

The Year in Review – 2018

Report from Amal Wahab, President

The year, 2018, was another very successful year for the Old Peterite community of New South Wales. The primary objective of the 2018 Committee was to:

- Organise events that fostered fellowship among the Peterite community, catering to Peterites of all ages;
- Raise funds to help continue our philanthropic activities; and
- Communicate with the Peterites via social media and regular emails.

Some of the highlights of the events organised in 2018 were:

- **February – Saints Quadrangular Cricket Tournament** between the Old Joes, Old Bens, Old Anthonians and the Old Peterites was won by the Old Peterites led by Senarath Seneviratne. This was the second successive year that we were crowned Champions! The Peterite team was well supported by many members of the Peterite family who were justly rewarded when we won the trophy. The Peterites who organised and hosted this event also laid out a sumptuous menu to feed the supporters and the teams.



- **May – Picnic for the Peterite Family**

The Family Picnic at the Lane Cove National Park was modelled along the lines of the Picnic/BBQ that we Old Peterites used to organise over 15 years ago. The main emphasis was to encourage the Peterite “families” to come join in the fellowship. The activities included: “soft ball cricket”; face painting; smashing the Piñata to collect the goodies; and a belated “Easter egg hunt”. This year there was a slight difference to the traditional Old Peterite BBQ as we served “Hoppers in the National Park” catered by Dish catering followed by traditional Sri Lankan sweets: Kalu Dodol; Milk Toffee; Coconut Rock; Bibbikan; Love Cake and Chocolate Brownies.

Over 80 Peterites, their families including their children and grand children enjoyed this wonderful day in the National Park.



- **July – Gala Fund Raiser**

Oh what a night this was, when the Peterites transformed the Blacktown Community Hall in to a glamorous dance hall that hosted our main fund raiser for 2018.

Sydney’s premier dance band, The Kamis supported by Desmond De Silva and the Impressions kept the 300+ guests entertained throughout the evening.

Dish Catering outdid itself in “dishing out” a fabulous menu and our sponsors including Sri Lankan Airlines, Woolworths and Vineyard Road Wines complemented by our Auction item donors: Senarath Seneviratne and Shiran Viswasam helped us raise almost \$10,000 towards our philanthropic activities.

What was particularly creditable was that the Dance Committee maintained the ticket prices at the 2016 level, yet increased the offerings to our guests and succeeded in raising more money, that will be reflected in the 2018/2019 Financial Statements (ie next year).





• **November – Remembrance Service**

This was the 3rd Remembrance Service that was organised by the Old Peterites to celebrate the lives of the deceased staff and past pupils of Holy Family Convent and St Peters College. This was a poignant service where Old Peterite Rev Fr Isuru Weliwatte mgl celebrated mass in the old Jesuit Chapel. The choir led by Harsha Weerakody and supported by Old Peterites and past pupils of HFC sang beautifully and would have made Rev Fr Claver Perera, very proud. I wish we had recorded the Homily of Fr Isuru – it will be the subject of discussion for many years.

No event will be complete without “Food” – this year we sought the contributions of the attendees who, if able, were asked to “bring a plate”. They certainly brought plates loaded with food and the Peterite/Familian families enjoyed the feast and the beautifully manicured gardens of Canisius College.





- **December – AGM followed by the Christmas Party**

Our final event for 2018 was the AGM followed by the Christmas Party. Once again the Peterites and their families turned up for the AGM and the Christmas Party, the latter which was organised to replicate the Christmas Parties that we organised in the mid- to late 90's. No Christmas Party is complete without Carols (Guinn Ragel, Nipuna Dias, The kids had a treat when Santa turned-up with early Christmas gifts.





Committee for 2019

President	-	Amal Wahab
Vice President	-	Senarath Seneviratne
Secretary	-	Ravin Panambalana
Treasurer	-	Mario Saparamadu
Sports Coordinator	-	Roshara Alles
Asst Sports Coordinator	-	Shehan Vilathgamuwa
Auditor	-	Niran Wijesari
Social Secretary	-	Niresh Wijesari
Asst Social Secretary	-	Nipuna Dias
Digital Media	-	Maxi Victoria
Editor	-	Lawrie Machado
Asst Editor	-	Denver Mottau
Membership Secretary	-	Nishantha Perera
Committee of Past Presidents	-	Gerard Velayuthen Senani Gunasekera Aubrey Joachim
Chairman - Scholarship Fund	-	Senarath Seneviratne
Fund Raising Committee	-	Nishantha Perera Maxi Victoria Senarath Seneviratne

Communications

Senani & Maxi recently re-commenced work on our Website. Once completed, this will help us in informing you of our events and also share with you the news from College, other OBU's and Peterites.

In 2018, Woolworths, through their PR firm showcased our OBU and the work that we have been doing with our Scholarship Fund in a story posted on culturalpulse.com.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the entire Committee for contributing towards the success of our various activities. It's been a busy year but a Fun year!

I also wish to acknowledge the support that we received from all Peterites, our families and friends, the above results couldn't have been achieved without you.

Finally, on behalf of the 2017/2018 St Peters College Old Boys Union Sydney NSW Committee, I wish to thank you for providing us with the opportunity of serving you. We believe that during the past 12 months we made our OBU a better, more vibrant community.

2018 DASHBOARD

- ❖ Organised 5 Events, spread throughout the year, to help in fostering fellowship among the Peterite Community;
- ❖ Raised \$9,960+ from the Fund Raiser organised in July;
- ❖ Awarded 18 Full Scholarships and 3 Part Scholarships to needy under-privileged Peterite students;
- ❖ Donated \$1,000 to the SPC Rugby Foundation to support the development of Junior Rugby;
- ❖ Increased Peterites on our database;
- ❖ Trialled mini-Peterite gatherings: Karaoke night and Wine Tasting & Dinner; and
- ❖ Commenced work on our own website for launch in 2019.