

Tribute to Dilip Pius Manuelpillai



24.1.1955 – 27.3.2019

The Jaffna Patrician Community in Melbourne is shocked and saddened by the sudden demise of Dilip Manuelpillai, a longstanding and valued member of our OBA. Many of us are still struggling to come to terms with the loss of this jovial, witty and sociable fellow. With a cool sense of humour, Dilip had a way of connecting with young and old alike with characteristic candour.

Born in Jaffna, Dilip had his early education at St Joseph's College, Colombo. He joined St Patrick's Jaffna in 1966 and studied from grade 6 to grade 11. He was a member of the Jaffna Tennis Club and played competition tennis alongside Patricians Frank Sebaratnam and Eugene Joseph – the two well-known tennis champions from Jaffna in the late 1960's.

After doing the London A/L exams, Dilip went to the UK in 1974 and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Surrey, and PHD in Combustion Technology. He migrated to Australia in 1983 and worked first in Perth, and later at the Defence Department in Adelaide where he was involved in developing rocket fuel technology. He married Catherine in December 1987.

The following year he was transferred to Melbourne and continued to serve in the Defence Department. After working for a few other engineering entities, in 1999 he joined the Energy division of CSIRO Melbourne – a renowned research institute pioneering low-emission technologies. As a Business Development Manager, Dilip was involved in developing fuel efficient technology and marketing their services for the past 20 years. He also assisted the Monash University students in their collaborative research programs and joint ventures on achieving sustainable energy efficiency.

While Dilip shined in his professional life, Tennis remained his recreational sport. Whenever our association's annual Family Fun Day event is held, Dilip will be there with his racquet both playing and training with young kids and grown-ups. But according to his brother Valentine – Dilip had three passions in life: 1. His family, both by birth and marriage; 2. His friends; and 3. recently, watching CNN and criticising President Trump!

William Rajendram, his classmate and close friend observed: "Dilip was a down to earth person who believed in one's worth; complimented and encouraged every effort; and had no ego. He was keen to maintain traditions, language and cultural connections with our motherland and always willing to give a hand when needed."

Dilip gave solid support to the Melbourne OBA since joining the association at its first AGM in 1993. He also served as a Committee Member during 2008 – 2009 and again in 2010 - 2011. A regular attendant of all our events and activities, Dilip paid a special contribution on 'Family Fun Days' in coaching the youth who showed interest in the sport of tennis. This year was no exception. On Sunday, 27 January, Dilip was there with his wife as usual enjoying the BBQ and cricket matches, chatting and photographing the events. None of us had the slightest inkling of what was to happen in two months' time. Unknown to him and his dear ones, the deadly cancer had affected him profoundly. No treatment could save him and he was taken away from this earth so prematurely.

Dilip was one of a kind. His friendliness, sportsmanship, strong religious belief, and intellectually enriching conversations will be sorely missed by all who knew him. The Committee of the SPC Jaffna OBA Melbourne, along with the alumni society, express our love and support to Dilip's bereaved family at this most difficult time. We join them in our prayers for the repose of his soul. Rest in Peace.

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA, Melbourne – 31 March 2019



Farewell Dilip

Rest in Peace



January 26, 2016



January 26, 2017



January 26, 2017



January 26, 2017



January 27, 2019



January 27, 2019 – Dilip singing College Anthem with fellow Patricians at the flag raising ceremony and taking photos of the events (below).





Patrician Nite 2016

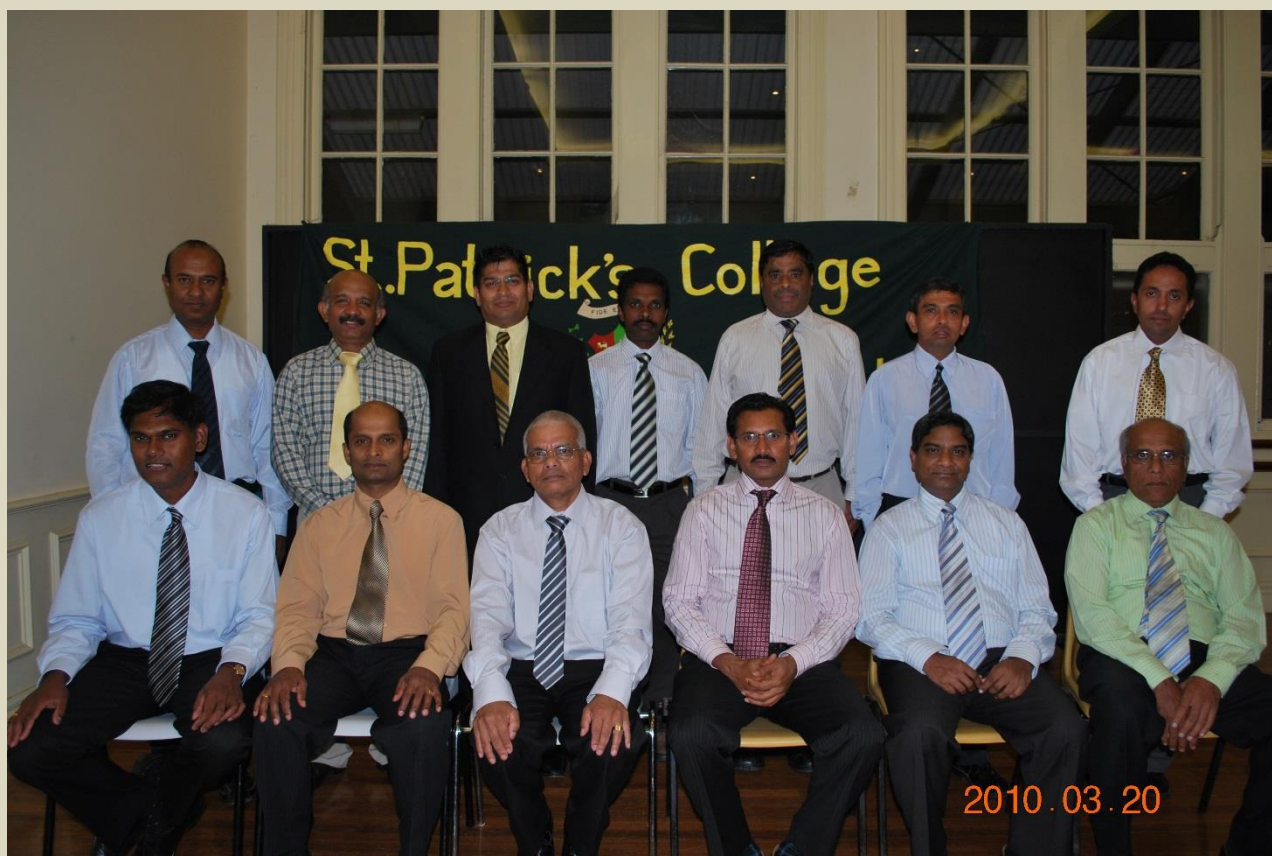


Patrician Nite 2016





26 January, 2010



St. Patrick's Day Celebrations and AGM – 20 March 2010