

Palmyra

**Newsletter of the Hartley College Past Pupils Association
New South Wales Branch, Australia
February 2003**

From the Editors desk...

Dear Hartleyite,

Welcome to the second edition of *Palmyra* for 2002/03. During the Christmas school holidays two members from the Committee visited Point Pedro and have made contact with our alma mater. We have included reports on their first hand experience. 2002 was not a strong year for Harley in the academic sense as illustrated by the examination results (page 8, reprinted from Colombo Hartleyite).

Committee matters

The Committee has been working towards raising funds towards the purchase of a plot of land to build an assembly hall. By now one of the Committee members would have contacted you regarding this, and we hope that you will assist us towards this worthy cause. A letter of appeal from Mr. P.Elango is included.

Some more photographs of our school are published depicting the current state of our alma mater. Those of us at Hartley in the sixties and seventies should have vivid memories of science exhibitions, hydro-biological survey projects, taxidermy club and so on, which were part and partial of a Hartleyite.

Events

We have incorporated a flyer (page 7) providing details of the annual family get-together to be held on 2 March 2003 at Concord Rotary Park, Rhodes. We are looking forwarding to seeing you with your family there.

Please mark the following days on your diary:

BBQ	2 March 2003
Annual Dinner & AGM	12 July 2003

Kanesh Kaneshalingam
Editor,
16 Allan Ave, Ryde 2112



**HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION
NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH, AUSTRALIA**

President for year 2003

James V Sugumar

7, Vermont Court, Seven Hills NSW 2147, AUSTRALIA

Voice: (02) 9679 7854

12 February 2003

To The Members of the Branch

Dear Friends,

I trust that you and your family enjoyed your holidays and look forward to another successful year in 2003. I wish you all the best in your endeavours.

During the break I spent some time in Sri Lanka and travelled to Jaffna. While I was in Colombo I attended the Colombo branch PPA meeting and updated them on our functions and initiatives. In my visit to Jaffna I witnessed the devastation caused by the conflict. Travelling to Jaffna by land was an experience. There is a lot of work required to achieve a decent standard of living in these areas. I was glad to see many contributions by Hartleyites in uniting the Tamil community and rebuilding the north and east. I met a number of Hartleyites and present students who gave me the plight of students. I believe that we have a responsibility to provide some upliftment to the lives of those students.

I also learned that the student (who lost his parents) has been granted a grant by the university and he did not require the financial help. Thus the Point Pedro PPA branch now holds the funds we remitted for him.

There were three issues I referred in the previous newsletter and I would like to provide an update on them.

We are happy to say that members are willingly and generously supporting our drive to raise funds to acquire the parcel of land opposite Hartley College. Every one of you should have received a telephone call from one of our committee members by now. If we missed you by an oversight, please contact me for your share of donation. We have advanced the money from the 'Life Member Trust Fund' as it was urgently required to settle the seller. We expect to raise and repay the Trust Fund the amount of \$3,000 with your kind hearts.

We propose to invite Mr T E Anandarajah IGP as chief guest for Annual Dinner 2003 on 12 July 2003 at Grantham Hall, Seven Hills. However, the travel cost has become an issue. The branch will not be able to meet this cost and unless we have a few more volunteers willing to contribute towards his travel cost, we will not be able to proceed with this plan.

Hartley has a new Principal Mr Pathmanathan and the past principal Mr Sripathy has moved on to Department of Education.

I would like to see you all in our Annual Get Together on the 2 March 2003.

Yours truly
James V Sugumar

Dear Friends,

**Purchase of Land for Hartley College Assembly Hall
Appeal for Donation**

Here I am again, on my hobbyhorse.

By, now, through the reading of our last NSWPPA Newsletter (Palmyra – Nov 2002 Issue) you all would be aware of the proposal to purchase a plot of land to build an assembly hall for Hartley College.

The old assembly hall was damaged and new classrooms had been built in its location. Presently Hartley does not have any assembly hall. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka had pledged to build an auditorium / assembly hall on his last visit to Hartley. There is no space inside the existing school premises for an assembly hall. New land has to be bought. The 8.5 lachchams land in front of the school – between Mr Jeyasingam's house and the grounds – is available. Consequent to the Central Trust Committee's request overseas PPAs have agreed to fund the purchase of this land. The cost would be SLR 800,000 for an area of 8 lachchams.

The UK Branch had so far funded SLR 350,000 for the purchase of Mrs Rajaratnam's house (to house sporting goods and implements) and SLR 500,000 for the purchase of 5 lachchams land for the assembly hall. The trust body had requested our branch along with Victoria and Canada to fund the purchase of the rest, i.e. 3.5 lachchams of land.

The NSW Branch wishes to contribute at least A\$3,000 towards this project and is collecting funds from the members.

The committee profusely thanks those who have already contributed for this worthy cause. What we have collected to date is far short of the target. You may be aware that nowadays the PPA does not collect development fund on a regular basis. We solicit your help only when the need arises.

I am appealing to other Hartleyites also to contribute to their ability and help the present and future Hartley students to have the same facilities we had as students. Remember the days you marched on to the assembly hall every Tuesday, the performance and the other events you watched sitting next to your mates, term-end fun-filled pre-assembly entertainment sessions! Well there is no assembly hall anymore for the present day Hartleyites to enjoy all these.

Those who have not been approached already would be contacted by one of the committee members soon.

With best wishes and warm regards.

P. Elango , *Committee Member*

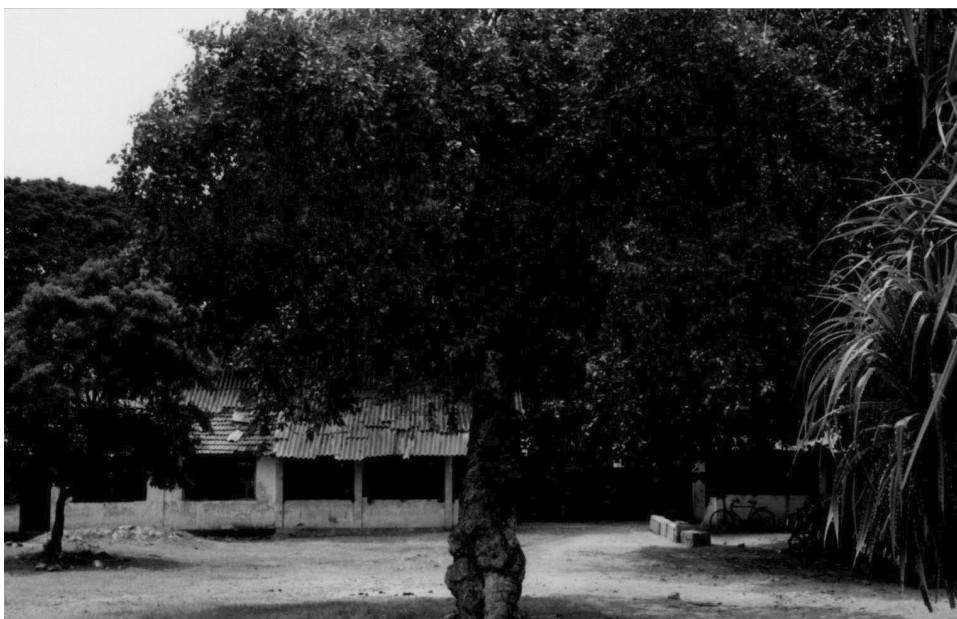
Do you recognise these buildings? Could you believe that these are parts of 21st century Hartley College? They are:



The Old Junior Hall and the Staff Room



Our Fairies' Bath Well



Naval Tree & Back of Old Office

My Visit to Hartley College

Velautham Balakrishnan, Vice President

I had an opportunity to visit our beloved College on 6/1/03 while I was holidaying in my birthplace Nelliady.

Nowadays it is a requirement of the Sri Lankan security forces that outsiders (other than current teachers, staff and student of the Hartley College) who wants to visit Hartley College has to apply for permission 3 days prior to the proposed visiting date. However with the help of my friend, Mr Selvarajah, who is a teacher at the college, I was able to visit on the same day.

I met Mr Pathmanathan who very recently joined as the new Principal for Hartley College. I briefly explained the activities of HCPPA, NSW Branch and expressed willingness to continue our services for the betterment of the college.

Mr Rajaskanthan, Deputy Principal took me around the school. Many changes to the physical structure of college had happened since my last days as student there- most of the old buildings were gone and new buildings are in their place (I was visiting Hartley College almost after 25 years). I spent almost an hour to look around the classrooms, computer room, library, laboratory and the surroundings.



Principal's Office – Mr. Pathmanathan (seated) with Mr. Rajaskanthan & Mr. Vijayan

I held discussion with Mr Pathmanathan and Mr Rajaskanthan at the principal's office. We discussed about the immediate needs of school that require assistance from outside. They identified the following;

- 1) Bookshelves for library
Books are laid on the floors and more bookshelves are needed to shelve the books.
- 2) Funds for salary to Computer teacher
Full-time teacher is required to teach the computer skills to students. Current teachers are neither trained nor have spare time to teach computing.

3) Tables and stools for laboratory

There is a proposal to expand the existing laboratory and establish separate laboratory for physics, chemistry and biology/zoology. Equipment are to be provided by others (government and NGOs). However, tables and stools have to be provided by the school.

4) Funds for repairing damaged building

I have looked at the damaged Pooranampillai building. The first floor beam of this two storey building is cracked and a side wall slightly buckled. First floor and part of the ground floor are not used due to safety concern. In my opinion these structural problem of the building can be rectified. I have recommended obtaining a structural engineer's report on this building.

When I requested estimated cost for the above, Mr Rajaskanthan told me that the estimates for items 1, 2 & 3 were forwarded previously to overseas branches. Cost for item 4 to be worked out by the school.

When I finished my discussion, it was almost lunch time. I returned my home with sweet memories of my time as a student there.

It is my wish that past Hartleyites living overseas should help the college on above needs where no other funding source (government or NGOs) is available.

Obituary

Mr. Vaithialingam Sivasubramaniam

The death of Mr. Sivasubramaniam occurred on Thursday the 30th of last month at the Westmead Hospital. Two days prior to the fatal day he developed a chest pain and while undergoing treatment at the hospital succumbed to a massive heart attack. He was 76 years old.

He was born in 1927 at Karaveddy North, Vadamaradchi, in the Jaffna peninsula. At the age of ten his mother passed away. His student days were spent at Hartley College, Jaffna Hindu College, and Jaffna College. At Hartley, he studied for about four years. He was a boarder and a school prefect. As the chief witness to an incident involving the misdemeanour of some of the boarders, he had to give evidence in a court of law. This sad episode compelled him to leave Hartley College and join Jaffna College, Vannarpannai. Thereafter, he was studying for Inter Science at Jaffna College, Vaddukodai

In 1948, without notifying his father, he joined the Ceylon Government Clerical Services and was posted to serve in the Police Department. Three years later he married Parameswary, daughter of Nadarajah and Chellammah of Karaveddy North, his native place.

In addition to his employment as a Clerical Servant, he followed the Course in Accountancy at the Maradana Technical College and also found the time and the resolve to prepare himself for the Ceylon Civil Service Examination!

In 1965 he achieved the double, by passing the Ceylon Civil Service Examination and obtaining the Diploma in Accountancy. He opted to further his career as an accountant by joining the Education Department, and was posted to serve at Kurunegala, in 1966. Two years later he was transferred to the Treasury, in Colombo. From 1968 to 1985 he served in the Treasury with distinction. His career saw a steady climb, culminating in the position of Deputy Director (Finance). He retired from the Treasury in 1985, and left Sri Lanka with his wife, in order to join his daughter's family who were residing in the United Kingdom.

His seven-year stay in UK was a new chapter in his life. He worked as an accountant with a private firm in the heart of London and also devoted a lot of his spare time to volunteer activities at the Wimbledon Pillayar Kovil. In 1987 he became a vegetarian in order to discharge fully his religious obligations. He undertook the task of printing five hundred copies of a book of hymns in praise of Lord Ganesha (Pillayar Thawthira Kovai) for distribution among the worshippers at Wimbledon Pillayar Kovil. All expenses in regard to this worthy cause were met by him. His religious activities at the Temple gave him the opportunity to be a teacher of English, for the temple priests! And he took to this self-imposed assignment in real earnest.

In 1992 he along with his wife came over to Australia to rejoin his daughter's family. His employer in London tried his very best through financial incentives to induce Mr. Sivasubramaniam to prolong his services to the company. As to be expected of him, Mr. Sivasubramaniam opted to be in the midst of his dear ones, here in Australia.

Despite his delicate health, he continued to be an active member of the community in Sydney. He volunteered his services to the Sydney Tamil Resource Centre and was elected to the post of Treasurer of the Senior Citizen's Association.

Mr. Sivasubramaniam was a soft-spoken, mild-mannered person. He was always neatly dressed and sporting a smile. At times you could discern an impish look on his face, the trait of a person who is young at heart! In many ways he was a very fortunate man. Firstly he was wedded to a charming and caring lady. Secondly his two children, a son and a daughter, who paved the way for a happy extended family.

He will be missed by his family, friends and well-wishers

(Contributed by N.Karunakaran)

Hartley College Past Pupils Association

New South Wales, Australia



ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

Sunday 2nd March 2003

Venue: **Concord Rotary Park, Rhodes**

Access via. Concord Rd, Hospital Rd, Fremont Rd. Killoola Rd

Time: 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

- Come with your family and friends to enjoy an interesting outing.
- Please bring some cooked food and enjoy a fellowship meal.
- BBQ facilities are available for heating and cooking.
- Soft drinks, finger foods, sweets etc. are on the house.
- Washroom facilities are available.
- The day's planned events include:
 - ❖ Inter house six a side 6 overs Cricket tournament for men.
 - ❖ Kilitattu for the fit ones. Over 40 Versus Under 40
 - ❖ Treasure hunt for under 16s.
 - ❖ Sadugudu(kabadi) for women. Over 35 versus under 35
 - ❖ Volleyball for women.
 - ❖ Paadduku Paaddu – all bathroom singers

For further information contact:

Somasundaram 9894 9861
Sugumar 9679 7854
Seelan 9676 5420
Manamohan 9349 6613
Sundaravel 9604 9479

Thirukumaran 9636 1693
Elango 9764 2141
Paskarajothy 9638 1380
Balakrishnan 9874 2475
Kaneshalingam 9808 1125



Yavaraium Anpudan Allaikinrome



College News

G.C.E A/L April 2002 - Results Analysis

Felicitation to the IGP



Mr. T. E. Anandarajah receiving a memento from Mr. V. Jeyarajah, President, HCCPA Colombo Branch.

The Colombo Branch of the Hartley College Past Pupils' Association hosted a dinner in honour of Mr. T. E. Anandarajah, on his being elevated to the coveted position of Sri Lanka's Inspector General of Police.

Mr. A. Rajasingham (Attorney - at - Law) and Prof. V. Nithiananthan (New Zealand) both class mates of Mr. Anadarajah, in their address recounted, the memorable days they spent together at Hartley. Mr. M. Nadarajasundram (Dean, Faculty of Business Administration, University of Jaffna) spoke about Mr. Anandarajah's achievements at College in the field of athletics.

A large number of members and their spouses participated in the dinner. Hartleyites are indeed elated over Mr. Anadarajah appointment as Sri Lanka's Inspector General of Police. We wish him all success and many more years of active service.

(a) Subject wise

Subject	No.Sat	Grade					
		A	B	C	S	F	% Pass
Physics	144	11	12	40	32	49	66
Chemistry	142	09	14	24	30	65	54
Combined Maths	111	15	10	21	17	48	57
Biology	33	04	01	13	08	07	79
Economics	63	09	10	22	16	06	91
Accounts	63	14	03	25	10	11	83
Commerce	62	02	06	19	27	08	87
Hindu Culture	20	00	03	07	09	01	95
Kar. Music	06	02	02	02	00	00	100
Tamil	36	00	03	14	07	12	67
Dr. The	17	00	04	03	08	02	88
L.S.M	41	01	05	16	12	07	83
English	237	01	01	10	31	194	18

(b) Group wise

	Maths	Biology	Commerce	Arts	Total
Number Sat	111	33	63	41	248
Passed all 3 Subjects	48	20	49	25	142
Passed 2 Subjects	17	02	06	12	37
Passed 1 Subject	15	04	04	01	24
Failed all 3 Subjects	31	07	04	03	45

Editor's Comment

The fact that 45 A/L students failed all three subjects is something to be worried about. We are very confident that Principal and Staff will identify the cause(s) and, if not already taken, take remedial measures to arrest and reverse this trend.

Awards

The following students were presented with gold medals and merit certificates, in recognition of their meritorious performance, at a ceremony held at Taj Samudra Hotel, Colombo on 3rd Nov 2002. Mr. K. Mathivanan contributed 50% of the cost of the medals.

Maths Division		
Name	Grades	District Rank
1. Kandasamy Navarubakanth	3A	2
2. Shanmuganathan Janakan	3A	3
3. Sundaramoorthy Suthakaran	3A	5
4. Thangarajah Jeyaraj	2A, 1B	8
5. Sivapathasuntharam Ranjan	3A	13

Biology Division		
Name	Grades	District Rank
1. Ratnasingam Thanigaiwasan	3A	1

Commerce Division		
Name	Grades	District Rank
1. Alagarajah Nirmal	3A	4