

# *Palmyra*

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

## *November 2005- Summer Edition*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the summer edition of *Palmyra* for 2005/06. I would like to briefly discuss and highlight some of the major tasks undertaken by the Committee.

We have introduced a new section in this edition: **Letters to the Editor**. I am pleased to inform that I have been receiving some fascinating letters from Hartleyites. After recognising the value of these letters, I have decided to publish them. I would continue to publish similar letters in the future editions of our Newsletter.

I wish to state here that the amount of enthusiasm shown by many Hartleyites in enrolling as life members. Hartleyites are always very keen to serve our beloved school. You may see the details of new life members who have recently joined in the section-**Introduction of New Life Members**. The Constitution of HCPPA-NSW Branch has provision to bring all Australian Hartleyites who are living in Australian States and Territories other than Victoria under the umbrella of HCPPA-NSW Branch.

Our organisation has successfully opened a Computer Lab for the use of students. We believe it would strengthen the teaching and learning capability of information technology at our school. The Committee would like to place on record its appreciation to those who have generously given financial support to implement this project successfully. It would welcome further financial support from Hartleyites. Please see an appeal inside this newsletter.

The annual Cricket match between Hartley old boys and Jaffna Hindu old boys held during the long weekend in October. You may see a detailed account of this cricket match inside this newsletter written by our Social Secretary. We saw a resurgent Hindu College Cricket team this year and they refused to surrender the game to Hartley College until the last delivery of the ball. I am happy to report that Hartley College has won the match again and retained the trophy.

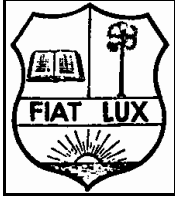
We have made arrangements to screen the Tamil film 'Ghajini' starring Suriya and Asin on the 4<sup>th</sup> December at Fairfield Cinema at 2.30pm to raise funds for our school projects. The Committee kindly solicits the support of our members in particular in making this event as a success one.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for spending your valuable time to read this newsletter. I look forward to receiving your feedback.

FIAT Lux: Let There Be Light

Yours Sincerely,

Kidnapillai Selvarajah (Selva)  
Email: [KSelvarajah@hutchison.com.au](mailto:KSelvarajah@hutchison.com.au)



**HARTLEY COLLEGE**  
(POINT PEDRO)  
***Past Pupils' Association***  
**NSW Branch, Australia**

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My fellow Hartleyites,

This has been an exciting year so far with your committee bringing many projects to fruition.

The big news is that the HCPPA (NSW) Branch has opened a new computer lab for the use of Students in the years 6-10 classes. Rajaskanthan Master and the outgoing Deputy Principal Gunaseelan Master gave their blessings and much needed support to Mr A Srikumar – the architect of the project. My sincere thanks to Mr Srikumar and all those who made cash donations.

The Trust is leading us from the front than ever before. Mr Shanmuganthan - the President along with the Acting Principal Rajaskanthan Master worked hard to secure a bus donated by the Ministry of Education. Gone are the days when Hartley College students travelled in 'Thatti Vans' for excursions and sporting events.

Our secretary Mr Paskarajothy dispatched seventy books and a set of Encyclopaedia Britannica to Hartley College recently.

I admire committee member Mr K Selvarajah's dedication and new found passion in rounding up Hartleyites from all corners of this country and bringing them in to our register of life members.

You will be pleased to know that along with the Victoria Branch we funded the travelling expenses of the Hartley College Athletic Team. Our school was placed fourth in the championships.

We are screening the film 'Ghajini' starring Suriya and Asin on Sunday 4 December 2005 to raise funds for our school projects. I seek your support in making this event a success.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday break.

With kind regards,  
**Charles Somasundram – President**

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**An Appeal to fellow Hartleyites ....**

We should be all extremely proud what Srikumar has achieved at our Alma mater (and our sister schools). It is imperative that this Self Learning Computer Centre is maintained as a valuable resource not only to the present school children but for the future ones as well. The computers we donated were already a few years old and hence will need replacements; also, there will be also software updates and changes in peripherals requirements.

On this basis, our Committee is seeking volunteers to provide an annual contribution towards this project. The funds will be used purely for the purpose of running this valuable resource. The treasurer will maintain a separate account and report on all the members contributions and expenditure. Any one interested in contributing to the on-going maintenance of this valuable deed, please contact one of the Committee members.

We urge any of our members visiting Point Pedro to see what Srikumar has done first-hand.

**K.Kaneshalingam, On behalf of the Committee**

## IT Project at Hartley College

**Aim of the Project:** Setting up a Self-Learning Computer Centre (SLCC) for Hartley College students to enhance their computer skills. The centre is aimed mainly to provide computer facilities to the students who do not have access to computers elsewhere and providing basic and advanced training to teachers and students in order to eliminate the fear of using and maintaining computers.

Prior to the project, there were two computer laboratories at our school, viz, funded by the government and the one funded by old boys living around the world.

**The Government funded Computer Laboratory –CL1:** This is located next to the Principal's office. This lab is funded by the Sri Lankan Government. This lab has 22 computers with following configuration.

1. 2 Nos IBM IntelliStation Computers– Windows 2003 Server
2. 17 Nos IBM Think Centre Computers– Windows XP
3. 3 Nos Panora Computers – Windows XP
4. 3 Nos Dot Matrix printers

These are under warranty and maintained by the suppliers. This lab is mainly for the use of students who take IT as a subject in Advance Level.

**Computer Lab funded by the old boys of Hartley –CL2:** This lab is situated below the physics lab and had 12 computers with following configuration.

1. 3 HP PIII Computers - Windows XP.
2. 6 PIII assembled Computers – Windows XP.
3. 2 PIII Computers were not in working order.
4. One 486 computer.

This lab was not used for a long time due to the following reasons.

- a) The lab was situated in a remote location so students could not be allowed without supervision.
- b) Computers in this lab did not meet the recommended Microsoft specification for Windows XP

**Computer Knowledge of Teachers and Students:** Only a few students and teachers who use computers at home have good working knowledge in computing. The majority of students, who don't have access to computers at home, particularly the students under year 10 have poor computer awareness. Very few teachers have the ability to administer computer systems and teach computer skills to students.

**Construction of Self-Learning Computer Centre:** Since the computers in CL2 were not used, the school decided to transfer these computers, furniture and other facilities to the SLCC. Computer tables were relocated from CL2 to the newly allocated room, which is next to the staff room. Tables were fixed permanently to the floor. Electrical wiring was done to accommodate computers, fans, air conditioning and lighting.

HCPPA – NSW branch donated 20 Nos of Compaq Deskpro PIII computers with the specifications of 256MB RAM and 20GB hard drive. These computers have in-built speakers and high quality graphic cards to use with any multimedia applications. Five PIII computers from CL2 were upgraded and relocated to the new room. Since there was not enough space to accommodate all the computers, two of them were moved to CL1 and two computers were relocated to the staff room. All the computers are powered through Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS). Network cabling was also done by using two 12-port switches. In future, this network can be linked to CL1. One computer from the CL2 was upgraded to 512MB RAM, 120GB Hard Drive and a DVD writer. It was configured as a Windows 2003 Server and networked with other computers, which are configured as workstation.

A Cannon Laser Printer, which can be used for special and quality printing needs, was installed in this centre. Four computers from CL2 were upgraded (with 256MB RAM) so that the same Windows XP profile could be installed. This profile has a number of useful software applications including:

- Microsoft Office XP [Word, Excel, Access and Power point]
- Microsoft Front page 2002
- Microsoft Office Publisher 2002
- Visio Standard 2003
- Britannica 2005 [Multimedia]
- Encyclopaedia of space and universal
- Pascal
- Turbo typing
- TOEFL for computer [Multimedia]
- Master English ASAP [American and British version] [Multimedia]
- Computer hardware fundamentals [Multimedia]

- Computer desktop Encyclopaedia
- Interactive computer IT fundamental [Multimedia]
- Starry night
- Oxford Dictionary
- Microsoft Excel, word, power point and access 2000 multimedia training.

Most of these software applications were donated by Hartley old boys and some of them were obtained from the school. Some applications were purchased in Colombo.

Two IT books – “The information Technology Services”, “Windows XP in Easy Steps”- are permanently attached to a table for reference. Quick references, Instructions and Guidelines are also provided. A logbook is maintained to record details of the students using the Centre. All the computers are labelled with asset numbers for maintenance purposes. During the construction of the Centre, many people contributed in several ways including school teachers, students and HCPPA members. Self-Learning Computer Centre is named after the late principal Mr. P Venugobal (2004-2005) who strived hard to develop Information Technology section at Hartley College in his time as the Principal.

The Centre was opened by Mr N. Gunaseelan (Acting Principal) on his farewell day 14 Sep 05.

**Student Account Restrictions to Minimise Technical Problems:** All the workstations are designed with the following restrictions in order to protect them from being misused.

1. Installing unauthorised software applications or games.
2. Uninstalled software applications.
3. Delete any system files.
4. Change any system settings.
5. Accessing unwanted icons including control panel applets.

IT Teacher can logon as an administrator and carry out any administration task in the computers. In an unlikely event of a major problem in the operating system or in a software application, the computer system can be restored within 15 minutes from the image. This will avoid unnecessary support calls for maintenance. The Centre will be open during the school hours and the school timetable will be modified to allocate time to all the students without affecting their normal school work. This Centre will be maintained by a team of teachers until a full time IT instructor is employed. The team members are:

Mr P Aravinthan

Mr P Paraneetharan

Mr A Thayaparan

Mr S Sivakumaran

Mr S Chandrapragash

Mr. P Aravinthan has been assigned in charge for the Self-Learning Computer Centre whilst Mr P Paraneetharan is assigned in charge for the Government-funded lab.

**Computer Skills and Training in School:** As part of this project, teachers have been given training to administer the computer system to a certain level. Two of the HCPPA Colombo branch members, viz, Mr.M .Sundar and Mr.R. Jananthan and IIS, a computer training centre director, Mr S B Prabakaran also joined in the presentations and training. IIS director Mr S B Prabakaran is willing to give free 6-hour training sessions for interested students from the school. He also allows students to use his computer lab with a nominal charge.

Some computers were handed over to our neighbouring schools and the details are:

2 Computers - Methodist Girls High School

4 Computers - Vada Hindu Girls College

1 Computer - Puttali Maha Vidyalayam

These computers were donated by past people of respective schools through HCPPA – NSW. Training also was provided to the above school teachers and students. Now all four schools IT teachers have good communication among them which will enable to develop IT infrastructure and IT skills in these schools.

**Internet Access and School Web Site:** School has a Dialup Internet connection that is very slow and connect through the school telephone line. This dial up connection is slow, most of the time.

There is only one common E-mail address for school, which is [hart1838@slt.net.lk](mailto:hart1838@slt.net.lk). There is no proper telecommunication infrastructure to have ADSL / Broad band connection in Vadamardchi.

As we all know, some members of the HCPPA-Canada created a Web site ([www.hartleycollege.org](http://www.hartleycollege.org)) almost 7 years ago and it gets updated regularly by a dedicated web team. If any other branches or the school itself, needs a web hosting, they can contact them and request a site or link on the same domain. This will reduce the maintenance and administration costs, also avoid confusion among users.



**Future Direction:** HCPPA – NSW branch can continuously provide support for development of Information Technology at Hartley College. The following activities can be considered with the help of the Old Boys of Hartley.

- Help maintaining the self-learning centre by providing spare parts for upgrading and repairing the computers if needed.
- Upgrading the Centre at a later stage.
- Supplying training materials and IT books to the school.
- Providing training for teachers and students.
- Getting a full time IT instructor for the school.
- Sending some practical exercises for students.
- IT related Exams could be arranged to encourage students.
- An award scheme can be introduced to encourage students in IT.

Special thanks go to the following people who contributed financially and in various other ways to make this project a success.

- HCPPA-NSW members who funded this project.
- Four of HCPPA-Colombo branch members voluntarily contributed to this project in several ways. They are IT professionals working in Colombo and willing to continue helping IT development at the school. Details of the team:
  - Mr M Sunthar
  - Mr R Jananthan
  - Mr N Sukanthan
  - Mr R Sanjiv
- Mr Shan Shanmuganathan, Chairman HCPPA Trust.
- Mr Paraneetharan and IT team at school and other staff and students who helped in various ways.
- Deputy principal Mr Rajaskandan
- Acting Principal Mr Gunaseelan
- Mr. R. Gnanakumar

**Written by A. Srikumar**

**Cricket Match 2005- the Annual 4th Encounter**  
**Hartley College Vs Hindu College.**

The match was played this time with traditional leather ball at Grandville Park on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2005 and it was a bright and sunny day, perhaps too perfect for the encounter. What a game as it turned out! Hartley College fielded two new players Kuganesan and Amirthalingam; others have represented last year's game. Ramakrishnan Ellangkeeran captained Hartley College, happily won the toss and elected to bat first. Hindu College fielded much younger looking players, possibly hoping to claim the Trophy for the first time since launching this annual cricket encounter between Hartley Old boys and Hindu Old Boys living in Sydney.

Sutharson and Manimaran opened the batting and put on an impressive, better than run a ball partnership 79 runs in 12.4 overs. Sutharson unfortunately was run out for 60 runs (1x6 and 8x4) Manimaran 22 runs (4x4), Krishna 20 runs (1x4), Raveendiran 19 runs (2x4) and Keeran 18 runs. Hartley College reached a good total of 173 runs for 8 wickets in the allotted 30 overs. Considering that Hindu College had better bowlers than last year, it was an excellent effort. The wicket takers for Hindu College: Suba 3/25, Gowri 2/27 and Ashok 1/32. Field of Hindu team was excellent with particular reference to Ashok and Gowri who took two catches each from behind the wicket.

Ashok and Mahindan opened the batting for Hindu College and put on a good partnership of 64 runs in 13.2 overs about 20 runs behind Hartley College at the similar stage.

Keeran introduced himself and brought Sutharson to ball and produced immediate success. Keeran and Sutharson took two wickets each and reduced Hindu College to 4/96 in 19.4 overs. At this stage Hindu college needed 78 runs from 62 balls with 6 wickets in hand and appeared a difficult task, asking for run rate of 7.67 runs per over.

However, Ashok & Suba had different plan and assaulted the bowlers with 38 runs in 25 balls, an impressive run rate of 9.12 per over and reached 4/134. At this stage, Hindu College required 40 runs in 37 balls to win and they were looked like getting the required runs comfortably.



Winning Team with the Trophy



Best Bowler - Keeran



**Best Fielder - Amirthalingam**



**Man of the match - Sutharson**

Not so easily! Hartley College Captain Keeran held his nerve and produced a slow and accurate ball to Ashok and the ball went soaring high up to deep long off for another 6's... was it!.....no it ended up in Sutharson's very safe hands just inside the ropes. From this point Hindu College lost their remaining wickets at regular intervals (141, 158, 158, 162 & 165 runs) and they were 8 runs shy of Hartley College score. What a thrilling finish to a match, only the second best to the first ever encounter, which was resulted in a tie on the very last over.

Ashok batted brilliantly for his 79 runs with three 6's, one 5's and seven 4's which threatened to take Hindu College over the line and adjudged "Best batsman". Mahindan scored 11 runs and supported Ashok in the very valuable opening partnership. The only other batsman to score double figures for Hindu College is Suba, 24 runs with two 6's and one 4's.

Captain Keeran led the way and bowled gracefully for his 5 for 29 in 6 overs, stole the show and the "Best Bowler" award. Once again the promising player for Hartley College is none other than Sutharson, who scored 60 runs, took 2 wickets for 27 runs, one direct throw run out and took three catches, unanimously presented the "Man of the match" award. Baskaran took 1 wicket for 18 runs and Amirthalingam received the "Best fielder" award for his brilliant catch and ground fielding.

Hartley College collectively out played Hindu College and retained the Trophy for the third year in a row. Congratulations to Hindu College for putting up a good fight, but we will be ready for Hindu College who is expected to come with even better force in 2006.

Well done all the players for providing a memorable cricket match!

**Bala Kuganesan-Social Secretary**

## **C.J.T. Thamotheram - the End of an Era**

*A tribute by Brian Senewiratne, MD, Brisbane.*

This is not an obituary, since I am not qualified to write one. It is just a note of thanks from a Sinhalese to a great Tamil for all he has done for the Tamil cause over a very long time. He is one of the unsung heroes of the Tamil struggle. It is a struggle for justice and freedom from Sinhala oppression, which has gone on for such a long time and at a terrible cost to Tamil lives, property and the complete destruction of the Tamil areas. What is unrecognised is the damage done to the much-treasured and closely knit family unit, which means so much to people of Jeyam's generation. People of that generation (and even later ones) have paid a terrible, but unrecognised, price in terms of social disruption, indeed 'social decimation,' as a result of the violence unleashed on the Tamils by a succession of Sinhala Governments since 1956, and more so since 1983.

The Thamoderams have made a major contribution to education in Jaffna. Jeyam's father was the Principal of a very famous school, Hartley College, a Methodist mission school founded in 1838 and was, in fact the first non-white Principal of *any* school in Jaffna. Among the many famous people coming out of that school was the brilliant Prof.C.J. Eliezer, who actually worked with Albert Einstein! Later Jeyam himself joined the staff of that school, making a significant contribution to education in Jaffna.

Jeyam emigrated to Britain many years ago. Unlike so many of his vintage, who, having left Sri Lanka, have sat on their hands doing nothing other than hallucinating about the future, Jeyam acted in his own inimitable way. He made an enormous contribution, which is largely unrecognised because of the nature of the man. A quiet, unassuming, self-effacing man, modest almost to a fault, Jeyam had a vision of what expatriate Tamils could do in a positive way.

He founded, among other things, the first Tamil School in the UK, the *Tamil Times* and the International Tamil Foundation. A few years ago he telephoned me in the early hours of the morning (!) in Australia, to say that he thought it important to get together a group of international writers to highlight the problems faced by the Tamils, would I join the group? That was typically Jeyam, his mind ever active, thinking what more he could do to further the Tamil cause. I gather that he also had the largest list of Tamils in the UK and their addresses. It was the Sri Lankan concept of an 'extended family' being applied on an international scale!

In October 1981 Jeyam founded the monthly *Tamil Times*, which was to be the voice of the Tamil expatriate community. This is the only journal run by Tamils that has been published uninterrupted since its inception more than two decades ago. It is most unfortunate that the founder of this journal had to distance himself from his brainchild. As another great Tamil, S.Sivanayagam, put it in his recently published monumental work, *Sri Lanka: Witness to History*, the *Tamil Times* "changed hands midway and subsequently changed direction as well..... it was thought to be, by a wide spectrum of Tamil expatriates, no longer capable of speaking up for an oppressed Tamil nation with any conviction or courage." When I discussed this with Jeyam at our last meeting a couple of years ago, I could see his eyes brimming with tears and could sense his disappointment and sadness.

I first met this extraordinary man in 1984 when I was campaigning to draw international attention to the genocidal massacre of Tamil civilians in the Sri Lankan South whose only crime was that they were where they were. They had every right to be where they were since they and generations of their ancestors had made a major contribution to the development and prosperity of the Sinhala South, Colombo in particular. Jeyam had extensive contacts with British parliamentarians, especially in the House of Lords, and kept them informed of what the Tamils in Ceylon were going through. Among them were Dame Judith Hart and Lord Avebury, the latter being the author of the first of a series of damning Amnesty International Reports on human rights violations in Ceylon that first drew international attention to the magnitude of the problem in that country. These are not people whom you can readily see. When I went to London to lobby them and ask for their help to apprise the international community of what went on behind the censored doors of the Sri Lankan Government, all I had to do was to mention that I was "a friend of Jeyam Thamoderam."

In 1991 I had a call from the International Tamil Foundation inviting me as their guest speaker to address their annual sessions on *The Abuse of Democracy in Sri Lanka*. I thought it was completely crazy to go more than 15,000 km for a luncheon meeting. I was then told that Mr Thamotheram had specifically asked that I be invited. I was on my way.

In the packed hall, the man who was responsible for the ITF itself and should have been on the podium unobtrusively sat in the corridor. That was the nature of the man. I am sure that the scores of people who passed him had no idea of who he was and what he had done for the Tamil cause.

After the meeting he suggested that we drive up to Cambridge to see a man who makes me proud to call myself a Sinhalese – Jeyam's long-standing friend, Adrian Wijemanne, who has made such a major contribution to the struggle of the Tamil people. The next day we were on our way to see Adrian, who was too ill to come down to London for the meeting. The historic photograph of that meeting is in Sivanayagam's book.



I met C.J.T once more 2 years later, also at the annual ITF meeting, this one addressed by Gajan Ponnambalam MP. I was there as a visitor who had just 'dropped in.' Jeyam would have none of it. He insisted that I take a place on the podium and make a contribution to the meeting. That was typically Jeyam.

When I heard that Jeyam had passed away, I said that I was going for his funeral. What, all the way to England? "Yes", I said, "I want to say that I was there." He will be cremated in London on 4.11.05, the end of an extraordinary life.

When God made Jeyam Thamotheram he must have thrown away the mould. It was my privilege to have been associated with this great man. A fitting tribute to him would be to work towards the goal which Jeyam had devoted the later years of his life – a Tamil homeland where Tamils can live in safety and without discrimination and domination by the brutal and racist regime in Colombo.

Courtesy: Tamil Nation

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### **Introduction of New Life Members**

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to introduce our new life members on behalf of the Committee. Our Committee is pleased to see a rejuvenated interest among Australian Hartleyites to join as life members.

**Ramalingam Krishnakumaran**, a person from Uduppiddy, was a pupil of Hartley College since 1975. He left Sri Lanka in 1984 and joined the Madurai University, South India to follow a Civil Engineering Degree course. After completing the Engineering degree successfully, he went to the United Kingdom in 1989 to peruse Postgraduate Studies in Water Resources Engineering and completed a M. Sc degree in Water Resources Engineering in 1993. He lived in U.K until 1995 before migrating to Australia. He migrated to Australia in the later part of 1995 and joined Sydney Water in early 1996 as an Engineer on a temporary basis. Thereafter he joined AWT Engineering in April 1997 on a contract basis. He was offered a job in AWT New Zealand office for two years in June 2000. He took that offer and went to New Zealand and worked for AWT New Zealand office. After completing the assignment in New Zealand, he returned to Sydney and joined Sydney Water as a Team Leader. He participated in many sports activities representing the College at divisional and district levels. He lives with his family in Wentworthville.

**Dr Daniel Rajasooriar** who hails from Manipay studied at Hartley College 1954 to 1956 and then entered the Vellore Medical College, South India as the only student to gain entrance from Sri Lanka in 1959. He captained the Vellore Medical College cricket team and also actively participated many other sports activities including boxing. We believe his long jump record set in 1963 still stands. After completing the MBBS degree course successfully, he returned to Sri Lanka and served in Trincomalee Nursing Home from 1968 - 1984 as a medical officer. During this period, he was awarded a scholarship in 1981 to further his interests in medicine in Japan. He was the President of the Rotary Club of Trincomalee from 1981 - 1983. He migrated to Australia in 1990. He served at Beechworth in Victoria and Swan Hill District Hospitals as a Senior Medical Officer. He moved with his family to Harvey Bay, Queensland and established Medical Practice and serves as the Director for the past ten years. He has been appointed by the Australian College of General Practice and Education as Supervisor and training Registrar GP's to attain Fellowship.

**Dr Suntharam Sabesan**, a native of Thunnalai was a pupil of Hartley College from 1980 to 1987. He entered Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 1988. It is to be noted here that he was the 3<sup>rd</sup> in overall merit list in Biology section in the GCE (A/L) examination held in 1987. In 1988, he was offered an AUSAID Scholarship to follow Medicine at Flinders University, Adelaide and graduated in 1995 with honours. He also completed FRACP (Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians) in 2003 and sub-specialised in medical oncology. He is now working as a Consultant-Medical Oncologist at Townsville Hospital and Senior Lecturer at Medical School, James Cook University.

**Dr R K Wicky** a person hails from Thenmarachchi was a pupil of Hartley College in mid 1950s and entered the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo in 1958 and successfully completed his MBBS degree in 1963. Dr Wicky mostly stayed in the hostel during his school days at Hartley. He represented the College cricket team. He lives with his family in Harvey Bay, Queensland. You may see more details about Dr Wicky in his letter to the Editor.

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Work is a four-letter word. It is up to you to decide whether that word reads DRAG or LOVE!

Parents who are afraid to put their feet down usually have children who step their toes!

Let your hook always be cast. In the pool where you least expect it, will be a fish.

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Selva

I was so enthralled to realise with what enthusiasm and vigour you and other Committee members are keeping the blue and gold flag proudly fluttering so high in Australia. Though I do not hail from Vadamarachi but from Thenmaratchi from the day I stepped into Hartley College I knew I was entering the portal of an institution that was outstanding from the rest. We all know that teachers and the soil churn out scholars and intellectuals and Hartley has produced some world class people like Prof Eliezer in Mathematics. I was supposed to be good in my maths when I joined Hartley but to my utter surprise on the first day when the whole class was given a test on mental arithmetic half the class finished not only before time but most of them had got all-right with 100% success in answering but I was still on my 5th one with one error.

When I was at Hartley, people like Thurai (Late Prof Thurairajah) and Satkunanathan (late Prof Satkunanathan-University of West Indies) and few others were in higher classes (HSC) and they were setting a blistering pace in Mathematics. In our time (late 1950s) there were only about 60 students could be admitted to the Faculty of Engineering from the whole island and at least 2-3 Hartleyites were among them. Thamby, I would like to mention about one of my contemporaries, viz, V Shanmuganayagam, we were together right through out our school life and Shan never failed to score 100% in each and every test and during the exams he never failed to walk out just after 30 - 45 minutes from the commencement of the exams. Later he went to Cambridge University to undertake Postgraduate studies in Structural Engineering. He taught at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Peradeniya and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Last time I met Thurai in Akbar Nell Hall, University of Peradeniya, when he was a sub-warden and I was caught staying in the hall with my friends. I had gone to Peradeniya to see my friends when I was at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Though Karunakeran and I played cricket for Hartley College, but he was much junior to me.

Personally I would like to thank you for taking all the trouble to trace me and also for sending me the Souvenir and Newsletter, which I value so much. I do feel so proud and elated by the activities you guys have been doing to foster our Alma mater. We are always proud to be Hartleyites. Please kindly keep going on doing good things to our school and please let me know if I can of help even in a small way.

Dr R K Wicky  
48, Nappier Street, Scarness, Harvey Bay, QLD4655.  
Email: [RKwicky@hotmail.com](mailto:RKwicky@hotmail.com)

**(Editor's Note:** I would like to thank Dr Wicky for introducing another Hartleyite as a life member)

Dear Mr. Selvarajah,

Many thanks for keeping me informed regularly about the activities of HCPPA-NSW branch and for sending me by post a copy of the latest annual Souvenir.

The Souvenir brings to my reminiscence the glorious personalities and events of that period and some of the most enjoyable days spent at Hartley College. Please pass on my warm regards to the people involved in producing such a nice and informative Souvenir. As I have promised you some time ago, I will write an article about the late Prof. C J Eliezer who was one of the most distinguished Hartleyites and my most admired guru at the then University of Ceylon (1956—1959), now the University of Colombo. for inclusion in the forthcoming HCPPA's Souvenir.

A Manicavasagar  
14/3, Waidya Road, Dehiwela, Sri Lanka.  
Email: amanicks@sltnet.lk

**(Editor Note:** Mr A Manicavasagar served as the first Director General of Telecommunications (Telecom. Regulator) in Sri Lanka, and is one of the distinguished students of the late Prof. C J Eliezer).

**Remarks:** Editor would like to receive letters capsulizing an interesting anecdote from your life at Hartley into a para and send it to me for publication.

## **Excursion and Sporting Events Transport Facility for Hartley College**

The Hartley College Trust has informed us that Ministry of Education has provided a Bus that will be exclusively used by Hartley College Students for excursions and sporting events. In this regard, all the paper works and the luxury bus were handed over to the Trust, and the acting Principal Mr.Rajaskanthan took over both on behalf of the school.

It has been informed that these are used buses given by an UK NGO/initiative known as Asia Buses Response. All together 34 buses were received of which the 17 Double Decker buses were given to the Western Province Transport and the rest of 17 buses, 4 were given to schools in the South and 13 were distributed to schools in the East and only 1 bus given to the North which was given to Hartley College. The bus given to Hartley is a 1989 Model Mercedes Plaxton, a 21 seater with standing facility for another 8 people and room for carrying sports material. It was used by a UK based sports outfit. It is fairly in good shape but the Trust has sent it to the workshop to check on the status. The batteries are down so could not go on a test drive. The Trust has estimated it is worth about Rs.800, 000 to 1 Million. Further, the Trust will undertake a valuation next week for insurance purposes. It has been intimated that the Trust don't intend doing much repair work, except the incorporation of the college logo and the Trust name and a Gold bordering/lining in the bus. The Trust expects that the vehicle transfer process completed very soon (likely to incur some charges) and have the insurance cover done as well. They expect the vehicle to be sent to school in two weeks time.

We intend to register the Bus in the name of the Trust, since the approval is in the name of the Trust. We will have to work out a mechanism as to how the recurrent expenditure could be recovered. We could also hire it to schools in the neighbourhood at special rates. I have already got some advice from Mr.P.Balasingham but please feel free to give your comments before we finalise the procedure. We should not let it be used/hired by any one other than students of our school or any other school. Rajaskanthan feels he could hire a driver on a per trip basis.

I must place on record my appreciation to the acting Principal Mr. Rajaskanthan, who took the initiative to contact me in a timely manner and push for the bus and also on short notice came to Colombo to accept the donation. From the fact that only one school from North got the bus is evident that we moved in a timely manner.

**Reported by P Shanmuganathan-President of Hartley College Trust**



Hartley College PPA Presents:

# GAJINI

Sri Saravanaa Creations  
Salem A.Chandrasekaran

P r e s e n t s

Find Him Kill Him

Suriya in

கஜினி

A.R.முருகதாஸ்

HARRIS ஜெயராஜ் R.D. ராஜசேகர்

He was Murdered

9840858958



Starring – Surya, Asin, Nayanthira & others

**Venue: Fairfield Forum Cinema**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**Time: 2.30 PM**