Lanka) and local priests concelebrated the Holy Mass at St. Luke the Evangelist Church, Blackburn South on Saturday, 18 March. Bonjean House, this year's winning team of the Australia Day cricket match and all other individual winners received their trophies. Music, the delicious dinner and camaraderie kept the joyful night going till late.

As you know, we wish to end the year with some exciting 3-day events planned for November, 17 to 19. Current indications are that Patricians from interstate and overseas will also be attending the events, thus it is appropriate that we end our silver jubilee in style with a mini-reunion of Patricians. On Friday, November 17, it will be a 'Riverside' affair with a planned river cruise followed by dinner, and then have some free time to do whatever we please by joining other Patricians who have similar interests such as experiencing culture or just enjoy a flutter. Saturday will see the staging of the Patrician Nite with many surprises planned for the night. On Sunday, we will show off our stamina by participating in many athletic events. Details of these events are on page 2 of this newsletter. We trust that many, many Patricians will take part with their families. Most events have been planned with your families in mind and we hope the 3 days will be full of fun-filled experience for everyone.

Ticket sales for Patrician Nite have exceeded our original expectation with only 20 tickets are available for sale to Patricians only. Those who still wish to purchase tickets, please contact Anandan on 0431 571 066.

The Silver Jubilee Commemorative Diary will be released on Patrician Nite (November 18). Members who financed the publication of this motivational diary are to be commended and we say a big 'Thank you' to all of them.

This would be the last 'paper' copy of our newsletter sent by 'snail' mail. Future issues will be sent electronically and will be published on our website, as well as all the past 30 issues to date. Thus, it is important that the email addresses and mobile numbers of all members in our database are up to date. Please send us a one-line email if your address/phone/email details have changed recently.

Our website has been revamped to give it a more modern look and our Secretary Tennakone has also designed a system whereby SMS messages are sent to members with alerts of upcoming events of the OBA.

I wish all members a Happy Jubilee Year with the fervent hope we will continue to be an active and supportive association for many years into the future.

William Nimalraj

Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2017-18

William Nimalraj - President Jeyandra Antonipillai - Vice President

Berchmans Tennakone - Secretary.

Rukshan Theophilus - Assist. Secretary

Noel Rajiv - Treasurer Patrick Rajaratnam - Assist. Treasurer

Anandarajan James - Social and Events Secretary

Committee Members:

Dr Sanjeev Alfred, Angelo Fernando, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Antony Gratian, Chrys Gunanayagam, James Joseph, Vincent Pius, Philip Ravindraraj and Dr Florentine Singarayar.

Advisory and Support Panel:

Alfred Reynald, Anton Newton, Dr. Anton Mariampillai, Basil Patrick, Edward Arulnesathasan, Guanaratnam Arulanantham, Francis Manoraj Isidore, James Premanandarajah, Jenith Jesuthasan, Jerad Jogaaratnam, Joseph Vijayarathnam, Reg Cherubim, Parthiban Vivekanandan and William Rajendram

Jubilee Organising Committee: Jeevaranjan Fernando (Chairman), Anandarajan James, Angelo Fernando, James Joseph, Philip Ravindraraj, Jeyendra Antonipillai and William Nimalraj.

Next Function — Silver Jubilee celebrations — November 17-19, 2017

17th—Southbank/City; 18th—Clayton; 19th—Epping

St Patrick's College Jaffna Melbourne OBA's 25th Year Celebrations

Day 1

Night by the Yarra - November 17, 2017

LEG ONE

LEG TWO

LEG THREE

RIVER CRUISE

FINE DINING AT CROWN

POST-DINNER OPTIONS

OPTION 1:

PORTS, DOCKLANDS AND RIVER GARDENS
(Melbourne CBD, Victoria Docks, Arts Precinct & Gardens)

Depart Southbank at 1.30 pm, return at 4.00 pm

Cost: Adult \$35 Child \$18 Family \$85

OR

OPTION 2:

CITY TO WILLIAMSTOWN - ROUND TRIP

(Historic Town of Williamstown-Stunning Views of the Bay)

Depart City at 1.30pm, land in Williamstown at 2.30pm

RETURN TRIP: Depart Williamstown at 2.30pm or 3.30pm

Cost: Adult \$32 Child \$18 Family \$85

We will book the most popular option

All departures are from Southbank – Berth 5

Meet at Crown Entrance for pre-dinner drinks at
4.30pm (Opposite Melbourne Exhibition Centre)

A reservation has been made for 40 adults
(over 18s only) for a buffet dinner

Diners will need to be present at 5.15pm
or we lose the booking.

Cost: \$30, including unlimited soft drinks.
(Seafood platters extra between \$10 - \$40)

We need to confirm the booking within 2 weeks.

All those interested in joining,
please reply by Sunday September 24, 2017.

Suggestions include, but are not limited to:

For those who like a bit of culture:
The live theatre at Crown or the theatre precinct just minutes away at Collins or Spring St is "on your menu"

For those who like a bit of flutter:
Well you can't escape it, as you will be in the middle of it (keep some money to get home!)

For those with a penchant to catch up with old mates:
There are plenty of watering holes in the city

For those who'd like to see Melbourne from above:
Melbourne Star Observation Wheel at Docklands

For those who only want to "work off" the dinner:
Promenade along the iconic Federation Square, Flinders St Station, CBD & Melbourne shops

The choice is yours!

Day 2



Day 3



St Patrick's Day Celebrations

Saturday, 18 March 2017



FedUni academic among top national uni teachers

Source: Federation University of Australia

Posted: Thursday 21 September 2017



Federation University Australia's Associate Professor Singarayer Florentine has been recognised as one of the nation's top teachers by being awarded the prestigious Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning by the Australian Award for University Teaching.

Associate Professor Florentine from the University's School of Applied and Biomedical Science received the Federal Government award for his outstanding teaching record. He was recognised for the development of highly innovative curricula, resources, services and practical experiences in the field of **restoration ecology** that are linked to high-quality work readiness student outcomes.

Associate Professor Florentine's research has identified that restoration and rehabilitation are the most significant practical opportunities for meeting global conservation goals for current and future environmental students, employees and managers. He has developed flexible internal and external curriculum learning opportunities, innovative experiences, and criterion-designed authentic assessments that connect to real-world issues.

These innovative approaches also have been recognised by FedUni. He was recipient of the 2016 Vice-Chancellor Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning. Associate Professor Florentine said one of the strengths of his teaching was the emphasis he place on applied aspects of the course.

"I believe it is very important to draw on a variety of speakers from industry and other organisations, and to organise short field visits to relevant sites within the local region where possible," Associate Professor Florentine said. "Restoration and rehabilitation courses are especially amenable to this approach. The range and quality of the guest lecturers have been quite exceptional, and have included speakers who have internationally recognised credentials."

Professor Mark Sandeman, Executive Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology, said the award was "well deserved recognition for all of Florry's efforts in teaching and supervision over many years".

Associate Professor Nina Fotinatos, Director of the University's Centre for Learning Innovation and Professional Practice (CLIPP), said: "These national citation awards are extremely competitive and are underpinned by a rigorous Australian Higher Education sector peer- review assessment process.

"Singarayer Florentine's extensive experience, knowledge, leadership and innovation in the field have been well recognised by the attainment of this national and prestigious award," Associate Professor Fotinatos said. "The award funding will enable Singarayer Florentine to further disseminate best practice in the field and expand his innovations to the broader higher education community."

Associate Professor Florentine's innovative curriculum approach has also been recognised internationally by The University of Brunei, Darussalam. He was invited to deliver two one-week workshops on tropical rainforest restoration. He also ran two three-day workshops on tropical rainforest restoration at the Centre for Rainforest Studies. The curriculum also has been recognised and endorsed by the Castlemaine Goldfield Mines, Ballarat, as being highly relevant to the mine rehabilitation industry.

Associate Professor Singarayer Florentine is an alumnus of St. Patricks College, Jaffna. He is also a current Committee Member of the OBA, Melbourne. Congratulations Dr. Florentine!

Restoration Ecology is the study of renewing a degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystem through active human intervention. Restoration ecology specifically refers to the scientific study that has evolved as recently as the 1980s. The practice of ecological restoration includes wide scope of projects including: erosion control, reforestation, removal of non-native species and weeds, revegetation of disturbed areas, daylighting streams, reintroduction of native species, as well as habitat and range improvement for targeted species.



Inspirational Determination Story - John Roebling

Author unknown

In 1883, a creative engineer named John Roebling was inspired by an idea to build a spectacular bridge connecting New York with the Long Island. However bridge building experts throughout the world thought that this was an impossible feat and told Roebling to forget the idea. It just could not be done. It was not practical. It had never been done before.

Roebling could not ignore the vision he had in his mind of this bridge. He thought about it all the time and he knew deep in his heart that it could be done. He just had to share the dream with someone else. After much discussion and persuasion he managed to convince his son Washington, an up and coming engineer, that the bridge in fact could be built.

Working together for the first time, the father and son developed concepts of how it could be accomplished and how the obstacles could be overcome. With great excitement and inspiration, and the headiness of a wild challenge before them, they hired their crew and began to build their dream bridge.

The project started well, but when it was only a few months underway a tragic accident on the site took the life of John Roebling. Washington was injured and left with a certain amount of brain damage, which resulted in him not being able to walk or talk or even move.

"We told them so."

"Crazy men and their crazy dreams."

"It's foolish to chase wild visions."

Everyone had a negative comment to make and felt that the project should be scrapped since the Roeblings were the only ones who knew how the bridge could be built. In spite of his handicap Washington was never discouraged and still had a burning desire to complete the bridge and his mind was still as sharp as ever. He tried to inspire and pass on his enthusiasm to some of his friends, but they were too daunted by the task. As he lay on his bed in his hospital room, with the sunlight streaming through the windows, a gentle breeze blew the flimsy white curtains apart and he was able to see the sky and the tops of the trees outside for just a moment.

It seemed that there was a message for him not to give up. Suddenly an idea hit him. All he could do was move one finger and he decided to make the best use of it. By moving this, he slowly developed a code of communication with his wife. He touched his wife's arm with that finger, indicating to her that he wanted her to call the engineers again. Then he used the same method of tapping her arm to tell the engineers what to do. It seemed foolish but the project was under way again.



For 13 years Washington tapped out his instructions with his finger on his wife's arm, until the bridge was finally completed. Today the spectacular Brooklyn Bridge stands in all its glory as a tribute to the triumph of one man's indomitable spirit and his determination not to be defeated by circumstances. It is also a tribute to the engineers and their team work, and to their faith in a man who was considered mad by half the world. It stands too as a tangible monument to the love and devotion of his wife who for 13 long years patiently decoded the messages of her husband and told the engineers what to do.

Perhaps this is one of the best examples of a never-say-die attitude that overcomes a terrible physical handicap and achieves an impossible goal.

Often when we face obstacles in our day-to-day life, our hurdles seem very small in comparison to what many others have to face. The Brooklyn Bridge shows us that dreams that seem impossible can be realised with determination and persistence, no matter what the odds are.

Even the most distant dream can be realized with determination and persistence.

Source: <http://www.inspire21.com/stories/educationstories/DeterminationJohnRoeblin>

Notice Board

2017 - Silver Jubilee Year of OBA Melbourne
A year we all can be proud of.



Friendly Reminder

We call on the nearly 100 plus Patricians in Victoria who haven't paid or renewed their membership to kindly do so .

Annual subscription: ONLY



Contact Treasurer Noel Rajiv on: **0421839197**

TOGETHER
WE CAN ACHIEVE
MORE

Dear Patricians

Go Green and Save Green.

This newsletter would be the last printed version that will be posted out to you in the mail. This will help contribute to a greener environment, as well as reduce the significant amount of cost and effort involved in printing, collating and mailing.

Alternatively, PDF version of newsletters will be circulated via email and the same can be found on our website too. All the past newsletters 1-30 have also been uploaded on our website.

To access any of the Newsletters, please visit our website www.spcaustralia.com and in the right hand column you will see the "NEWSLETTERS" menu. Click on "More Newsletters" menu, and you will see a table starting with the newsletters for the current year on the top line (e.g. N 30).

We take this opportunity to thank all the committee members involved in the creating, editing, printing, stamping and posting the newsletters over the past 10 years. We also extend our sincere appreciation to Parthipan for his support with printing and posting during the last one year or so.

Thanks

Berchmans Tennakone

Secretary

Want to share your memories of the Melbourne OBA and its activities in the past 25 years?

All members except the past presidents are invited to write their thoughts on the OBA in a couple of sentences. Your views, memories and remarks will be published in the **Silver Jubilee Souvenir** that is being prepared.

Please send in your commentaries via emails to secretary@spcaustralia.com before 15 October.

The Silver Jubilee Committee reserves the right to edit or make the necessary modifications in order to ensure brevity and clarity. The decision as to which commentaries to publish will be entirely up to the Committee, and will be influenced by the size and space available.

So, go on. Be the first one to make a comment or congratulate, or even quote a speech that still rings in your years! **Recall your memories of our 25 year story and share your pleasant experiences!!**