



LET THERE BE LIGHT

June 2010
Leaf 17

Palmyra

Publication of Hartley College Past Pupils Association of New South Wales
Incorporated, Australia



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Editor's Note

Welcome to the autumn 2010 edition of *Palmyra*. I like to thank everyone who has contributed in the form of articles, comments and helped in numerous ways.

Hartley College is one of the oldest but most prominent scholarly educational institutions in Sri Lanka.

Palmyra plays an important role in supporting our association's objectives by bringing our Hartley Community together, providing a forum to consolidate and communicate reports, articles, ideas, news or feedback from our Hartleyites.

Please feel free to communicate to us your comments, suggestions and feedback.

Thank you.

Kannan Balakrishnan
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Please support needy students and school development program

Kalaichchuvai 2010

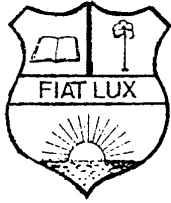
Annual Fund Raising Event

Date: Saturday, 2nd October 2010 (Long Weekend)

Time: 6:30pm - 10:30pm (please be seated by 6:15pm)

Venue: Redgum Centre, Wentworthville, NSW

Adjacent to public library



HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED, AUSTRALIA

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15 May 2010

Dear Friends,

First of all please accept my apologies for not formally communicating to you all for some time.

Our committee has been meeting regularly and discussing various options to set up scholarship funds and organizing fund raising events to help our Alma Mater. We also spent a better part of our meeting time in discussing options to help disadvantaged children affected by the war.

Our social sub committee led by Mr. Krishnakumaran has been very active in planning a fund raising event filled with a variety of cultural programs. We have been having regular communications with the Principal and Global Trust members in order to explore the urgent needs of our College.

Mr. K. Sreetharan came forward and requested us to set up an academic award scheme for one of the best students in G.C.E (A/L). This year Rs.10, 000.00 was awarded to Master. Anton Crisis John Niraj who became second in the island in Maths stream. The Scholarship Fund is named "Kanapathipillai Kandasamy" Award. I thank Mr. Sreetharan for his kind gesture.

Mr. V. Mathivanar continues to support the best track athlete through his annual scholarship of \$100.00 in memory of his parents Dr. Velmurugu & Mrs. Velmurugu.

The Principal indicates that he would like similar award schemes for students as an encouragement for more student participation in these areas. I would like to invite the membership to come forward to establish similar scholarships in their keen subject/interests or in remembrance of any loved ones.

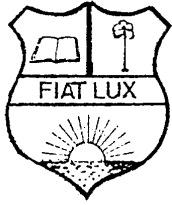
We have also set up a fund named "HCPPA (NSW) Basic Necessities Fund" in order to assist students who require basic needs. Initially this will be Rs.50, 000.00 per year and will be increased in the future. If you would like to participate in this scheme please contact one of our committee members.

Our Association has also contributed funds towards buying a new photocopier for a price of approximately Rs.105, 000.00 for the students to use in the Library and a roneo machine for Rs.80, 000.00.

HCPPA (NSW) along with our former President Mr. Charles Somasundram awarded a one-off gift of Rs.20,000.00 to Maser. V. Harikaran who won a Gold Medal in the all-Island School Sports Festival in 2009.

Yours Sincerely

G. Thirukumaran



HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED, AUSTRALIA

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We didn't have any social or sporting activities during the year 2009 due to the un-fortunate events in our homeland. A number of sports and social events are planned for this year and they are summarised below.

Success in our first sporting event for this year

On 25 April, 2010, Hartley College Old Boys in Sydney participated in the 6-a-side cricket tournament organised by Anbaalayam (over the age of 40), a charitable organisation. The tournament was held in Monfarville Park in St. Marys.

Our team was represented by K. Amirthalingam, R. Baskaran, B. Kannan, R. Manimaran, R. Krishnakumaran, S. Nandakumaran and Pancha Thambo, and captained by Nandan. Our team defeated Old Boys of Jaffna Hindu College in the final to lift the champion's cup.



In the preliminary rounds, Hartley team beat teams represented by Jaffna Central, St. Johns old boys and a mixed team called the 'Powerhouse', chasing down scores of 61, 34 and 56 respectively. We met a strong team of Jaffna Hindu Old Boys in the finals. They scored 70 runs in their 6 overs and we achieved the target in 5 overs without losing any wickets.

NSW Upcoming Events:

Sports

The annual tennis game between Hartley College and Jaffna Hindu College will be held on Sunday, 11th of July 2010. Further information will be circulated to all members soon.

The annual cricket game between Hartley College and Jaffna Hindu College will be held on the 4th of October 2010. This time we are planning to have three levels hard-ball competition and they are:

- Normal open age game;
- Over 40 game; and
- a game for children of old Hartley and Hindu college parents

Annual Fund Raising Event

We are very proud to announce that there will be a much different annual get together this time around. The following changes have been made from our previous format:

- Annual dinner will be converted to a fund raising program with high quality entertainment. More details are provided on a Flyer.
- Dinner will be served pre-packaged during the mid-program break; the emphasis of the night will be on the entertainment program.

This annual event is scheduled for the 2nd of Oct 10. We are very keenly expecting support from all of you.

Annual General Meeting

AGM will be held on 17th of Oct. 2010 which is two weeks after the annual fund raising event. Agenda will be sent at a later date.

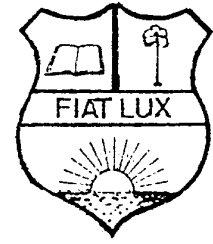
HCPPA (NSW) AGM 2010

Date: Sunday, 17th October 2010

Time: 4.30pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Homebush Boys High School, Homebush, NSW

Please arrive by 4.15 pm



Excellence in Studies, Sports and Music

We have been in constant communication with the Principal throughout the year via emails and telephone conversations. Harley College has gone through a very rough period in the past and the performance of Hartley College and its students have been significantly affected over the last 10-12 years. The students of Hartley College have begun to achieve excellence in studies, sports and other extra-curricular activities in the recent years. Congratulations to all students and teachers and keep up your good work. Here are some highlights:

Academic Achievement:

Our student A.C. John Niraj, who secured the second National Level in the G.C.E A/L Examination in 2009 August, has faced the Olympiad Physics Competition and selected to the Asian level competition. There are 8 students selected island wide and he is the only one selected from the tamil medium schools. The Asian level competition will be held in Taiwan on 23rd April 2010. HCPPA Canada branch met his travel expenses to Taiwan.

I am happy to inform you that our distinguished past pupil Mr. Sreetharan of HCPPA NSW Branch has presented Rs 10 000 for Mas. Anton Crisis John Niraj who secured the 2nd place in the G.C.E A/L exam 2009 in Mathematics stream in national level. The prize was awarded in the Tuesday morning assembly to John Niraj. In this occasion I express my special thanks to the donor Mr. Sreetharan on behalf of our staff students.



Music

Our Music group has won the first place in the Music Competition known as Jaffna Education Fair - 2009 at the district level held on the 16th of September 2009.

Sports

We wish to share the message of awarding the cash prize of about Rs 20 000 to Mas. V. Harikaran who won a Gold Medal in the all-Island School Sports Festival in 2009. The prize was sponsored by NSW PPA Branch, Australia.

Results of Annual Inter-House Sports Meet

The results of the sports meet held on the 13th of February 2010 are tabled below:

House	Points
Abraham	416
Thamotharam	335.5
Sherrad	259
Paulpillai	246
Kanapathipillai	226.5

The chief guest was our former sectional head Mr.N. Sarvanantha.



Academic Results

G.C.E O/L Results 2009

Tamil Medium results

Name	Result
K. Prashanth	9A
S. Sackthithazan	9A
S. Jeyaseelan	8A, B
K. Aingaran	8A, B
P. Soorya	8A, B
T. Ajanthan	7A, 2B
S. Gowshegan	7A, 2B
S. Sulaxan	7A, B, C
S. Nishanthan	6A, 3B
P. Banukopan	6A, 2B, C
T. Prashanth	5A, 4B
S. Anutharsan	5A, 3B, C
M. Koneswaran	5A, 3B, 2C
B. Dinesh	5A, 2B, 2C
T. Pranavan	5A, 2B, 2C
N. Rajkumar	5A, 2B, 2C
V. Pirathikaran	5A, 2B, 2C

English Medium

Name	Result
B. Kapilan	9A
K. Sutharsan	7A, 2C
T. Thuwarakan	6A, 3B
P. Kowshekesan	6A, 2B, C
V. Keerthanan	6A, 2B, C
K. Thushanthan	6A, B, 2C
B. Kiriram	6A, B, 2C
S. Kirushanth	5A, 2B, C
S. Parathan	5A, 2B, C

G.C.E A/L Results 2009

Engineering faculty

We hope 14 students will be selected to Engineering field.

Name	Result	District Rank	Island Rank
A. S. John Niraj	3A	1	02
S. Pirashanth	3A	4	11
T. Jeyanthan	3A	5	35
S. Thananjayan	3A	6	38
S. Rahulakeethan	3A	13	103
V. Antony Sahayaraja	3A	20	188
S. Kokul	2A, B	23	236
R. Kokulavarman	2A, B	41	482
S. Kajuhan	A, 2B	43	494
R. Pirathaban	A, 2B	54	565
T. Thiviyaraj	A, 2B	55	568
G. Tharsan	A, 2B	57	583
J. Piragathees	2A, B	58	594
K. Hasan	A, 2B	66	

Medical Faculty

We expect that 4 students will be selected to the medical faculty.

Name	Result	District Rank	Island Rank
R. Mohanapiriyam	2A, B	04	144
N. Nitheesan	2A, B	05	168
S. Sankar	A, 2B	30	1151
K. Umasuthan	A, B, C	35	

Commerce Stream

We hope that 8 students will be selected to the Management faculty.

Name	Result	District Rank	Island Rank
R. Varnan	3A	08	
V. Thanaseelan	3A	23	
A. Antony Johnson	2A, B	29	
S. Mathusoothanan	2A, B	46	
P. Muraleetharan	A, 2B	58	
M. Piratheeban	2A, B	62	
S. Kuganath	A, 2B	70	
L. Nirubaran	A, 2B	81	

Arts faculty

We expect 3 students will be selected to the University.

Name	Results	District Rank	Island Rank
S. Janakan	2A, B	111	2687
S. Suganthan	2A, B	162	3947
T. Uthayakumar	2A, B	202	

Ongoing and Future Projects

We are in constant communication with the President (Shan Shanmuganathan) and Secretary (Chellah Padmanathan) of the Global Trust. Below is a compilation of important information about the school communicated to us by the Trust:

Just a short update as to what is happening with the redevelopment efforts of the College.

Government and the NGO's are showing renewed vigour in helping Northern region and we are trying to get as much as possible from them. Both Principal and Trustees are of the opinion that we should try to obtain the maximum from these sources, and should tap our past pupils/ branches only for the remainder. For this reason we have not sent out the wish list to anyone lately, till we exhaust all funding options available locally. We must admit that our priority in the last two months has been more to do with Infrastructure development given the funding options available rather than on the day-to-day needs.

Some of the key projects for which we are seeking help from Government and the NGO's are listed below:

- Construction of an Overhead Water Tank (5000 Litres) for drinking water as well as for Laboratory purposes. Estimated Cost Rs.1 Million.
- Construction of a 2 storeyed Hostel building for 40 students with study hall, dining room, bed rooms etc. at an estimated cost of Rs.46 Million.
- Balance work on the Auditorium- 2nd and 3rd stages – approximately Rs. 7 million each. 1st stage just completed.
- Extension of Library.
- Construction of 3 new Toilet blocks and improvement of existing ones - estimated Cost Rs.1 million.
- Computer Lab with 40 computers with enclosed space- cost Rs. 3 Million.
- Take over of former magistrates Bungalow to be used as a play ground for younger children during school hours.

We are also recommencing the Furniture project funded by the Canada Branch, and we await a new design and quotation from the Principal.

There have been requests to the school and interest shown by past pupils, on the possibility of accommodating and looking after some children released from the IDP camps. Given the fact that school is still within High Security Zone, hostel facilities still unavailable and all the classes are full or over the limit, the school is not in a position to participate in this scheme. However the door is not closed and if some suitable

arrangements could be arrived to allay the concerns indicated we could revisit the subject at a later date.

Some of the issues of interest discussed by the Global Trust with the Principal are:

- Development within the school premises is now going on according to a master plan prepared by the Education department and the buildings are coming up as and when funds are made available by Government and NGO's. The open centre yard (image available) facilitating circulation and the touch of greenery will definitely provide a good look, and once the whole blue print is implemented, the premises should look environmentally great.
- The many Furniture replacement programs are proceeding at a more acceptable speed now. This includes the Table & Chair replacement of Canada Branch, the shelves provided by Canada Branch, staff room furniture by a past pupil from UK.
- Library needs an extension, since it seems a bit cramped up with no space for reference/internet search.
- The area where the rest house, Urban council were, have now been vacated by the army (image available). We have made a request for this piece of land to be used as play area for the junior classes.
- Request has been made to build a new hostel where the old hostel stood. Awaiting a response. As the army has vacated the neighbouring area, every one in the vicinity seems to be coming through the grounds now, so we need to set up proper fencing. The other property of the Trust – Rajaratnam. Masters house where a sports utility room was being built by NGO SDC, work is currently halted and hopefully work will recommence shortly.

Pictures from Hartley College



Bird's eye view of the School Premises - 1



Bird's eye view of the School Premises - 2



Library



Area between beach road & School now being lobbied as play area

NAVARATNASINGHAM TEACHER:

A tribute by Dr. Vasanthakumar

Miss. Navaratnasingham was a teacher at Hartley College in the 50.60s & 70s. Her speciality was Botany but also taught English, Music and more. Below is a tribute by Dr. Vasanthakumar at her funeral service held at Swansea, UK.

It has been said that **Good men must die, but death cannot kill their names.**

I suspect this was before the time of political correctness but I am sure it applies to our Navaratnasingham teacher in a big way.

You can shed tears that she is gone or you can smile because she has lived.

The latter is what I would do because she touched the lives of thousands, not just the thousands of Hartley College students on behalf of whom I am standing here today. Hartley College Past Pupils' Associations from the United Kingdom, Canada and United States have asked me to pass on their condolences to the family and I am sure the Australian Associations and the parent organisation in Sri Lanka want to do the same. What I say here is therefore a collective statement.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.

You can see a bit of what she has left in the Hartleyites she taught; if we are able to speak English today, if we are able to hum a western tune, and if anyone says that a Hartleyite behaves with grace and dignity, Navaratnasingham teacher had a big hand in it. She was a key ally to our late Principal Mr. Pooranampillai in the 50s, 60s and 70s when Hartley College became a big force nationally, and indeed internationally.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her or you can be full of the love you shared.

Our teacher was quite outstanding in the way that she never lost her temper. I find it unimaginable that a lady teacher who was young, stylish and modern controlled the hundreds of adolescent boys in this rural type of school but this was all due to the kindness she showed and the genuine interest she showed in the welfare of her students.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

It was like yesterday that Navaratnasingham teacher taught us English songs in that classroom near the sea when we were in Year 4. Indeed she used to live upstairs in the place we called Turret. It was like Yesterday that she played the organ or piano at that church attached to our College. It feels like Yesterday that she taught us advanced level Botany and we were now in Year 12. It must be inconceivable these days that a teacher can be involved in the development of a child for over 10 years, but that is what she did. And the tomorrows of thousands of us changed dramatically because of her.

You can remember her and only that she's gone or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

Our memory of Navaratnasingham teacher is that she was good fun and a very good teacher who treated all students equally. But we liked her even more because she was the one who took us out on biology field work- these were highlights of our school life and again it was amazing that she was able to control all of us without a harsh word. For those of us who studied Botany- let me tell you, it is a gigantic task to make the study of plants interesting- we even had a trip upcountry, to see the ferns, palms and the lush scenery which was a far cry from the dry north of Sri Lanka. These are indelible images left in our life by Navaratnasingham teacher.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

I am sure that is what our Teacher would have wanted. Some years ago Miss Navaratnasingham came as the Chief Guest to the UK Hartley College OBA dinner and I still remember the pride in her eyes seeing her students. She remembered all of them, not just the academically successful ones. I think she was prouder of the others who may not have done well in Botany but were very successful and upstanding members of the community and this was fully attributable to the 'bringing up' of these children by Navaratnasingham teacher and her colleagues.

Our parents were lucky- we were all brought up not just by our parents but in equal measure by our Teachers and Navaratnasingham teacher was an outstanding example of a person who dedicated her life to the well being of those under her wing.

It was Irving Berlin who said, "**The song is ended, but the melody lingers on...**" and I will say that today about our beloved teacher.

May her soul rest in peace.

Dr. V. Vasanthakumar

Hartley College Past Pupils Association

(In aid of needy students & school development program)

“Kalaizh Chuwei - 2010”

Fusion of The Three Essences of Tamil Arts

Dance

“Niruthyanjali”

by Pathmalaya Academy of Fine Arts

Music

“Karaoke”

by Rajayogan's Group (In collaboration with HCPPA Members)

Villupaattu

by Mano & Jehendran's group (In collaboration with HCPPA Members)

Comedy Drama

Medical Centre மருத்துவமனை?

by the HCPPA Members

Date: Saturday, 2nd October 2010 (Long Weekend)

Time: 6:30pm - 10:30pm (please be seated by 6:15pm)

Venue: Redgum Centre, Wentworthville, NSW

(Adjacent to public library)

Tickets:

Family Sponsor - \$100

Family - \$60

Single - \$25

Concession - \$15

Meals:

Packed dinner will be provided with options such as non-veg, vegetarian and kids meal

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