

Reminiscing and a Tribute to Sornalingam

Dr M Sreetharan-Maryland, USA

Many of my friends in Sydney and I were at Hartley in the 60s, the Class of '69. Many nostalgic moments come to mind. But one thought that has preoccupied me from early 80's is the life while he lived and, his memory, after his death of a friend at Hartley. His life raised in me more questions about myself. Questions reflective of a generation that escaped from the edge of the catastrophe that was to befall our school, homes and villages of our cherished youth. A generation affected by dislocation and disrupted close family setting, but called on to carry a burden to help the land of birth survive and recover.

How did our education in Point Pedro help to shape our lives? While we take stock of the years past as we reach the end of our professional careers, how can we sum up our lives? Beyond the academic successes, professional achievements, and economic accomplishments, can we honestly be proud of who we are and what we have made of our lives?

Sornalingam and many of us played soccer and cricket at Hartley together. In soccer, he was always ahead of us, as many of the books written about him reveal. We spent many hours and days as we traveled and played across Jaffna district, as well as in Colombo and Kandy.

I keep going back to these years to identify and to locate signs of inner working of his mind that intrigues me still. He wrote in my diary on 5th Sept 1971: "The most important thing in the Olympic games is not to win- but to take part...the essential thing in life is not to regret, But to have lived and fought well." Was this a sign of things to come, where his destiny lay, closely bound to his people?

When my soccer friends and I travelled to Chennai (Madras) on a tour in '73 with Peradeniya soccer team, he visited us one day. But did not reveal any sign of where his life was heading. Last time I heard from him was in '83 when he called from England on one his trips as part of his new mission, when I was in San Diego. He explained the details.

I keep going back to read the beautiful Tamil book, Viduthalai, Anton Balasingam wrote, and keep re-reading it. What is life? What is freedom? What is history? Can the wisdom of philosophers provide insight into the calamitous history of our people? From Hegel's assertion "history is movement of spirits towards freedom," Kant's "perpetual peace," Hobbes "life is solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short," and Mill's liberal argument of value of liberty," define the responsibilities we face as the diaspora of a people left to confront the State? Will we get inspired to take some action to help? Have we tried to understand the dynamics at home, show empathy for the lives of the people we left behind, and tried to be a voice to the disadvantaged? Have we realized that by doing so, we enrich our lives than we do theirs?

One single formula will not work for all of us. But should we not inquire into these to question our life's worth? When, goals we have sought in the first half of our lives wane in importance and as we seek for fulfillment, and seek peace with ourselves, I find free inquiry into our responsibilities to serve our own will benefit us, and may provide answers to turmoil within us.

Our generation grew up with our career choices limited by the practical need for economic security. While we sought economic successes, and prospered by the discipline and hardwork instilled on us by our School and its teachers, did we miss to understand the need to

serve others? Why then have we not seen more Hartleyites in our diasporic networks that work towards a better future for people at home?

Have we allowed our children to think beyond these and experiment with life? Did we allow them to fail and learn, and not force them into the traditional and non-risk-only endeavors? Have we limited our children's potential to be great thinkers and have we encouraged them to seek and pursue their inner mission? Have we while teaching our children to learn, were prepared to learn ourselves?

Have we stopped to think what drove the lives of people like Sornalingam and the handful of Hartleyites we know of who interpreted life in a selfless way, different to what many of you or I have done? What drove them to see life in the way they saw?

I rejoice when I see old friends during our visits to Hartley and appreciate the many old boys associations serving the needs of the current students. But my desire is to see broader involvement of Hartleyites to build the shattered community in the NorthEast. To see more join to empower those people and show the true worth of our education.

Wish everyone a great year.

Editor's Note: Dr M.Sreetharan, Ph.D., is a consultant in Communications (Data and Voice) and Signal Processing industries. He is the President PCI (Performance Computing Incorporated), Maryland, USA. He is an old boy of Hartley College.

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The Principals of Hartley College: 1945-85

Ponniah Balasingam
(Retired Principal, Hartley College)

Introduction

The four decades of Hartley College from 1945 covers the period of five remarkable Principals namely; Pooranampillai, Ratnasabapathy, Rajadurai, Ahamparam and Samuel. The story of their administration constitutes an interesting chapter in the glorious history of one of the prestigious educational institutions in Sri Lanka. All of them were full-fledged Hartleyites, with the right credentials, in a line of succession that runs quite blessedly like a golden thread in the annals of the school since 1838 when her founder, Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, first lit the torch of “FIAT LUX” in Point Pedro.

Kanapathipillai Pooranampillai (1944-1967)

Kanapathipillai Pooranampillai (30th Oct 1909 – 22nd April 2001) B.A (London); Post Grad Trd (Birmingham) became Principal in 1944 and was in service for nearly a quarter century. Born in Thunnalai, four miles from Point Pedro, he took up his residence closer to the college, the playground and the Methodist Christian Church to keep them constantly under his eyes as it were.

Inspired by the Grammar schools in England he made Hartley a Selective College choosing the best students, boys and girls, with 650 as the optimum number. He recruited efficient teachers, preferably from among the past pupils of Hartley, adopted a proactive curriculum of subjects and furnished the library, the labs, the hostel, and the playground with up to date facilities and built a gymnasium in the school.

His management was modernistic and progressive. The discipline in the school buttressed by a streamlined Prefect System was superb. He established a number of Arts, Science and Drama Associations and created a congenial climate for the moral, civic and cultural development of the students. He rejuvenated the Scouts Club and intensified its engagement in service not only within the school and but also in the community around.

He held a General Assembly of the college every week and widened the mental horizons of the pupils giving informative and inspiring speeches and broadcasting the achievements of the College in public exams and competitions. The members of the staff and occasionally popular speakers from outside too addressed this gathering. While fostering familial ties between the staff and students it forged in them a lifetime friendship and a righteous pride and loyalty for the college.

The great dream of KP and the meticulous infrastructure he created for its realization worked very effectively and became a charter with a distinctive ethos for all times. It ensured a steady flow, year after year, of brilliant Hartleyites fully empowered to cruise confidently and triumphantly into the top echelons of the legislative, executive, judicial, medical, commercial, banking fields and the Universities at home and abroad.

Pooranampillai could achieve this magnificent success as he had a long period of an exclusive private management. The take over of the private schools in 1962 by the government, bringing in its train the notorious Redtapism, disoriented him. When Hartley College was taken over in 1965 he retired in 1967 overcome by disillusionment with the overreach of the Ministry of Education and its Departments of Education.

Thereafter he served as Principal of St Johns College in Jaffna for a few years. When the living conditions became hazardous in Sri Lanka owing to a state oppression of the Tamil struggle for a dignified autonomy he left for England with his wife to live with his daughters in London and passed away there.

Subramaniam Ratnasabapathy (1967-1970)

Subramaniam Ratnasabapathy, (17th May 1913-18th May 1995) M.Sc (London), succeeded Pooranampillai. His success as a brilliant principal at the Matale Science College and the Nelliaddy MMV, his mastery of the Administrative and Financial regulations of the government and the legacy of an educational and cultural ethos bequeathed by KP made his take over a cake walk.

He however found his heaven not in the Principal's office but in the Advanced Level classes, the library and the Labs. Taking the Principalship in his stride, he imprinted his personality in sending large numbers of proficient mathematicians to the universities at home and abroad, enriching the library with the latest math and science books, importing them directly from UK, and equipping the labs with modern apparatus.

He had no need to make any changes in the administration except in the scheme of admission of students where he terminated the entry of girls. The doubling of the existing ideal number of students which, in fact, had begun soon after the state take over of Hartley, made this move inevitable.

His administration had a singular style. It was detached yet decisive, more a reign than a rule. He made his strong personality felt in all the fields of college activities through a masterly delegation of functions to his able and loyal staff. He elevated the respect of the teachers addressing each as 'Sir/Madam' instead of the usual 'Master/Teacher' norm and designated himself as a CO (Coordinating Officer) giving the impression of a primus *inter pares*.

A confirmed bachelor, a Spartan in his life style, he lived in Thambacetty a mile away from the college. He walked or rather *lumbered* his big physique to the college as he didn't learn cycling due to the over concern of his dotting mother whose 'No', to anything she felt was injurious to his life or limb, he used to say with a smile, was not a word but a sentence! In passing, it is strange how he escaped her radar to become a votary of the Jaffna cigar!!

A drastic change in the age of statutory retirement from sixty to fifty-five years compelled his exit in 1970. However even in his retirement he continued his service to his students for a few years, as teaching was so sacred to him. He died of a sudden heart attack sans any senile discomfort in his sister's home in Point Pedro. As per his wish and as an outstanding mark of his supreme devotion to education his body was donated to the Medical Faculty of the University of Jaffna.

Chinniah Rajadurai (1971-1973)

Chinniah Rajadurai (15th Nov 1919 – Aug 05th 1992) B.Sc (Lond), Ratnasabapthy's successor, hailed from Alvai about four miles from the college. A smart pupil of academic and football fame at Hartley College and a winner of the Colombo University College colors as the captain of its Football Team he had also been a member of the tutorial staff of Pooranampillai. Naturally he found the turf at Hartley quite homely.

He proudly took over the reins flaunting the fact that he was an *alvaiyaan* which in the Tamil language stands for the strong will and intrepidity of the residents of Alvai. He came after a distinguished service as Principal of the Ruanwela Central College for a long time and subsequently of the Canagaratnam MMV in Jaffna.

He took up residence in the turret, which stood on the eastern boundary of the college as his family was in Jaffna. In earlier times it used to be the Principals quarters and later became the boarding house for the lady teachers during Pooranampillai's period. Incidentally one of the boarders was Thilagamalar Kathiresampillai with whom Rajadurai, who was then a member of the staff, had close communication on the pretense that she was his niece and when the auspicious time arrived he married her. The story goes that the principal greeted him with the banter, "So your niece has now become nice!".

His stay at Hartley was for only two years as he opted for a highly remunerative post in Nigeria. However he maintained the fortunes of his alma mater both in the curricula and co-curricular fields. He left his mark as a veteran teacher of Physics and Math. He coached the Football teams with his adroit skill and experience and made them formidable. He is well remembered for the introduction of the Basketball game, which became very popular among the Hartleyites.

Quite unfortunately his stay in Nigeria too was shortened by a serious car accident causing a severe whiplash to his neck. He returned to Sri Lanka to undergo better surgery and later went to Australia to join his family. He passed away there.

Paramanathan Ahamparam (1973-1975)

Paramanathan Ahamparam (05th May, 1922 – 01st May 1991) B.Sc (Ceylon), who succeeded him, held the honor of being one of the first batches of the graduates and one of the early groups of Diploma

holders of the University of Ceylon established in 1942. He was also the first teacher to be handpicked by Pooranampillai a fact which both of them cherished with pleasure. He came from Puloly South, a village three miles from Point Pedro and a perennial source of brainy Hartleyites

He had already carved a niche for himself as a distinguished pupil, a popular teacher of Chemistry in the Advanced Level classes and a consummate Prefect of Games who put Hartley on the cricket map, making the team he assiduously coached as the best in the North in 1963. Later on, the college produced excellent cricketers and footballers who won places in the combined teams against the Australian schools team.

Thus when he took over the charge from Rajadurai, his quondam college mate and a teacher colleague at Hartley in the Pooranampillai era, the welcome he received was splendid. He came to Hartley having established his fame as a renowned principal of the Vantaramoolai Government Central College in the Eastern Province and of the Skandavarodaya College in Chunnakam.

He continued to maintain the prestige of the college in all the fields. Encouraging the teachers and the students to do their best and making effective changes in the compositions of the Advanced level classes he boosted their performances at the public examinations.

Much greater prospects were anticipated off his diligent and determined stewardship. But alas! His family circumstances thwarted his enthusiasm and paralyzed his will.

He relinquished his post after two years and went to Transkei in South Africa accepting a high post that gave him ample resources to maintain and educate his children who had lost their mother suddenly when Ahamparam was Principal of Skandavarodaya College. After a full and fruitful service in Transkei he went to New Zealand lived with his daughters for a few years and died there.

W N S Samuel (1978-1985)

Winifred Nesathurai Sithambarapillai Samuel (22nd August 1926- 26th June 1992) B.A (London) who took over from Ahamparam had been a loyal Deputy to his four predecessors and served the longest period as Principal after KP. He had also been an Actg Principal for short spells between 1970 - 1975.

As a student, a teacher, a Students' Counselor, the Editor of the college's Miscellany and Deputy Principal he was deeply steeped in her heritage and was so possessed of a magnificent obsession to keep it flourishing that Rajadurai succinctly 'christened' him as the 'keeper of Hartley's conscience'.

The first half of his decade was a splendid one. He began his administration by hallowing Hartley with an inspiring College Song, composed at his request, by Rev.W.D.Niles in English and translated into Tamil by Rev.M.A.Ratnarajah. They were distinguished Hartleyites of his time.

Academic excellence was very high. Several pupils obtained distinctions in all the subjects in the GCE O/L and A/L exams. In 1982 and 1983 the highest scorers at the national level in the A/L examinations were Hartleyites. Attracted by these achievements the Ministry of Education made Hartley a 'Control School' to monitor and observe its performance in order to evolve guidelines for other schools in Sri Lanka.

In the fields of sports, games and inter school competitions too successes continued to soar. In 1976 the college produced the best cricketer of the North. In 1982 she never lost a cricket match in the North in 1982 and came second in the Public Schools Sports Meet.

In 1980 the Thamotheram Memorial Laboratory, a two-story structure with a set of classrooms, was opened. In 1983 the Pooranampillai Block, another double story building for the teaching of Handwork, Art and Physical Education, was completed. In the same year when WNS went to London on a furlough sponsored by Methodist Mission Society he formed a branch of the Hartley College Past Pupils Association.

His last five years very sadly proved to be a time of turbulence and violence in Sri Lanka particularly in the North-East. A righteous revolt expressed through peaceful resistance against legislative moves, by the Sinhala dominated government, to establish an inequitable majoritarian hegemony on the proud descendant nation of a once mighty Tamil Kingdom in the North-East, resulting only in a series of

fiascos, finally exploded into a grave conflagration between the Tamil Freedom Fighters and the Sinhala State Forces.

The entire Tamil homeland became a battleground causing untold desecration, destruction and desolation of the lives, livelihood, property, places of worship, hospitals and educational institutions. Hartley College was one of the many leading colleges that suffered the greatest during the last years of WNS.

Her library with over ten thousand volumes of precious books, a number of class rooms and the gymnasium were burnt down on the 1st Sept 1984 by the State Army. Following that, a large area of Point Pedro was declared a high security military zone and the college was fully occupied by the army. Hartley College had to function as a refugee school sheltered at Puttalai MV 3km away from the original location. Unable to bear these heart-rending catastrophes, WNS submitted his retirement declaring with deep sorrow that his “Zest for service has been irretrievably devastated”.

A Rotarian and a staunch Christian he continued his community service, during his retirement, as a Director of the Institute of Religion at Maruthanamadam (Jaffna) and as a member of the Board of Directors of Jaffna College, Vaddukodai. Incidentally it was through the Collegiate Department of this college he obtained his London degree. In 1988 he left for South India in order to educate his last son there. While in India he fell ill with kidney problems, underwent two major surgeries, and died there.

Editor’s Note: Ponniah Balasingam was the Principal of Hartley College during the period 1985-93. He is an old boy of Hartley College and was also teacher at the school before becoming the Principal.

Life Membership: There is no point in stressing the importance of strong membership for the success of HCPPA-NSW branch. As a member, you will have opportunities to learn about Hartley College and your kids have prospect of mingling with the offsprings of other Hartleyites and thereby establish a strong Hartley Community in Australia.

Life Members of HCPPA-NSW Branch as of July 2005

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. K Arulventhan | 22. R Manimaran | 43. S Somasundaram |
| 2. K Amirthalingam | 23. K Manomohan | 44. S Srianandarajah |
| 3. P Arunothayam | 24. M Manoharathas | 45. K Srisivalingam |
| 4. S Balasubramaniam | 25. V Mathivanar | 46. K Sriskandarajah |
| 5. R Baskaran | 26. Robert Mohan | 47. K Sriharan |
| 6. P Elango | 27. S Nanthakumar | 48. S Subenthiran |
| 7. Dr David Gunaratnam | 28. Dr N Naganathan | 49. V Sugumar |
| 8. S Gnansundaram | 29. R Naganathan | 50. B Sutharsan |
| 9. S Gunalingam | 30. C Paheerathan | 51. G Thavalingam |
| 10. V Jeya Menon | 31. K Paskarajothy | 52. G Theivendrarajah |
| 11. M Jega Rajan | 32. Dr S Ragavan | 53. S Thillainathan |
| 12. S Jeyakumar | 33. V Ragunathan | 54. G Thirukumaran |
| 13. J S Jeyadevan | 34. J Reginold | 55. Thiruloganathan |
| 14. S Jeyaseelan | 35. R Rubasingam | 56. V Thivyakumar |
| 15. K Kaneshalingam | 36. S Santhakumar | 57. S Umakanthan |
| 16. V Kandasamy | 37. C Satcunarajah | 58. S Uthayakumar |
| 17. N Karunakaran | 38. Dr S T Seelan | 59. G Vaseeharan |
| 18. K Krishna Sarma | 39. K Selvarajah | 60. Dr V Vasanthakumar |
| 19. W Krishnathasan | 40. V Sithamparanadarajah | 61. V Vijayakumar |
| 20. B Kuganesan | 41. S Sivakumar | 62. K Visakulan |
| 21. R K Kulasekkan | 42. S Skandakumar | 63. S Yoganathan |

Report by Hartley College PPA Trust

When HCPPA-NSW Branch celebrates its 15 years of existence perhaps it is time to take a stock of what it has achieved over the years. There is no doubt in our mind that the creation of the Hartley College PPA Trust, a joint action by all the PPA branches around the world would stand out as one of the significant milestones you have participated in and continued to support in a big way to develop our beloved school. We, the members of Hartley College PPA Trust believe the best way to thank the members of HCPPA-NSW Branch is to provide a report on the activities undertaken by the Hartley College PPA Trust from its inception, which will illustrate the value you have created.

The Trust was created in July 2002 and currently in its second term. A term is usually a period of 3 years. The current members of the Trustee Board are: Shan Shanmuganathan- Chairman, Chella Padmanathan- Secretary & Treasurer, Dr.Nithi Chinnaih, M.Sivagnanasundaram and V.Selvarajan and 3 ex-officio members- the President of Colombo PPA Branch-S.Balachandran, President of the Point Pedro PPA Branch-K.Balasubramaniam and the Principal-N.Theivendraraja

OBJECTIVES/RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary objectives/responsibilities of the Hartley College PPA Trust are:

1. To assess the existing situation and the needs of the Institution, and record the starting point.
2. To obtain input from all the Branches of the PPA, well wishers of the Institution, and the teaching faculty to develop the perfect point of arrival. Once the blue print is prepared, distribute to interested parties, obtain feedback and finalize the model.
3. To be in constant dialogue with the partners of development in identifying their respective roles to avoid duplication and also to optimize resources available.
4. To monitor the progress and if necessary send progress report to interested parties.
5. To receive, take and hold all descriptions of property (both movable and immovable) now or hereafter belonging, or passing in any manner whatsoever, to the Branches of the PPA.
6. To hold moneys representing endowments, prizes, and moneys raised from time to time by PPA's, past pupils or by any other person or body and paid over to the Trust.
7. To perform the role of post box or message centre for the partners of development on a best effort

ACHEIVEMENTS/CURRENT STATUS OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS

The major achievement of the Trust if we summarize the whole process is in assessing the various needs of the school and in identifying the various stakeholders to take up responsibility for different pieces of action so that duplication could be avoided and the needs of the school could be addressed efficiently. In this process we also became the voice of the school and an information centre to the PPAs around the world.

We have given below the various development programs currently on going at the school and/or need to be commenced shortly, and wherever the Trust has made a contribution. The letterings are marked in bold so that it would be easier to identify our contribution.

It must be also stated that till end of March 2006, we have handled cash inflows of Rs.5.5 Million. Out of this Rs.2.2 Million has been paid out in respect of the following:

| | Rs. In 000 |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Land acquisition related | 1200 |
| Movable assets including furniture | 425 |
| Sports related | 186 |
| Scholarships & Prizes | 212 |
| Auditorium development plan | 56 |
| Bus related | 59 |
| Miscellaneous | 55 |

The Balance of Rs.3.3 Million is in interest bearing deposits with the Banks.

Even though the cash inflows were only Rs.5.5 Million, the total cost of all the development efforts so far committed where Trust has played an active role is in the region of Rs. 45 Million with bulk of the funding coming from Government and the NGO's.

DETAILS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENTS

AUDITORIUM

Land to build the Auditorium was purchased opposite the school, with funds sent by PPA's of UK, NSW, Victoria and Colombo. We deployed an Architect to develop the BOQ's and plans for the building, which is expected to cost Rs.15 Million. We also managed to obtain the Ministry of Education's agreement to fund the construction in two or three stages. The plan developed by us has been forwarded to the Ministry and await their building unit's concurrence/amended plan. The major area of concern still is the non-availability of a temporary Assembly Hall to hold meetings/assemblies, etc. We are looking at temporary structures to house this function, which could be eventually used in the new Auditorium or at the grounds.

CANTEEN

Identified a donor to build a new Canteen for Rs.1 Million and designs have been drawn.

Construction not commenced as we could not move in just after Tsunami and security issues thereafter discouraged possible contractors to come in. **We have finally identified a contractor** and the project should be completed by August 2006.

STAFF ROOM

SDC (Swiss based NGO) which made an assessment of the needs of the school after Tsunami **has considered an appeal made by the Trust to build the staff room and the construction is currently on and will be completed by September 2006.** The total commitment by SDC for this structure and the class rooms and a sports centre (mentioned later in the report) works out to be around Rs.15 Million

CLASS ROOMS AND LIBRARY

Project funded by NECORD for building 12 classrooms and the library costing Rs.9 Million has been completed and a soft opening took place in November 2005. We still need to build an extension to the Library to house few computers and seats so that students could surf the net for research. **SDC as stated earlier is building 4 classrooms and two rooms for extra curricular activities.**

SPORTS CENTRE

A private property and a house adjoining to the playground was purchased to function as the sports utility room, however given the presence of armed forces in the neighbouring areas we have had interrupted possession of the property for the last 3 years. **SDC as stated earlier is constructing a Single storey structure at the grounds with 2 rooms 2 toilets and a verandah to be known as the sports Centre.**

LIBRARY

We facilitated the receipt and forwarding of the Books sent by Sydney and Canada PPA Branches and also arranged books from the Asia Foundation. We need to develop a proper list of collections we should carry.

SPORTS

The annual recurrent expenditure is in the region of Rs.480, 000. **Whilst the funds held by Canada Branch for sports activities would pay for around Rs.50, 000, the Colombo branch and some of the office bearers of the Colombo PPA branch have come forward to meet the expenses up to Rs.250, 000.** We still have a short fall of Rs.180, 000 and the equipment and material replacement cost works out to be around Rs.120, 000. We hope to seek help from government agencies to source this short fall. .

FURNITURE- CLASS ROOMS

A furniture replacement program has been commenced with the assistance of Canada Branch, **where 10 classrooms would be provided with new furniture (for 35 students each) at an approximate cost of Rs.1.3 Million. Contract has been awarded and two classrooms have already been furnished.**

IT SUPPORT

We sent an IT Professional from Colombo to study the IT situation in the school to suggest areas of improvement. Then we facilitated a member of the Sydney Branch who visited the school and installed around 25 computers for the benefit of the students in the lower form as a self-learning centre. Currently the IT facilities available at the school seems adequate based on the report received from the Principal but the school would prefer to have about 20 chairs for use in one of the computer labs.

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The PPA Trust has documented the list of all Prizes and Scholarships given to the school by various PPAs and well wishers so that the awards could be rationalised and to avoid any duplication in future.

TSUNAMI DAMAGE

We have determined the exact value of damage and currently in discussion with two international NGO's (UNHCR and SDC) to see how we could obtain their assistance in bridging the gaps, which are not funded by the government. **We have also installed a new Water purification plant**, as the well in the school was damaged following Tsunami.

BUS TO THE SCHOOL

We lobbied with the Ministry of Trade on behalf of the school and obtained a 21 seater Bus, (value Rs.1.5 Million) under a Tsunami relief program. This was the only bus given to the North, other buses have been distributed to East and South. It is a used bus from the UK, but would certainly help our school teams to under excursions and other sports activities travelling in a respectful manner with the added of convenience.

REORGANISING BIOLOGY LAB

The Project will cost around Rs.200, 000 and **work has already commenced with the assistance of Canada PPA branch.**

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Project will cost around Rs.55, 000 and **is funded jointly by the two PPA branches located Australia. The Project is expected to be completed by May 2006.**

FURNITURE FOR VICE PRINCIPAL AND SECTIONAL HEADS

The furniture for the Vice Principal and various Sectional Heads need to be replaced based on a report submitted by the Principal and it is estimated costing around Rs.144, 000. **The Project will be funded jointly by the two PPA branches located in Australia and expected to be completed by June 2006.**

INFORMATION CENTRE

A web site for the Hartley College PPA Trust has been developed and maintained by the Trust at no cost, which provides up to date information relating to the activities undertaken by the Trust in a transparent manner.

Shan Shanmuganathan

Chairman

On behalf of Hartley College PPA Trust

Prof C J Eliezer is one of the great personalities of Hartley College in 1930s. He was honoured by the Australian Government with the Order of Australia (AO). He holds doctorate degrees (PhD and DSc) from both Cambridge and London Universities and served as Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Ceylon and then later University of Malaya before migrating to Australia. He was awarded the Charles. L. Mayer award from the National Academy of Science and was Fellow of Christ College, Cambridge. He was an outstanding mathematician. He qualified as a Barrister at Law in London in 1949, he worked with Einstein in 1955, and held the same three positions, Professor of Mathematics, Dean of the faculty of Science and Acting Vice Chancellor at three different Universities in three different countries (last being Australia).

Memories of a Childhood Intimately Linked with Hartley

Dr Vasikaran Samuel- University of Western Australia

Walking to school along KKS road, passing the jetty and customs (immortalised by Mark master in his painting that used to hang above the noticeboard), past the Magistrate's bungalow, the Rest House and the Urban Council Office is one of the indelible memories that evoke nostalgic feelings in my heart. I was in my last year at Methodist Girls High School (MHS) then and I would see the Hartley boys walking or cycling (some of them riding "double" only for the pillion rider to jump off when they see a teacher or policeman) to their school, a school that I expected to go to in the normal course of events, when I was old enough. Hartley College was part and parcel of my growing up. My father, Late W N S Samuel was a teacher at Hartley College ever since I could remember. I remember the time when my father took me as a little boy to the teacher counsellor's office he occupied opposite the then middle hall. That was the first time I saw a filing cabinet and the metal drawers smoothly sliding in and out thrilled me. Our house used to be a focal point for Hartley boys in those days as students from the Eastern Province often stayed at our house; Navaratnasingam and Ramraj Edwards to name two of the more prominent of them.

Many of our parents' friendships and socialising were among teachers of Hartley College and MHS. My mother, and later after her death, my grandmother, would complain that my father was always running around on school business, and not spending time with the family. Hartley was my father's lifeblood. Those were carefree days with not even a hint of the political strife and the related social changes that were to later fill our life with menace. I could remember walking around each of the short pillars that lined the cliff edge on the seaside of the KKS road, not concerned about falling off, onto the big rocks underneath. Rajaratnam Master (one of the famous Maths teachers those days) was our neighbour and two of his children Rajani and Rajaseelan were my good friends and classmates from my time in Nursery (then held in a little tin roof classroom behind the old Church, later in the YMCA tutory). Rajaseelan and I often walked together to or from MHS, it being inappropriate for me to walk together with Rajani, as she was a girl.

Even while I was at MHS I liked going to watch Cricket and Football matches at the playground of Hartley College. If I was lucky I might even get some Tiffin from Vairavar's kitchen at teatime. Well-known Deva Master, tall and smart in well-pressed clothes and well-shone shoes was the person I wanted to emulate when I grew up. My heroes were Buell, Sathananthan (Pariyariar) and Selvanantharajah. I remember Buell, who stayed at the school hostel, visiting our house and saying how surprised he was at the leniency and relaxed atmosphere at our home; he had expected my father to be a strict disciplinarian at home, which he certainly was not. I also remember Buell and his friends challenging the local boys at the beach to a game of sadugudu, which the latter played regularly, and telling me afterwards not to tell my father about it. The Annual Inter-house Sports Meet was another occasion I enjoyed attending and still remember vividly the relay race between old boys and present students when Jothiravi Master (who was a well known for his interests in sports), taking on the baton while the old boys were trailing badly went on to overtake the present student team to the wild cheers from both the students and the spectators.

Sadly, Grade six, and the next year, Grade seven, was abolished at Hartley the year that I was to join the school. I went to St John's College where Mr K Pooranampillai my great uncle was then the Principal. While in retrospect I do not regret that opportunity as St John's widened my outlook and groomed and developed me, at that time I was thoroughly disappointed at not being able to go to Hartley College and despondent at leaving home. I vividly remember the first time that Hartley beat St Johns at cricket, at St John's grounds at that. My heart was fully behind Hartley and I was bursting with pride although as a Johnian I

could not vocalise that openly to my classmates. The two years at St John's stretched into five years and I had completed my O' levels by the time I joined Hartley as a student.

Coming back to Hartley for me was unexpectedly traumatic. Suffice to say that my father was by then Deputy Principal and responsible for school discipline. There was also the intrusion of politics and religion in ways that do not naturally belong in student life. Some old friends were in my class; Rajaseelan was there to help settle me in. Others included Rathakrishnan an old classmate from Nursery and Jeganathan (Kandasamy Master's son), Jeevanayagm and Logarajah, old MHS classmates. It is interesting to note then the Member of Parliament for Point Pedro electorate late P Thuraiatnam's son Sivakantharajah also joined the school at the same time as I and became good friend with me although I lost touch with him once we left school. I was thrilled to have Premraj our cricket captain and all-round sportsman in our class. In the previous year, still at St John's, I had watched him run through the St Patrick's batsmen with his brilliant bowling at their ground helping Hartley snatch victory in the last minutes of the game. We also had other good cricketers in our class; Raghavan and Sivaraman come to mind. Another notable classmate was Dillip, reputedly a hit with the MHS girls at that time. I was glad to hear recently that our old classmate Mr N Theivendrarajah has been appointed as the Principal of Hartley College in December 2005.

The Grade eleven classes was a hybrid of the cream of Maths and Bio students, having Physics and Chemistry lessons together but separating for Botany and Zoology or Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics as the case may be. Botany was taught by Mrs Balasubramaniam a superb teacher who never raised her voice but was able to quieten and control the class by just raising her eyebrow. Mr Sivapathasundaram was our Zoology teacher by whom I was fortunate to also be coached in Badminton. Mr Jeganathan, an intense but kind hearted man who rarely smiled, taught us Chemistry. He had by that time completed, by self study, all five parts of ICMA, but his teaching was not compromised by his obvious impending career move. Mr Pathmanathan our Physics teacher was a mild mannered and easy-going person whose dress sense and hair styling was from the 1950s.

We were very fortunate in having such good teachers and the class gave a very good account of itself at the A' levels leading to a number of us entering university. The year after the A' level exam, waiting for the results was a more relaxed time. I remember going swimming in the sea off the lighthouse at "vattapparai" (the round reef). This, some of us in the class did on a few occasions during school hours with the permission of the Principal (my father); looking back he was brave to permit this without supervision, but we "knew" it was safe. What other escapades my classmates got off to, I do not know as by virtue of my status as the Principal's son I was not privy to those matters. We had prayers on Friday mornings and the Christians went to the church for this while the Hindu prayers were held in the upper hall of the school. Two teachers who lead the Christian prayers and whom I remember with fondness are Mr D R Arumainayagam and Mrs Pushpam Selvaraj who were also family friends and a great source of support to my father.

We had a British volunteer teacher from Northern Ireland, Roy Kelly, spending a year at the school teaching us English for the combined Bio-Maths class. He had a very relaxed outlook and style somewhat incongruent to the Victorian values and customs that our society held on to. He joined in on the Badminton training in the old turret building, and when it got hot and sticky he would take his shirt off and play bare bodied, scandalising us. He also trained and staged the drama production "She stooped to conquer". When he taught us that the word "of" was pronounced "ov" with a "v" and not with an "f" as spelt, I began to have doubts about his credentials (He was of course right). When he and his wife entertained students at home they would bring the food to the table in the pots they were cooked in rather than dishing them out, a practice, which we thought, was primitive. He and his wife who taught at MHS helped in a small way to widen our horizon. My father also took a lesson each week on "general knowledge". This class was meant to prepare us to go out into the world,

and in a small way helped prepare us also for life overseas where a large number, if not the majority, of students in our class have ended up; an outcome we did not even remotely imagine at that time.

I look back with fondness at my association with Hartley through the various links my family had with the school, which was much longer than the three years I spent at Hartley. The school was established and built up through the vision, dedication and hard work of many people, starting with the likes of Rev. Dr. Peter Percival, and Rev. Hartley himself and rose to prominence during the time of Mr Pooranampillai, the architect of modern Hartley. In addition to them, I am grateful to the many unnamed people who worked away quietly to build the school and the lives of individual students over the years. Vadamradchy, the brain of Sri Lanka, is very fortunate to have such a school in its midst.

Editor's Note: Dr Vasikaran Samuel- is a Pathologist attached to the Hospital, University of Western Australia. He is an old boy of Hartley College.

Editor's Choice of Tamil Proverbs:

Maamiyaar udaithaal mann kudam. Marumagal udaithaal pon kudam(If the mother in law breaks it, it is a mud pot. If the daughter in law breaks it, it is a golden pot)

Kudigaran Pechchu Vidinja pochu(A drunkard's words are gone when the next day dawns)

Nirai Kudam Neer Thalumbaadhur kurai kudam thalumbum(Fully Filled pot does not spill (literally))

Thani Maram Thopu aagadhu(A single tree will never make an orchard)

Mullai Mullal dhaan edukkanam(A thorn can only be removed with another thorn)

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How Time Flies

Ms Dharshika Gnansundaram

It seems like it was only yesterday I was travelling to Sri Lanka for the first time to meet my cousins, when in reality it was almost 10 years ago. How time flies.....

As I strolled along the crowded streets I remember seeing a sickly man scorching under the hot sun, sitting in front of the entrance to Liberty Plaza Shopping Centre in Colombo, holding a small silver tin up towards the passers by. Struggling to stand he collapsed back upon his single leg, suffering. My mind could still recollect the tears I have observed in his clothes, which were hardly visible through the large dirt stains, which covered his clothing, unkempt hairs and malnourished body. Struggling to understand why this injured man was on the road and not in a hospital I clutched my father's hand and moved closer to him in fear and sadness. It was something for persons like me who is born in Australia could not understand.

I could still remember how excited I was when my parents told me that we were going to Sri Lanka for the Christmas vacation. The image remains vividly in my mind, as my parents told my sister and I that we would finally meet our cousins, whom we had never met in person, except in the photographs sent to us on birthdays. I recall the overwhelming excitement I felt, which was preventing me from doing my school homework that day. Instead I spent the night lying on my bed dreaming of conversations and games that I would to play with my cousins in Colombo.

Landing in Colombo International Airport was a surreal experience. I had never seen so many Sri Lankan's in one place... well except of course at a wedding function. I was so incredibly glad to step off the plane, ten hours in a cramped seat and horrible plane food was enough to dampen even my enthusiasm. I could remember stepping out of the plane and standing in the middle of the runway where a large red and blue bus was waiting to take us to the airport terminal building. I was so excited as I was going to see my cousins. Meeting my aunts, uncles and cousins I hadn't seen since I was five years old was one of the most emotional moments in my life. I realised how many milestones I have missed in their lives and it struck me that even though we were an ocean apart, we are still bound by an inextricable bond between our families. This is what we refer as the concept of extended family.

The month I spent in Sri Lanka touring the upcountry, tea factories and the mountains were the most exhilarating experiences I have had. A decade later, I could still vividly recall each and every moment as if it happened yesterday and it is unlikely that they would ever be forgotten. However as I reminisce about the good times I have had in Sri Lanka 10 years ago, I have realised that the time I spent in Sri Lanka has also broadened my horizon in many ways. I remember the poverty and suffering that the country faced due to the prevailing ethnic war. The poor lived on the streets lining all the busy intersections with no home to live, or food to eat and nothing to protect them from the harsh weather. Most of them were children that were the same age as I was, abandoned and homeless. Sometimes I ask the question in my mind: Why there is a disparity in the standard of living of people in different parts of the world?

Brimming with memories and thoughts, I can easily identify, even now, all the ways the trip to Sri Lanka changed my outlook as a person. For one I had finally been able to fill that emptiness in my life, that hole that existed because of the great distances between our families. However, one of the most poignant memories I have would not have been when we were watching the cute baby elephants, but of that poor, lonely, one-legged man who had no home, no food and no family.

Thinking about that man, even at tender, young age, I was able to finally realise how fortunate I was to have a home, family and love and that I should cherish every single day. Suddenly, the French in-flight food didn't seem so bad anymore and the seating wasn't cramped and I realised the distance between my loved ones wasn't so far. How time flies.... capture every precious moment.

Editor's Note: Ms Dharshika Gnansundaram is an offspring of Hartleyite. She is graduated from the UNSW in 2005 and working as an accountant in the private sector.

Flashback of AGM/Dinner of HCPPA-NSW Branch: 2005



Secretary Paskarajothy delivering his address



Blossoming Opera Singer-Ms Kalyani Kaneshalingam



College Song by Hartleyites



Introduction of Chief Guest by Selva



Address by Chief Guest Dr David Gunaratnam



Tamil Valthu by Offspring of Hartleyites

Healthy Life Style: An Overview

Dr Sithamparapillai Thava Seelan

The most important message in a nutshell is “Eat less and walk more”. Some times it is harder to achieve. Healthy eating is the mainstay of keeping healthy and maintaining healthy weight. Australian guide to healthy eating recommends 55% of carbohydrate, 30% of fat and 15% of protein of daily intake.

Carbohydrate: The concept of dietary carbohydrate has evolved immensely in the past decade. Glycaemia index (GI) is a revolutionised factor, which has enormous implications of not only people with diabetes but for everybody. There is no one way of eating a healthy diet, but generally it is recommended a high carbohydrate content which has a low GI value as the optimal diet for most people most of the time. The advantage of low GI diet is this carbohydrate is metabolised slowly thus maintaining the blood sugar levels at low levels. Therefore there is a sustained energy rather than a surge of energy release. Sustained energy levels for a few hours help to maintain satiety or feeling of fullness and suppress frequent hunger. Low GI index food helps not only to maintain blood sugar levels it also helps to control weight and reduces the cardiovascular risks. The following table gives a general overview of the food varieties and their GI values.

| Food type | High GI food (>70) <i>Best avoided</i> | Medium GI food (56-69) <i>Restrict amount</i> | Low GI food (<55) <i>Highly Recommended</i> |
|------------------|---|---|--|
| Bread | White bread Wholemeal bread | | Multigrain bread Stone ground flour bread Sourdough bread |
| Rice | Jasmine Parboiled rice Australian long grain rice Australian short grain rice Sticky / glutenous rice | Basmati Doongara | Long grain Basmati Doongara Imported Japanese rice (Koshikikari) |
| Cereals | Most processed cereals | | Rolled oats, Barley Semolina Muesli All-Bran cereal |
| Noodles & pasta | | | Vermicelli Spaghetti Instant noodles Ravioli / Tortellini |
| Indian food | Pongal | Doosai (Rice flour) Idly (rice flour) Poori String hoppers (white) Pittu (white rice) | String hoppers (red rice) Pittu (red rice) |
| Fruits | Mango, pineapple | | Apple, citrus, stone fruit, banana, grapes, melons |
| | Potato, Brown rice | Sweet potato, taro | Legumes, Back gram, |

What Type of Fat: One needs to consume 30% of fat daily in his diet. We know no fat is no good, then again it is important to choose the right fat in right quantity. As for carbohydrate the choice of fat should be based on the amount and type of fat we consume in our daily food. It is healthy to consume more of polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats than saturated fat. Saturated fat increases the cholesterol levels and the bad cholesterol fractions of triglyceride and LDL whereas polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats decrease cholesterol levels. However a small amount of saturated fats are necessary for a body (Less than 20gms per day) and overall limitation of fat intake should be maintained. Often we hear people are satisfied saying “We buy everything light”. We need to know what the food label claims actually mean. The following table summarises the label facts.

| Food label | Meaning |
|--------------------|---|
| “Low fat” | Fat amount less than 3gms / 100gms food Or 1.5gms / 100mls of liquid |
| “Reduced fat” | Fat content should not be more than 75% of a comparable food. |
| “Cholesterol free” | Cholesterol less than 3mg / 100gms food + must be either low fat / low in saturated fat |
| “Light” or “Lite” | May refer only to colour or flavour of a food. May also be used with terms like “low fat” or “reduced fat”. |

The message here is go for low fat and reduced fat and always look for fat content and the type of fat in the food. Most saturated fats are found in animal products such as meat, seafood and dairy products. It is noteworthy that most plant oils have high content of poly and monounsaturated fats except coconut oil which has a high content of saturated fat. As saturated fats increase the cholesterol levels in human body these foods need to be consumed in a controlled manner.

As it was mentioned earlier moderate consumption of polyunsaturated fats is necessary as our body needs these essential fatty acids which are not produced by our body. Plant products such as sunflower oil, corn oil, soybean, gingerly oil and Flora proactive margarine have high content of polyunsaturated fats. In the daily allocation of fat in our diet we need to include most with monounsaturated fats. These include olive oil, almond oil, and canola oil.

How Much Protein: The recommended daily allowance for dietary protein for a healthy adult is 0.75 gm per Kg body weight. For example a 60Kg man needs to consume about 45gms of protein per day. Sources of protein are meat, poultry, fish, eggs, seeds and nuts, soy products, and beans and lentils. One boiled egg contains approximately 6gms of protein. One slice of cheddar cheese has 7gms, 100gms of chicken has 29gms and 100gms of roasted peanuts contain 24gms of protein.

In addition to the general healthy food choice it is also important to restrict daily calorie intake and regular physical activity should always be emphasised. It is not possible to give a comprehensive food chart here. However I believe that the above basic facts about foods would benefit the readers in following the general rules of healthy life style.

Editor’s Note: Dr Thava Seelan was one of the former Presidents of HCPPA-NSW. He is the founder of Park View Medical Centre in Toongabbie.

Cancer: Is There Any Hope?

Dr Suntharam Sabe Sabesan
James Cook University, Townsville Hospital, Townsville

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the world, with expected incidence of 30-40% by the time we reach the age of 75 years. The word “Cancer” inspires great fear and panic in many people’s mind, most of the times, worse fear than the bombings and shelling most of us experienced in our homelands in the North-East part of Sri Lanka. This is due to its ability to cause death in many patients.

The death rate from cancer is higher in developing countries like in Sri Lanka than the developed countries like in Australia. Even in Australia, chance of dying from cancer is higher among country dwellers and indigenous people than the urban dwellers and non-indigenous respectively. This is due to the lack of screening programs, inferior treatment options and nihilistic attitude on the part of the community and the health care providers.

Some of the common myths about cancers include “ cancer causes death in everyone who is affected by it”, “ cancer patients do not lead normal life”, “ every cancer is aggressive”, “ cancer death is always painful”, “and cancer treatment always has side effects”. These myths may have been true, say 10-15 years ago. But this is not true in today’s technologically advanced world

Not every cancer has the same effects. Lung cancers in general are more aggressive than prostate cancers. Cancers like leukemia (Blood cancer), Lymphomas (Cancers of the lymph glands) and testicular cancers are curable ones. Breast cancers and bowel cancers are curable in high proportion of patients if they are picked up at early stage and treated properly. In breast cancers, even if it has spread to the auxiliary lymph glands (glands under the armpits), addition of chemotherapy and radiotherapy could improve the cure rates. What most people fear are the incurable and metastatic cancers (cancers that have spread to organs like liver, bone, brain and lungs) since they are mostly fatal. However, with advances in medical technology, the survival time has increased in many cancers. For example, Metastatic colon cancer with spread to other organs led to death in 6-9 months about 6-10 years ago. Now, with the introduction of modern chemotherapy regimens, people with this condition are living up to a period of 2 years.

Even if the survival of the patient cannot be improved, the quality of life can be improved with appropriate medical treatment. Palliative care services in Australia provide excellent symptom control; community support and terminal care to the needy patients. With the use of modern analgesics (pain-killers), pain has not been a major issue. Similarly other symptoms from cancers are well controllable with certain medication and intervention. Therefore, symptom control and subsequent quality of life are much improved during day-to-day life as well as terminal phase. In many cases, one needs chemotherapy and radiotherapy to improve symptoms. For example, a patient with large liver cancer and liver pain, painkillers alone may not be enough. If we use higher doses of morphine, patients could have side effects including sleepiness and loss of concentration. If one could shrink the cancer with chemotherapy, we

should expect reduction in pain and the need for higher doses of painkillers. Radiotherapy can also shrink cancers in other organs and improve symptoms.

Other major myth is that cancer treatment always causes side effects. Breast cancer and leukemia chemotherapy are quite toxic but they are important if a patient would like to live longer. With the availability of modern anti emetics (drugs that stop vomiting) and immune boosting medication, the quality of the patient's life does not seem to be affected much. Even if there are serious side effects, side effects can be minimized with proper amount of doses in the subsequent cycles of treatment.

An important difficulty for the people with cancer is the uncertainty related to the length of the period of survival. When people talk about cancer, they normally talk in terms of average survival period. It means 50% of patients live longer than the average period and 50% live shorter than that of average period. It is difficult to predict where one person would be. Therefore, one should be careful when they give predictions about the length of survival time. This could, if predicted wrongly without due consideration of the scientific factual information, it could demoralize further an already devastated patient. Since the future is unpredictable, best approach is to accept the reality in life and live normally as long as possible with some rearrangement of the priorities.

In short, with the availability of technologically advanced medical treatment options, Cancer has become like any other chronic disease where people have to keep living normally with hope and optimism.

Editor's Note: Dr Suntharam Sabesan, an old boy of Hartley College, is now working as a Consultant-Medical Oncologist at Townsville Hospital and Senior Lecturer at Medical School, James Cook University

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Where There is a Will There is a Way-Food for Thought

Ms Vythehi Elango

On the Boxing Day of 2004, one massive wave crashed upon the coast of a small island in the Indian Ocean. Its' immense force in only a few minutes wreaked such havoc that as it subsided, it had washed away the lives of at least 40,000 and obliterated the livelihood and homes of more than 2,500,000 others. Think back to the global shock and grief that was caused by the loss of those innocent lives, and the millions more in that region devastated by that tsunami. The stories and images of that black day touched and saddened us all. The world banded together to rehabilitate the countries affected and work to reduce the impact of such a natural disaster in the future.

Yet, as we sit here and comprehend the enormity of the death and lasting trauma left behind by this natural disaster and the human plight of survival, the destructive effect of this tsunami is repeated and felt each and every day as we stand by and watch the 30,000 children dying around the world due to poverty. Most of us would agree that our lives are the way they are purely due to the luck of our birth. We are not special. We are just lucky that we were born into families with the capability to provide, and live in nations where we have access to education, health services and the wealth to, for the most part, envision a bright future.



A picture does indeed speak a thousand words, and images like those above are sadly only one of the many that depict true deprivation around the world we live in. Had the dice rolled differently, we could be living as 1.2 billion people around the world do, in extreme poverty (defined by the World Bank as those living on less than US\$1 per day adjusted for purchasing power parity). The good news is that the worst aspects of poverty and hunger can be eradicated in our lifetime. The reality is that it is we, the citizens that must do it by showing our leaders that the social will to eradicate global poverty exists. If that social will is demonstrated, the political will to end poverty will follow.

Put our money where the needy mouths are - commitment and follow-through

The United Nations (UN) Millennium Summit in 2000 resulted in 189 member countries signing to achieve the UN's inclusive Millennium Development Goals. These include:

- the overall aim of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger by 2015.
- the key financial element of these countries ultimately committing of 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) to overseas development aid. This commitment is in line with that made by 22 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development member (OECD) countries at the UN General Assembly in the 1970s

Australia's contribution falls well below this target with an estimated donation of 0.30% of its GNI for 2006/2007 based on the latest budget. Australia with this contribution is likely to be ranked at 15th amongst the 22 OECD members. Following the government's commitment to increasing aid to \$4bn by 2010, Australia is still likely to remain 18th with a 0.36% contribution. We must apply the necessary pressure to

ensure that the government does indeed commit 0.7% by 2015. Also necessary is an emphasis on fair trade. Governments of developed countries continue to heavily subsidise their own producers while pressuring developing countries to open their own economies.

We have all heard the negative speak such as “what is the use in giving money to these countries where there is rampant corruption?” We have to remember that many of these countries are new, having won their freedom only in the last 60 years. The USA at that point of its existence still had slavery and segregation. Australia relinquished its White Australia Policy only in the 1970s – seventy years after federation. The young nature of these countries must be kept in perspective. World leaders have made the commitment. Now, the money must be put where the most in need mouths are.

Hitting the Bullseye – the importance of effective and targeted aid

The value and importance of reaching the target of 0.7% of GNI is reduced if the aid is not targeted appropriately. Over the past 10 years, the focus of Australia’s overseas aid budget has slowly shifted, with governance and state intervention taking priority over basic human needs, education, disease treatment and prevention. Two fundamental areas where Australian aid should be targeted are, towards:

1. alleviating the burden of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. These diseases stand as a barrier to reaching basic health levels and an acceptable quality of life for the world’s poorest. The good news is the preventative measures for these diseases and treatments are both affordable and can easily be provided. Yet, sadly, together they cause more than 6 million deaths per year causing economic loss, social disintegration and political instability.
According to a paper by AusAID, HIV/AIDS is reversing annual economic growth in the most affected countries by 1-2%. As a result, Gross National Produce (GNP) in these countries could drop by up to 40% by 2020. In sub Saharan Africa, the labour force could fall by 30% by 2020 due to HIV AIDS. In Zambia, the entire output of teacher training colleges will not be enough to replace the number of teachers lost to AIDS.
2. micro credit, the provision of small repayable interest bearing loans to the poor to help them start small enterprises to generate an income. Microcredit financing programs such as the Grameen Bank originated in Bangladesh by Professor Muhammad Yunus have proven to be one of the most effective tools in alleviating poverty for the world’s poorest. Unfortunately, micro finance has been largely ignored in Australia’s overseas aid program, representing only 6 cents in each \$100 spent on aid abroad. Again, in the 2006/2007 budget, this valuable element of microfinance has not been adequately recognised in foreign aid expenditure.

Income derived from these small loans not only assists the direct recipient, but also extends to their families to provide food, medicines and education – those most in need are given a hand-up vs. a hand-out. According to the *State of the Micro credit Summit Campaign report 2005* (refer <http://www.microcreditsummit.org/>), as at 31 December 2004, 92 million borrowers had been reached by micro credit. Of these, 66.6 million were among the world’s poorest. Assuming 5 members in each family, this translates to some 333 million family members impacted by micro credit – or one quarter of the world’s poorest.

Where there is a will there is a way - make poverty history

Over the past year, momentum behind this issue of global poverty has escalated, demonstrated by countries pardoning third world debt and the success of the Live 8 concerts held last year to complement the G8 Summit. Every instance of social evolution has been initiated by a few brave people who have stood up, overcome resistance and ignored consequences to take that first crucial step towards a better world. In India, it began with Gandhi in the 1930s. In South Africa the African National Congress (ANC) and Nelson Mandela started campaigning in the 1940s to show the West that unarguably Apartheid and oppression had to go. In the USA, in 1956, Rosa Parks moved to the back of a bus to begin the end of segregation.

It is this undeniable and seemingly endless tragedy - global poverty of which I am becoming increasingly aware, that has finally spurred me to action. So recently, I have become involved with a group called RESULTS (Refer <http://www.results.org.au>), which aims to generate the political, and social will to end poverty. RESULTS work by increasing awareness within the media and our politicians of the existence of poverty and the proven tools that exist to combat it.

Having had the ability in this democratic country I live in to resonate a political voice for over 7 years, it is only now that I understand that I can be a catalyst to help instigate change within the social and political heart of global consciousness. So, I have started meeting with and writing letters to my Member of Parliament (MP) and our Senators, educating them on the issues and solutions and letting them know that their constituents care about global poverty. When I pick up a newspaper and read about poverty in Sudan, Niger, East Timor, Asia and around the world, I write a letter to the editor, applauding the paper for putting these issues in the headlines and the limelight, where they deserve to be. Knowledge is power after all, increasing my knowledge and that of politicians and discussing these issues with those around me will unleash this power and change.

While some will work behind the scenes to generate political and social awareness to show that there are in fact votes in foreign aid and addressing poverty, some of us do this by fundraising or through hands-on work by visiting and working in areas like Vanni in the North of Sri Lanka and parts of Africa. The goal is the same though the ways and means of fulfilling the objective may be different – all Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) play a critical role in this regard. We too could help to make the poverty as history through whichever organisations appeal to your sentiments or lifestyle. Be it TRO/TYO, Oxfam, World Vision, Caritas or RESULTS, they are all vital in achieving the goal of making poverty history and can only be as strong and effective as their donor and volunteer base. A list of some of the many organisations working towards the goal of poverty eradication can be found at: <http://www.makepovertyhistory.org.au/coalition.html>.

“You may never know what results come from your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result.” – Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi also said that the future depends on what we do in the present. So, for those of us that are indeed free, we all have responsibility NOW, to speak up for the one third of humanity that are trying to survive in a world that can, but has not yet, chosen to let them actually live. We all need to generate that will; both publicly and politically to in this era of abundance, to bring about that wave of change and turn the tides of poverty around the globe so that they too, one day soon in our lifetime, will live to see a bright future.

Editor’s Note: Ms Vythehi Elango is an offspring of Hartleyite. She is a qualified Accountant and currently she is attached to Group Reporting Branch of Westpac Bank in Sydney.

Why Tamil is a Classical Language

Tamil Language is of considerable antiquity. It predates the literatures of other modern languages by more than 2000 years. Its oldest work contains parts that date back to about 200 BCE. It constitutes the only literary tradition indigenous to India that is not derived from Sanskrit. Its literature arose before the influence of Sanskrit in the South India. It has its own poetic theory, its own grammatical tradition, its own aesthetics, and, above all, a large body of literature that is quite unique. It contains its own extremely rich and vast intellectual tradition.

The quality of classical Tamil literature is such that it is fit to stand beside the great literatures of Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Chinese, Persian and Arabic. Tamil is one of the great classical traditions and literatures of the world. The whole world knows the Thirukural, one of the world's greatest works on ethics. It is merely one of a myriad of major and extremely varied works that comprise the Tamil classical tradition. There is not a facet of human existence that is not explored and illuminated by this great literature.

Tamil is one of the primary independent sources of modern Indian culture and tradition. Tamil has its own works that are considered to be as sacred as the Vedas and that are recited alongside Vedic mantras. It is the most conservative of the Dravidian languages.

The fact that Greek is universally recognised as a classical language in Europe does not lead the French or the English to claim classical status for their languages. To qualify as a classical tradition, a language must fit several criteria: it should be ancient; it should be an independent tradition that arose mostly on its own not as an offshoot of another tradition, and it must have a large and extremely rich body of ancient literature. Tamil meets each of these requirements. It is extremely old. It arose as an entirely independent tradition, with almost no influence from any other languages; and its ancient literature is indescribably vast and rich.

Source-Prof G Hart, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Why I Want To Be A Lawyer

Ms Lucia Somasundaram

The notion of a lawyer conjures up images of ambulance chasers, under pressure to increase billable hours, defending ruthless clients in front of unsympathetic judges in court. All these seem like good reasons to avoid the legal profession like the plague. Being fully aware of the pitfalls of the profession, what could possess anyone to want to enter its supposedly hallowed halls?

The answer is simple, it's JUSTICE. The profession's commitment to justice is what makes it special. This commitment attributes the element of morality to what lawyers do. Although, it may seem like there are times when the law has failed to meet its primary aim and that this would be a good reason for throwing in the towel. As Justice Kirby of the High Court said in a speech to recent law graduates, this should provide a stronger reason for lawyers to work harder to prevent injustice from occurring again. Justice Kirby, who has sat on the High Court bench for over 10 years and has been a lawyer for more than 30 years appeals to all lawyers to always remain idealistic and optimistic because this is what will make the profession and the system, which we work in, stronger. This motto should remain true for all professions and seeks to fulfil the Hartley College motto, *fiat lux*, which means 'let there be light'. By working towards the most ideal forms of any system, we strive to achieve the very best standards possible and maximise the potential benefits of every situation. Thus by being the generators of ideas and implementing ideals, we bring light into the areas that we work in.

When I first contemplated what field I wanted to enter into during the HSC there were so many choices in front of me that I didn't know where to start. More often than not having multiple choices in front of us is a privilege but very often it feels like a curse. This is how I felt during the HSC when I was not sure which area appealed to me the most. I had this feeling like I wanted to save the world or at least make it a better place in my own small way but I didn't know which was the best path to employ to achieve my goal. I was attracted to psychology, social work, commerce, communications and law. Ultimately I opted to enter Commerce. It seemed to me the course, which offered the widest range of options in terms of what majors and electives I could study and allow me to explore a number of the other areas I was interested in.

I quickly discovered that you cannot study multiple areas at one time and that choices are very much determined by what type of career you wish to embark upon in the future. For example if you wanted to work in a chartered accounting firm, you must have an accounting major in order to maximize the possibility of employment. I decided to undertake an accounting major as my fall back plan, because you can always get a job as an accountant. I discovered that I really enjoyed studying law and it was an area that I wanted to pursue further.

So, after completing my commerce degree, I applied for and was successful in entering postgraduate law at UTS. Studying law has been a paradigm shift for me. For the first time in my university life I really enjoy what I am studying and am able to see and be motivated by the end game. Every task I undertake is done with the bigger picture in mind. Discovering what you really want to do in life is no easy task but once you 'let there be light' and discovers your passion and put in the hard work, the rewards can be immense.

Working part time in the field, I have already had a preview of what is to come in the future. I am under no delusions and am fully aware that long hours, difficult colleagues, and trying clients lie in wait. But the potential benefits of the intellectually stimulating material,

constantly challenging and diverse cases and people you meet make it all worthwhile. The opportunities to achieve real justice are the goals that really motivate many lawyers to continue investing their best efforts into cases and the chance to undertake pro bono work and assist those who are suffering most at the hands of injustice can be the most rewarding element of all.

Long-term prospects for a legal career are diverse and far-reaching. When the appeal of high profile clients and large firms wears away, there is opportunity to reinvest knowledge back into the community through policy development and legislative drafting. There is also the equally rewarding career of academia where you can train the lawyers of tomorrow in the values that enable you to be a person of integrity in an often challenging environment.

No matter what profession we enter we should aim to follow the Hartley way and 'let there be light' and be an example of what hard work and following your dreams can achieve. When we are successful we should always remember to give back to the community that supported us. By being the light we can all make the very best of the talents each of us has been given.

Editor's note: Ms Lucia Somasundaram is an offspring of Hartleyite and she has a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Sydney University. At present, she is reading for a Masters Degree in Law at UTS.

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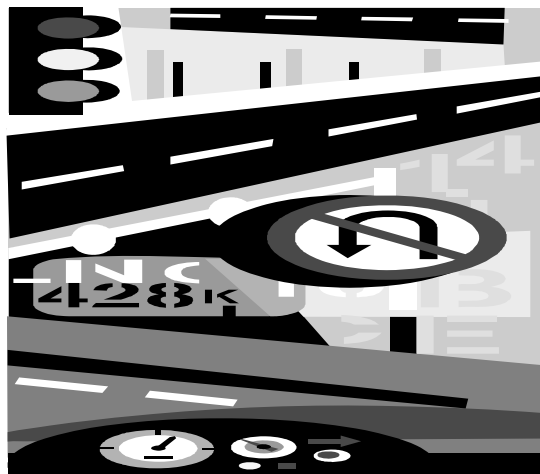
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