



# *Palmyra*

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

## *November 2006-Spring Edition*

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the spring edition of *Palmyra* for 2006/07. First of all, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the members for re-electing me as the Editor of HCPPA-NSW Branch for the year 2006/07. I will endeavour to perform the editorial task to the full satisfaction of the members of HCPPA-NSW Branch.

The Annual Cricket match between Hartley Old boys and Jaffna Hindu Old boys held during the long weekend in October. You may see a brief account of this cricket match inside this newsletter written by our Social Secretary. We witnessed, one of the most resurgent Hindu College Cricket teams this time and they won the game handsomely for the first time in the history of this annual sports event.

Our life membership drive is continuing vigorously. I am pleased to inform that for the first time in the history of HCPPA-NSW Branch, a female Hartleyite has joined as a life member. This is a promising news to our Association. The Constitution of HCPPA-NSW Branch was amended at the last AGM in July 2006 to include Hartleyites who are living in the Asia Pacific region including all Australian states other than Victoria as members of our Association.

We have made arrangements to screen the Tamil movie: 'Something Something Unakkum Enakkum' starring some young talented artists of Tamil movie world on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Fairfield Cinema at 2.30pm. This is our annual fund raising activity. The Committee kindly solicits the support of our members to make this annual fund raising event a success.

Hartleyites acknowledge the significance of English Language in the broader Australian Society and we have always strived to enhance the proficiency of this world language. However, we should not neglect the vital role of our mother tongue-Tamil, one of the oldest and classical languages in the world. Tamil is the inevitable part of our life. Can any Hartleyite discard our Tamil culture? I would appeal to Hartleyites to encourage their kids to learn Tamil whilst trying to master the English language and use our mother tongue in the best possible way by expressing our emotions, sentiments, and feelings in our homes. It is to be noted here that the research is very clear about the significance of bilingualism that has positive impact on our kids' psychological, linguistic, emotional and educational development.

Our President, Paskey is keen to discuss with all of you any long-term constructive ideas for the betterment of our Association for the purpose of serving our school. Please feel free to express your views to him directly or to any other members of the Executive Committee. We, as the members of the Executive Committee, are willing to listen to you and take appropriate action.

I take this opportunity to thank you for sparing your valuable time to read this newsletter.

FIAT Lux: Let There Be Light

Yours Sincerely,

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



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

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551 Victoria Road, Ermington NSW 2115, AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: (02) 9638 1380 Mobile: 0402 811 972



10<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Vanakam,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members for electing me as the President of HCPPA-NSW Branch for the year 2006/07. I am really humbled by the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

It gives me great pleasure sending this message as the President of this great Association. As you all know, this year we have an experienced Executive Committee and many of the members have already served the HCPPA-NSW branch in previous years. I am really honoured to have them again in the Committee whilst extending a warm welcome to the two new members, viz, Mr A Srikumar and S Yoganathan.

Our Social Secretary, Bala Kuganesan organised a Tennis game this year for the first time with the old boys of Jaffna Hindu College. I am pleased to report that Hartley Tennis Team won the game handsomely. It is heartening to state here the enthusiasm shown by the members of HCPPA to participate in the annual cricket encounter between Hartley and Jaffna Hindu College. Hartley College team lost the Cricket match for the first time. However, we managed to attract more member participation and the event was a great success. I would like to express my gratitude to our Social Secretary who has spearheaded our efforts in organising both these games within a short span of time successfully.

We have continued to attract more life members. Four (4) new life members have joined our Association to serve our school through our Association.

It is very sad to learn that due to the prevailing situation in the Jaffna peninsula and the imposition of frequent curfews by the Sri Lankan armed forces, not only our college but also most of the schools in the Jaffna district are not functioning smoothly. Our main concern is the preparation for the forthcoming island wide GCE (O/L) examination scheduled to take place in December. We hope with some extra classes during weekends, students would be able to face the examination with confidence despite ongoing disturbances in our areas.

We plan to have our annual fund raising activity in the first week of December. Tickets for the event are being sold by our committee members. You may see more details regarding this annual fund raising event of our Association else where in this newsletter.

We organised a BBQ at Strathfield Park to honour, Mr Jeyarajah - the former President of HCPPA-Colombo Branch who visited Sydney in August. Mr. Jeyarajah gave us a detailed account on the current status of education in our birthplace with particular reference to Hartley College.

I am keen to discuss with all of you any long-term constructive ideas for the betterment of our Association for the purpose of serving our school.

Thanking your continued support for our Association.

Yours truly,

K. Paskarajothy (Paskey)  
President-HCPPA-NSW Branch.

# HCPPA Organised Sporting Events in 2006

## Bala Kuganesan-Social Secretary

### Inaugural Tennis Match Hartley College Old Boys vs Jaffna Hindu Old Boys

We played the inaugural Tennis game ever between Hartley old boys and Jaffna Hindu old boys on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 2006. These tennis games were played under two different categories, namely old boys and youth. Hartley College old boys won the overall game quite convincingly in both categories. It was pleased to see a good interest shown by our youth to participate in a very competitive environment and to see everybody enjoying the day out.

The following players participated in the matches on behalf of Hartley College Old boys:

<b>Old Boys</b>	<b>Youth</b>
Jeyamenon	Mahen
Siva	Theeban
Baskaran	Suban
Suresh	Mayuran
Arun	Deepan
Charles	Arunan
Kulan	Meera
Manoharathas	Shobana
Srikumar	
Kugan	

### Annual Cricket Encounter Hartley OBA vs Jaffna Hindu OBA

This year, two games were played, one with traditional leather ball and the other one with composite ball. Only players from Hartley/Jaffna Hindu were allowed to play in the serious leather ball game whereas children were allowed to play in the other game. We witnessed a huge turn out this year in terms of players and spectators. Members brought variety of food dishes to entertain all who attended.

#### Game1- Leather ball

Things did not go as well as we hoped. Jaffna Hindu came out very strongly with a lot of current players. Dropping eight or so catches did not help Hartley's cause either. Jaffna Hindu won the toss and elected to bat first totalling a huge score of 239 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in the allotted 30 overs. In reply, Hartley could only muster mere 106 runs in 23 overs losing all the wickets. Only notable contribution of 26 came from captain Keeran.

It was pleasing to see some of the senior players like Manoharathas and Dr.Ragavan (travelled all the way from Canberra) participating in the game and also bowling very well with those aging legs. It was nice to see Amirthalingham winning the best fielder trophy for the 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. Perhaps there is a message in this for the youngsters!

#### Game2 – Composite ball

The second cricket game was totally a different story altogether, Hartley College won the game easily. Jaffna Hindu managed to score only 138 runs losing all the wickets in the allotted 25 overs. Hartley reached the target of 139 runs with the loss of one wicket. Vasee was among the run scorers making 68 not out. Some of our youngsters proved too good for Jaffna Hindu team. Theeban and Athiththan took 3 wickets each. Vaseeharan was awarded the best batsman title whilst Mahen Manoharadas was awarded with the best fielder award.

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**AGM of Vada Hindu Girls School, Point Pedro:** The first Annual General Meeting and the get-to-gather dinner of Past Pupils' Association of Vada Hindu Girls School based in NSW, Australia was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September in the Dominic Church Hall, Homebush West, Sydney. Please contact Ms Kanchana Krishnathasan at [karthika.krishna@gmail.com](mailto:karthika.krishna@gmail.com) to become a member of this old girls/boys association based in Sydney. Please show your appreciation to your alma mater that has been an integral part of your personal development.

Actions from Annual Tennis and Cricket Games with Jaffna Hindu Old Boys



Hartley College PPA NSW Presents:



**Something  
Something**

**Unakkum Enakkum**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2.30pm**

**Forum Cinemas, Fair Field**



**Starring: Jeyam Ravi, Trisha, Prabhu, Kalabhavan Mani, Cochin Haneefa**

**Tickets: Family \$40.00, Single \$15.00, Concession \$10.00**

**Please Contact Kugan on 0434601830 for further details**

We are pleased to announce our annual film show and solicit your support in order to finance our school projects.

Movie: **Something Something Unakkum Enakkum**  
Starring: **Jeyam Ravi, Prabhu, Trisha**

Event For:	NSW (Australia) Hartleyites
Show:	Something Something Unakkum Enakkum
Date:	3rd December 2006 (Sunday)
Time:	2:30 pm
Venue:	Forum Cinemas, Fair Field
Tickets:	Family - \$40 Single - \$15 Concession - \$10
More Info:	We invite all the Hartleyites, their extended families and well wishers to show your support.  Please contact the <a href="#">executive committee members</a> for the tickets and for more information...

## Dr.V.Kunanandam- An ACCOLADE TO A HARTLEYITE WE LOST

Dr V Vasanthakumar, United Kingdom

As if the sufferings of the Tamils in Sri Lanka were not enough, fate dealt them a big blow in August, in the form of the loss of Dr.Kunanandam. Those of us who escaped to be abroad have lost almost the only one of us who had the guts and commitment to give up the cushy and safe life in the west, to return to Jaffna to serve our kith and kin. Kunanandam had given up his settled position as a neurosurgeon in the UK around 1997, in order to work in Jaffna- he did this despite the fact that he had to leave his wife and two children back in the UK.

Kunanandam was unique in DOING things rather than getting a name for it. He was quietly efficient and did not bother to seek recognition. That was the way he was at Hartley too where he studied from 1955 to 1964. His elder brother V Nithyanandam is also a well-known Hartleyite. We all knew Kunanandam as a helpful and kind senior who showed an interest in research, and wanted to emulate him. When I last met him, in Jaffna in 2003, I could see he had dedicated his life to providing better medical care for the Tamil population and better medical education to the ever-suffering Jaffna medical undergraduates and postgraduates.

I knew him also as a senior at the Peradeniya University, and here too he progressed serenely, qualifying in 1970 and went on to train in neurosurgery. He came to UK in 1977 and obtained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, and returned to Jaffna in 1981. He came back to UK due to the political situation in Sri Lanka and proceeded to obtain the Fellowship in Surgical Neurology, and became a real doctor when he achieved his PhD in Medicine (neuroscience).

Kunanandam was Visiting Professor of Surgery and Honorary Consultant Surgeon at the Jaffna General (Teaching) Hospital from 1997 and held the Faculty of Medicine together. He was responsible for obtaining the CT scanners for the hospital and continued his research even in those difficult circumstances.

Kunanandam in his final year was responsible for setting up the Eastern University in Batticaloa, the new Faculty for Medical/Health Sciences and was in fact Acting Dean of that Faculty. He was made a member of the University Grants Commission in March 2006, but a sudden illness struck him soon thereafter, and he passed away peacefully on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2006 in Southampton, UK.

He leaves his wife, Selvarani, a daughter Thushitha who has followed in her father's footsteps to be a surgeon, and a son, Suren, who has emulated his father in obtaining a PhD.

Kunanandam was an unsung hero in his own motherland, among his own people, but Hartley can be proud of this son, and we as Hartleyites will feel a glow, just like the common trees that feel scented by standing next to a sandalwood tree.



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**AGM of HCPPA-Canada/USA Branch:** The annual General meeting of HCPPA-Canada/USA branch will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November commencing at 5.30pm in Ontario. Details of this meeting can be found in the Hartley College web site.

## Summary of the Address Given by the Principal to Colombo OBA Branch in July 2007

Mr N Theivendraraja, the principal of our college, addressed the Colombo OBA branch on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July and here are some of the highlights of his address.

**Strength of the College:** At present, the school is equipped with 54 full time tutorial staff and 10 non-academic staff. Out of 54 academic staff, 32 have University Degrees and 22 are fully trained teachers having teachers' qualifications. Further, 21 teachers are the members of Sri Lanka Teachers Service, Class - I category. It is pleased to note that 6 teachers have Masters Degree whilst another 3 teachers are currently following Masters degree. The Sectional heads need to be dressed professionally and they have been provided with a separate room. Principal is receiving reports from the Sectional Heads on a daily basis in the evening.

**School Academic Development Activities:** With a view to enhancing the school academic activities, Quality Circles have been formed for the following:

- Library Development
- Geometry Knowledge Development
- English Language Activity Room
- Environmental Development

**Island wide Examination Results:** Out of 138 students sat the examination in December 2005, 111 students are eligible to follow the GCE (A/L) classes. 72 pupils passed the mathematics with A grade and 1 student passed all 10 subjects with A grades whilst 6 students passed 9 subjects with A grades. Further, 5 Students sat English Literature as the 10<sup>th</sup> Subject.

Out of the students who sat for the GCE (A/L) examination in April 2006, 64 students have been selected to follow various courses in the Universities and the details are as follows:

- Mathematics Stream: Engineering -09, Quantity Surveying-02, Physical sciences-11, Applied Sciences-11
- Biology Stream: Medicine-02, Veterinary-01, Food and Nutrition-01, Bio Science-04
- Commerce and Arts Stream: Commerce-03, Arts-25

**Academic Competition:** Hartley College is still leading in the Jaffna District on the basis of the number of students admitted to the Universities to read for various Degrees. Pupils from various grades participate in the district, provincial and national level academic competition. Under-19 Chess Team became the Champion in the North-East Province whilst Under-15 Chess Team became the runners up.

**Building Development Activities:** Already commenced construction activities for 3 buildings, viz, Sports spot of 40x20, Activity Room of 50x25 and Co-curricular activity room of 90x25, at a total cost of Rs. 8 million by SDC (a Non Governmental Organisation). The Education Department has allocated Rs.2 million for GCE (A/L) Science lab and Departmental officials are very helpful to putting up this science lab. The North-East Provincial Council has allocated Rs.4.2 million for an Assembly Hall and school is thankful to Mr S Thiyagalingam-Secretary to Provincial Education Ministry for this allocation. The World Food Organisation (WFO) has allocated Rs.2 million for the construction of kitchen whilst at present it provides meals to Grade 6 to 9 students.

**Field Study Centre:** A Field Study Centre has been established at our School and it is the first field study centre established in the Jaffna district. The Purpose of the centre is to encourage students in the field of Science. Schools that don't have laboratory facilities can also use this facility. The education Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this centre. The teacher in charge of this centre is Mr.S.Kokularajan, a member of our tutorial staff.

**Students Matters:** All pupils need to dress properly with tie and shoes and they look smarter these days with our uniform. Grade 6 to 9 students need to pay obeisance to their parents with a view to enhance the rapport and mutual understanding between the parents and pupils we have introduced this obeisance programme.

**Editor's Note:** The above brief report has been prepared based on the notes provided by Mr Jeyarajah who visited Sydney in August.



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

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Treasurer: Vadivelu Sugumar  
7, Vermont Court, Seven Hills NSW 2147, AUSTRALIA  
Voice: (02) 9679 7854 Email: Sugumar@bigpond.net.au  
College website: hartleycollege.com

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4 November 2006

Hello fellow Hartleyites in NSW,

**TREASURER'S INTERIM REPORT FOR 2006-07**

The Association's activities from July to October 2006 had very little impact on the overall financial position. A total of \$350 was incurred on Tennis tournament, Cricket matches and wreath. We received \$600 from life membership and \$200 for the upkeep of the computers at Hartley. The accumulated fund marginally increased to \$14,869 from \$14,500 at 30 June 2006.

As disclosed the provisional Receipts and Expenditure Account for the Annual Dinner 2006 reflects a deficit of \$431. Final reconciliation will be completed and the final accounts will be reported in the Annual General Meeting 2007.

Wishing peace

Vadivelu Sugumar

**Provisional Annual Dinner Income and Expenses**

	2007	2006
RECEIPTS	\$	\$
Tickets	2,374	1,965
Advertising	510	350
Donations	100	50
Raffle	180	123
	<u>3,164</u>	<u>2,488</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Catering	1,800	758
Cutlery	-	198
Hall hire	850	550
Public address system hire	112	203
Garland, bouquet and trophies	154	250
Raffle prizes	150	50
Beverages and snacks	131	-
Other	98	300
Artists	300	69
	<u>3,595</u>	<u>2,378</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	<u>(431)</u>	<u>110</u>