### St Patrick's College Jaffna Old Boys Association

#### Melbourne, Australia



P.O.Box 551, Rosanna, Vic 3084



Website: www.spcaustralia.com

Email: secretary@spcaustralia.com

Newsletter 38 Facebook: www.facebook.com/spcobamel

January 2020



#### **Our Objectives**

Socialise and share the Patrician spirit with benevolence.

Support our Alma Mater in meaningful ways.

Fide et Labore
Faith and Labour

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success" – Henry Ford

#### Message from the President

Dear fellow Patricians

It is with great pleasure that I write this message for the January 2020 newsletter of the OBA. As we say "adieu" to our old year and welcome the new year, on behalf of the Committee of the Melbourne OBA of our dear College, let me wish all patricians and their families a very prosperous and happy 2020. We cherish the memories of the old year, store them away and promise to do even better in the new year in true patrician spirit.

Our Patrician Nite 2019 was a very successful event with over 190 participants. We were very fortunate to have a Patrician – Rev Fr Joseph Figurado from the Mayfield Parish of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle (NSW) – as our guest -of-honour at the function. Our next event is the Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun day for all Patrician families. This year, we are expecting some overseas patrician visitors as well. Many activities have been planned for the day and we hope to see many, many patricians with their families and friends at the event.

We congratulate Sahayaraja Master on his elevation to the prestigious post of Deputy Principal of the College and the appointment has been welcomed by many of the old boys from all around the world who know him. He is well-known as a capable administrator and will be a great support to the Rector in the management of the College. We wish him and our College all the very best as it continues to educate our future generations of Tamil youths.

The old girls of our "sister" school, Holy Family Convent Jaffna, have formed a Melbourne OGA and are holding their inaugural dinner on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Many of the spouses of Patricians in Melbourne are old pupils of the convent and have requested our support for their function. Please contact any of the Committee members for tickets. More details of this function have been published on our website.

As you know, currently devastating bushfires have affected most parts of Victoria, NSW and South Australia and have

brought much hardship to many people in our community. Many requests have been made to the OBA that we should contribute in some way towards bushfire relief. We feel that organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society, the Australian Red Cross, Salvation Army have all set up funds for this purpose and are in the best position to support those families and people who are badly affected by the fires and will struggle to rebuild their lives. If you are able to contribute to these funds, please do so directly. I list below the main official funds for this purpose.

National

<u>Australian Red Cross</u>

Salvation Army Disaster Appeal

Vinnies Bushfire Appeal

Victoria

Bendigo Bank Bushfires Disaster Appeal (endorsed by Vic Govt)

Country Fire Authority Victoria (CFA)

God Bless you all Patricians, your families and friends. Jeyandra Antonípíllaí

#### Office Bearers and Committee Members 2019-20

President - Jeyandra Antonipillai Vice President - Noel Rajiv Secretary - Berchmans Tennakone Assist. Secretary - Rukshan Theophilus Treasurer - Richman Mangalanayagam Assist. Treasurer - Jenith Jesuthasan

#### **Committee Members:**

William Nimalraj, Anandarajan James, Angelo Fernando, Chrysostom Gunanayagam, Jeevaranjan Fernando, Philip Ravindraraj, Dr Sanjeev Alfred and Dr Hutchinson Thurairajah.

#### **Support Group:**

Antony Gratian, Dr Florentine Singarayar, James Joseph and Patrick Rajaratnam.

Next Function — Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun Day — Sunday, 26 January 2020

@ Wattle Park, 1012 Riversdale Road, Burwood

#### அன்பே இறைவன்.

"அவரிடம் நம்பிக்கை கொண்டு அவரை ஏற்றுக் கொண்ட ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் அவர் கடவுளின் பிள்ளைகளாகும் உரிமையை அளித்தார்." (யோவான் 1:12)

எனது அன்புக்கும் பாசத்திற்கும் உரிய பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரிச் சொந்தங்களே,

ஆரம்பித்திருக்கும் இந்த அற்புதமான புதிய 2020ம் ஆண்டிலே, மீண்டும் ஒருமுறை இந்த ஆசீா் செய்தி மூலமாக உங்கள் அனைவரையும் சந்திப்பதில் பெரு மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகின்றேன். எல்லோரும் எந்தவொரு நோய் நொடியும் இல்லாது எப்போதும் இறை அருளோடு உறுதியான விசுவாசத்தோடு உங்கள் குழந்தைகள் உறவுகளோடு மகிழ்ந்திருக்க வாழ்த்தி நிற்கின்றேன்!

பிறந்திருக்கும் இப் புதிய வருடம் இறைவனின் திருவருளால்,

உங்கள் மனங்களில் மகிழ்வையும்

இல்லங்களில் உறவையும்

நட்பில் இநுக்கத்தையும்

விசுவாசத்தில் வீரியத்தையும்

குடும்பங்களில் பாசத்தையும்

உநவுகளுக்குள் உண்மையையும், கண்ணியத்தையும் பெருகச் செய்வதாக!

#### எமது பாதுகாவலராம் புனித பத்திரிசியாரின் நாமம் வாழ்த்தப் பொறுவதாக!

பசுமை நிறைந்த நினைவுகள்..... கனவு சுமந்த காலங்கள்..... யுத்த வடுக்களின் காயாத ஈரங்கள்..... அதனால் இன்னும் இருக்கும் நமது பழைய பாரங்கள்..... அவற்றை நாம் எல்லோரும் சேர்ந்து மீண்டுமொருமுறை மீட்டிப்பார்க்கும் நேரங்கள்..... இறைவன் கொடுத்திருக்கும் 2020ம் ஆண்டின் காலங்கள்.

'வாழ்க்கை வாழத்தான், அதுவும் அனுபவித்து ஆசையோடு வாழத்தான். அந்த அனுபவ வாழ்வுக்குத் தேவை எது? சிந்தனை செய்வோம்.

உண்மை, நேர்மை, வெளிப்படைத்தன்மை! 'உன்னைப்போல் உன் அயலானையும் நேசி' எனும் இறைவனின் அழைப்பு.

ஒற்றுமை தரும் பலம், அது கொடுக்கும் உறுதி, இதுவே நாம் இனிவரும் காலங்களில் சிந்திக்க வேண்டிய முக்கியமானதொரு விடையமாகும். "அகில ஆஸ்திரேலிய புனித பத்திரிசியார் கல்லூரி ஒன்றியம்" என்பதனை பல நாட்கள், மாதங்கள், வருடங்களாக அசைபோட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றேன். இது சாத்தியமா?? ஆஸ்திரேலியாவின் பல்வேறு மாகாணங்களில் விரவிக் கிடக்கின்ற எம்மவரை ஒரே குடும்பமாக ஆரம்பத்தில் 3 வருடங்களுக்கு ஒரு முறையாவது ஒன்று கூட்டி, 2020—2040 வரையான காலத்தை இலக்காக வைத்துக் கொண்டு, ஒவ்வொரு 5 வருடத்துக்கும் ஒரு திட்டம் வகுத்து, எமது கல்லூரித் தாயை 2050க்குள் இலங்கையின் தலைசிறந்த கல்லூரியாக மாற்றும் வழிகளை கண்டுணர்ந்து, கட்டம் கட்டமாக நிறைவேற்றுவதே எனது கருத்தும் கனவும் என் நெஞ்சத்தே கனன்று கொண்டு தழல் விட்டு எரியும் நெருப்புமாகும்.

''அடிமேல் அடி அடித்தால் அம்மியும் நகரும்'' எனும் முதுமொழிக்கேற்ப எம்மால் ஒரே குடும்பமாக முயன்றால் முடியாததொன்றும் இல்லை. ஒரு சிறு பொறி எனது அறிவு குறைந்த மூளையில் உதித்து அதனை உங்கள் முன்னால் போட்டிருக்கின்றேன். எமது கல்லூரி ஈன்றெடுத்த எத்தனையோ கணக்கற்ற கல்விமான்கள் இருக்கும் இந்த நாட்டில் ''மனம் உண்டானால் வழி உண்டு'' எனும் முது மொழியோடு முடிக்கின்றேன்.

மீண்டும் மறு சிந்தனைச் சிதறலில் வந்து கலக்கும் வரை,

#### ஆசீர்களோடு,

அருட்.தந்தை. ஜோசப் செல்வன் பிகிறாடோ





#### Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun Day events at Wattle Park

#### Message from the Treasurer

Dear fellow Patricians

It is my great pleasure and honour to write this brief message for the January 2020 newsletter of the Melbourne OBA. I would like to wish all Patrician families a very happy, joyful, successful and rewarding 2020. May the Good Lord and St. Patrick bless you and your families throughout this year and in the coming years. We said "goodbye" to 2019 with the Patrician Nite and a big Thank you to all the members who purchased the tickets, attended the function with families and friends and made the evening another successful event in our calendar.

#### Our next functions are:

- the Australia Day Cricket and Family Fun Day (BBQ & Lunch) scheduled for Sunday, 26 January 2020 to be held again at Wattle Park, and
- the AGM & St Patrick's Day Celebrations to be held on Saturday, 21 March 2020.

Your attendance at both these functions will be greatly appreciated. The Family day is for all members of the Patrician family with cricket matches (between 4 teams in the first round and the final between the winning teams), soccer for those who are energetic, 'Kilithattu" (a must for all the Ladies) and Rounders (for those who are still able to .... "at the end of the day"). Contributions for the Australia Day BBQ will be collected on the day (\$15 for adults, \$10 for children). You can pay your membership fee for the current Patrician-year (2019/20) on this day if it is still outstanding.

We are hoping that more and more young and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Patrician family members will attend our functions and participate actively in the events. The gatherings present a great opportunity to make new friends with those in your own age group, experience our culture and benefit from the patrician spirit.

Our committee is hoping to see all the members and their families in great numbers at the 'Australia Day cricket and Family Fun Day' and other upcoming events.



#### Australia fires: Have gum trees made the bushfires worse?

By Reality Check team BBC News – 19 January 2020 [Extracts]

Several readers have asked whether Australia's famous eucalyptus trees have helped spread the bushfires which have raged for months.

Also known as the gum tree, these forests are some of the most flammable in the world.

#### How do eucalyptus trees spread fires?

Eucalyptus trees cover more than three-quarters of Australia's forested area and almost all of the hundreds of species are native to the island nation.

Strips of bark that hang off the trunk and the branches can ignite and carry a fire up the tree and can spread through the forest on the wind.

"When the bark ignites it can be blown great distances, starting new fires," says Dr Jane Cawson, an expert in vegetation flammability at the University of Melbourne. This process, called spotting, can ignite fires 30km (18 miles) ahead of the main fire and is very difficult to suppress.

"The trees themselves exacerbate the fires mostly through spotting," says Dr Cawson. Some gum tree leaves contain oil that can also ignite easily and burn quickly.





There is also
the
vegetation
on the floor
of a
eucalyptus
forest, which
tends to
readily catch
fire.



Over time they have adapted to their environment where drought and fires are common, and the trees themselves are usually very resilient.

Some species have developed the ability to survive, and recover, from bushfires and soon resprout through buds that lie dormant.

Burning also releases seeds from their capsules stored in the canopy which can also aid the regeneration process. However, new research shows that if the same patch of forest is burned by high-intensity fire more than once over a short period of time, which has happened in Australia, even the most resilient species of eucalyptus may struggle to recover.

#### Is there an alternative to eucalyptus?

These natural forests, often in protected areas, provide a habitat for huge numbers of plant and animal species.

"There is no public discussion [in Australia] about replacing them with alternative species," says Dr Cawson.

Aboriginal communities have used the tree for a multitude of practical purposes from crafting tools to using the oil as medicine.

However, there are debates about how to look after the forests to prevent fires spreading.

One of these <u>options is prescribed burning</u>, and there has been a political row about whether more of this "controlled burning" as a means to stop fires spreading should have been done.

Bushfire Memorial Service (25.2.2009): 'I Am Australian' performed at the National Day of Mourning Memorial Service featuring Bruce Woodley (author of the song), daughter Claire Woodley, and survivors of Kinglake residents David and Merelyn Carter. The Black Saturday bushfires claimed 173 lives.

https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=iNmVODxiPzE&feature=voutu.be



# Why there's no such thing as a Gifted Child

Even Einstein was unexceptional in his youth. A book questions our fixation with IQ and says adults can help almost any child become gifted.

The Guardian | Wendy Berliner





When <u>Maryam Mirzakhani</u> died at the tragically early age of 40 in 2017, the news stories talked of her as a genius. The only woman to win the Fields Medal – the mathematical equivalent of a Nobel prize – and a Stanford professor since the age of 31, this Iranian-born academic had been on a roll since she started winning gold medals at maths Olympiads in her teens.

It would be easy to assume that someone as special as Mirzakhani must have been one of those gifted children who excel from babyhood. But look closer and a different story emerges. Mirzakhani was born in Tehran, one of three siblings in a middle-class family whose father was an engineer. The only part of her childhood that was out of the ordinary was the Iran-Iraq war, which made life hard for the family in her early years. Thankfully it ended around the time she went to secondary school.

Mirzakhani, did go to a highly selective girls' school but maths wasn't her interest – reading was. She loved novels and would read anything she could lay her hands on; together with her best friend she would prowl the book stores on the way home from school for works to buy and consume.

As for maths, she did rather poorly at it for the first couple of years in her middle school, but became interested when her elder brother told her about what he'd learned. He shared a famous maths problem from a magazine that fascinated her – and she was hooked. The rest is mathematical history.

Is her background unusual? Apparently not. Most Nobel laureates were unexceptional in childhood. <u>Einstein</u> was slow to talk and was dubbed the dopey one by the family maid. He failed the general part of the entry test to Zurich Polytechnic – though they let him in because of high physics and maths scores. He struggled at work initially, failing to get academic post and being passed over for promotion at the Swiss Patent Office because he wasn't good enough at machine technology. But he kept plugging away and eventually rewrote the laws of Newtonian mechanics with his theory of relativity.

There is a canon of research on high performance, built over the last century, that suggests it goes way beyond tested intelligence. On top of that, research is clear that brains are malleable, new neural pathways can be forged, and IQ isn't fixed. Just because you can read Harry Potter at five doesn't mean you will still be ahead of your contemporaries in your teens.

According to my colleague, Prof Deborah Eyre, with whom I've collaborated on the book <u>Great Minds and How to Grow Them</u>, the latest neuroscience and psychological research suggests most people, unless they are cognitively impaired, can reach standards of performance associated in school with the gifted and talented. However, **they must be taught the right attitudes and approaches to their learning and develop the attributes of high performers – curiosity, persistence and hard work.** 

Continued on page 7 ... ...

**So, is there even such a thing as a gifted child?** It is a highly contested area. Prof Anders Ericsson, an eminent education psychologist at Florida State University, is the co-author of Peak: Secrets from the New Science of Expertise. After research going back to 1980 into diverse achievements, from music to memory to sport, he doesn't think unique and innate talents are at the heart of performance. Deliberate practice, that stretches you every step of the way, and around 10,000 hours of it, is what produces the expert. It's not a magic number – the highest performers move on to doing a whole lot more, of course, and, like Mirzakhani, often find their own unique perspective along the way.

But it is perhaps the work of Benjamin Bloom, another distinguished American educationist working in the 1980s, that gives the most pause for thought and underscores the idea that family is intrinsically important to the concept of high performance. The only part of her childhood that was out of the ordinary was the Iran-Iraq war, which made life hard for the family in her early years.

Bloom's team looked at a group of extraordinarily high achieving people in disciplines as varied as ballet, swimming, piano, tennis, maths, sculpture and neurology, and interviewed not only the individuals but their parents, too.

He found a pattern of parents encouraging and supporting their children, in particular in areas they enjoyed themselves. Bloom's outstanding adults had worked very hard and consistently at something they had become hooked on young, and their parents all emerged as having strong work ethics themselves.

While the jury is out on giftedness being innate and other factors potentially making the difference, what is certain is that the behaviours associated with high levels of performance are replicable and most can be taught – even traits such as curiosity.

Research in Britain shows the difference parents make if they take part in simple activities pre-school in the home, supporting reading for example. That support shows through years later in better A-level results, according to the <a href="Effective Pre-School"><u>Effective Pre-School</u></a>, Primary and Secondary study, conducted over 15 years by a team from Oxford and London universities.

Eye-opening spin-off research, which looked in detail at 24 of the 3,000 individuals being studied who were succeeding against the odds, found something remarkable about what was going in at home. Half were on free school meals because of poverty, more than half were living with a single parent, and four in five were living in deprived areas.

The interviews uncovered strong evidence of an adult or adults in the child's life who valued and supported education, either in the immediate or extended family or in the child's wider community. Children talked about the need to work hard at school and to listen in class and keep trying. They referenced key adults who had encouraged those attitudes.

Einstein, the epitome of a genius, clearly had curiosity, character and determination. He struggled against rejection in early life but was undeterred. Did he think he was a genius or even gifted? No. He once wrote: "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer. Most people say that it is the intellect which makes a great scientist. They are wrong: it is character."

And what about Mirzakhani? One comment sums it up. "... But most of the time, doing mathematics for me is like being on a long hike with no trail and no end in sight."

The trail took her to the heights of original research into mathematics in a cruelly short life. That sounds like unassailable character. Perhaps that was her gift.

Excerpts from an article originally published on July 25, 2017, by The Guardian

"இளமையில் கல்வி, சிலையில் எழுத்து"

# **Bushfire Disaster Relief Fundraising Dinner**

A collaborative effort by various

Sri Lankan community organisations in Victoria

with the active support of:

Association of Sri Lankan Engineers, Australia (ASLEA)

Australian Advocacy for Good Governance in Sri Lanka Inc. (AAGGSL)

**Bridging Lanka** 

**Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC)** 

Dharmasoka College Past Students Association Australia (DCPSAA)

Malima Forum

Melbourne Lanka Youth (MLY)

Movement for Equal Rights (MER)

People for Human Rights and Equality Inc. (PHRE)

Sri Lanka Architects in Australia (SLAIA)

Sri Lanka Invites (SLI)

Sri Lanka Society of Australia Inc.

Sri Lankan Agriculture and Veterinary Graduates Association in Australia (SLAVGAA)

Sri Lankan Engineering Diplomates Association of Australia Inc. (SLEDAA)

Sri Lankan Study Centre for the Advancement of Technology & Social Welfare Inc. Australia (SCATS)

St Sylvester's College Kandy OBA Australia

United Sri Lankan Muslim Association of Australia Inc. (USMAA), and

Young Sri Lankan Professionals (YSLP)

# Net proceeds will be donated to the Country Fire Authority in Victoria

Saturday, February 1, from 7.00 pm onwards Hungarian Community Centre (Main Hall) 760 Boronia Rd, Wantirna VIC 3152

Tickets: \$35/Adult; \$20/Child
For online bookings, visit:
www.sritickets.com.au

Sri Lankan buffet dinner

Music by Rhydmic, and Cultural Dances

#### For tickets Contact:

Ajith E	0421 820 575	Ajith R	0409 552 123	Antony	0411 418 390
Ari	0409 133 986	Bandu	0419 874 469	Chitra	0408 480 358
Dev	0414 721 015	Gajaba	0400 017 015	Hemantha	0475 415 276
Imtiaz	0417 056 950	Jagath	0419 665 490	Janaka	0420 790 930
Kanishka	0433 441 269	Lal	0421 322 074	Naufal	0414 427 416
Naveen	0415 594 646	Prasanna	0426 272 927	Pubudu	0416 037 753
Saliya	0404 200 150	Shahim	0425 460 066	Sithy	0433 325 798
Sriyani	0423 942 402	Suri	0468 330 113	Tanila	0422 118 067
•		Wimal	0411 019 466		

Let's come together and help our suffering fellow Australians

**LET'S DIG DEEP** 

Australia gave us a home when we needed it most.





..... பலதும் பத்தும் ...

## இங்கிலீஸ் படிப்போமா?

#### Which Words Only Exist In The Plural Form?

There are quite a few words that fall into this category, for example:

- Names of devices:
- ♦ bellows, binoculars, forceps, gallows, glasses, pliers, scissors, shears, tongs.
- Names of items of clothing:
- braces, briefs, jeans, knickers, pants, pyjamas, shorts, tights, trousers. It's true that some of these clothing words do become singular when they are used as modifiers (e.g. pyjama leg or trouser pocket).

There is also the more difficult category of words ending in -ics which may or may not take a plural verb. If this type of word is used strictly for the name of a subject, it's regarded as singular, e.g. *Economics*, *Ethics*, or *Physics*. Compare with *heroics* or *hysterics*, for example, which are treated as plural.

https://www.lexico.com/en/explore/words-that-only-exist-in-plural-form

**Subtle difference in pronunciations:** Check it out in the Oxford or Collins dictionary.

Midwife and midwifery (மிட்விபரி; not மிட்வைபரி); Mortgage (மோகேஜ்; not மோட்கேஜ்)

Pizza (பீற்சா – Italian; not பிற்சா); Comfortable (கம்பட்டபிள்; not கொம்பொட்டபிள்)

Vegetable (வெஜ்ரபிள்; not வெஜிரபிள்); Wednesday (வென்ஸ்டே; not வெனிஸ்டே)

<u>Teacher Michael Maalim</u> - Comment (5 months ago):

English: a language in which - 1. you don't pronounce words the way they are written; 2. you don't write words the way they are pronounced; 3. you don't pronounce silent letters; 4. you pronounce absent letters; and 5. every vowel is often pronounced as another vowel.

Editor's Examples: mortgage; tongue/route; wrong; new; complacent (satisfied) and complaisant (willing to please)

#### I Am Australian [Lyrics]

https://www.voutube.com/watch?v=pL\_lvhfOims

MUSIC: (1995) The Seekers Complete (5 CD Set) CD 4 - Hits, B-sides & 90s, Track 25

I came from the dreamtime From the dusty red soil plains I am the ancient heart The keeper of the flames I Stood upon the rocky shore I watched the tall ships come For forty thousand years I've been the first Australian

I came upon the prison ship Bound down by iron chains I cleared the land Endured the lash And waited for the rains I'm a settler I'm a farmer's wife On a dry and barren run A convict and a free man I became Australian

I'm a daughter of a digger Who sought the mother load The girl became a woman On the long and dusty road I'm a child of the depression I saw the good time come I'm a bushy I'm a battler I am Australian

We are one But we are many And from all the lands on earth we come We'll share a dream And sing with one voice I am, you are, we are Australian

I'm a teller of stories I'm a singer of songs I am Albert Namatjira And I paint the ghostly gums I'm Clancy on his horse I'm Ned Kelly on the run I'm the one who waltzed matilda I am Australian

I'm the hot wind from the desert I'm the black soil of the plains I'm the mountains and the valleys I'm the drought and flooding rains I am the rock I am the sky The rivers when they run The spirit of this great land I am Australian

We are one But we are many And from all the lands on earth we come We'll share a dream And sing with one voice I am, you are, we are Australian

We are one But we are many And from all the lands on earth we come We'll share a dream And sing with one voice I am, you are, we are Australian

# Noticeboard

St Patrick's College Jaffna OBA, Melbourne

Invites you for the annual

Cricket and Family Fun DAY

# **Sunday, January 26, 2020**

at Wattle Park, 1012 Riversdale Road, Burwood

This year some distinguished patricians from interstate & overseas will grace the games with their presence. A rare opportunity to meet and greet some good old friends and classmates of the 70's.

Arul Jeyarajah (UK- Past President of SPC AA UK- Maria Hotel Jaffna) Alex Arulanandam (UK) Gregory Hyacinth Joseph (USA) – Brother of Eugene Joseph Joseph Sathananthan (Satha - NSW) Tim Arulanantham (NSW) Sebastiampillai (UK)

- 3 Cricket Matches this year (Inter House)
- Bar-B-Que & Kottu Rotti lunch
- Final between the winners of 1<sup>st</sup> round matches

Also, Rounders, "KILITHATTU" and Soccer (\$15 adult, \$10 child)

We will raise the College Flag and sing the College Anthem

Trophies to be presented to all winning teams and individuals at St Patrick's Day celebrations on **21 March 2020** 

#### Membership Fee Reminder

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

**Annual subscription: ONLY** 



Contact Treasurer Richman Mangalanayagam on: 0433 953 623 TOGETHER

WE CAN ACHIEVE
GREATER THINGS