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Bending it like the Bens

Carols & Curry Night drawcard of the weekend

Guests of the Sydney Bens Christmas Party and Curry Night came streaming in to the North Rocks Don Moore centre even before opening time. All 300 Old Bens, families and guests sensed the electrified atmosphere as the Chris Pietersz trio and Yohan Pathinather's Cazcades rolled out dollop after dollop of music. The dance floor was a swirl from the first beat on.

Under the leadership of Ranjith Velayuthen, ably backed up by Hyacinth Jones with Chris Pietersz on the keyboard, a 20-strong choir melded everyone into the Spirit of Christmas.

Catered by *Curry Leaf*, dinner was a mouth-watering phalanx of steaming rice and numerous curries. At dinner's end, feedback (no pun intended) was that the food was fabulous.

A vast array of prizes, donated by Patron Wolstan D'Abrera, Tony Appathurai, Hynsworth LaFaber, Harold Christie-David, Joe Rodrigo, Dianitha & Prakash Fernando-pulle, Kumar Subramaniam – were raffled next.

Sydney's oldest Old Ben

As Sydney's oldest Old Ben and first-ever Patron of the Sydney Bens, Wolstan D'Abrera was presented with a porcelain replica of the College clock tower (one of the oldest buildings in Colombo and now listed for heritage preservation). Also, Joe Rodrigo, Roger Weneden, Elmo Young, Dr Dan Godamunne and Kumar Subramaniam were awarded certificates on their appointment as life members of the OBA.

And the dancing went on and on... No one went away disappointed – except that 12.30 AM was still too young in the night to terminate an enjoyable and unforgettable occasion.

CRICKET VS ROYAL

Bens in right Royal victory

(HAROLD CHRISTIE-DAVID reporting)

Bens won the toss and batted first, scoring 259 for 7 with Prakash Fernandopulle and Tony Appathurai putting on a 120-run partnership with Prakash going on to get a well-deserved century. Tony notched up a well-compiled 48 runs on the day.

Roshan Pathinather got the breakthrough by capturing the two most vital wickets of skipper Prassana and Chitral who are generally big hitters.

Bens took matters for granted thereafter only to discover that after 20 overs their opponents had crept up considerably. This situation spurred the Bens on and they managed to bowl the Royalists all out for 247 to win the game by a whisker and a half.

(Team photo on page 2)

Hob nobbing with movie stars!

Just back from London, Sydney Ben Harold Christie-David has good reason to smile about.

Harold and two other NSW tyre dealers were invited by Pirelli Tyres Australia to attend the 2007 launch of their highly prestigious and most sought after PIRELLI CALENDAR. The invitation was reward for his achieving highest figures for Pirelli tyre sales in NSW.

At the launch, Harold also had the rare opportunity of meeting with screen celebrities among whom were Sophia Loren,



• There's good reason for Harold Christie-David's gleaming smile.

Penelope Cruz, Naomi Watts, Lou Dillon and Michael Caine.

Accompanied by his wife Daphne, Harold was first flown to

Scotland for four days and thereafter to London where they were afforded an escorted tour of the historic Lords Cricket grounds and then to the big occasion on the following day.

Highlight of life

Says Harold: "To be associated with such an event was the highlight of my entire 31-years of being in the industry."

The Pirelli Calendars are so sought after that today some people have been able to get as much as \$20,000.00 for a calendar of previous years. Normally, 40,000 calendars are released worldwide each year. This year, however, number has been reduced to 35,000.

**St Benedict's College OBA
(NSW) Incorporated
Founded in 1993**

OUR MISSION

*Promote loyalty to and assist our
Alma Mater at all times, foster
social and sporting interaction
among Old Bens everywhere.*

**EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Patron: Wolstan D'Abrera
President: Fred Herft
Vice-President: Tony
Appathurai
Secretary: Doug Jones
Treasurer: Lionel Machado
Social Secretary:
Hynsworth LaFaber
Sri Fernandopulle
Gordon Rebeira
Ranjith Velayuthen
Prakash Fernandopulle
Joe Rodrigo
Auditor: Max Perumal

EDITOR & LAYOUT/DESIGN
Doug Jones
email:
deejay20@bigpond.net.au

CURRENT IN KOTAHENA

Social event of the year

This year's dance to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Colombo Hilton on December 16 will have the theme **On Solid Ground**.

A net profit of Rs. 7 million is estimated from the event. From the proceeds, the dance committee has decided to make the necessary funds available for the following.

- Renovation of the College Hall,
- Sports Development – Long/ Short Term,
- Upgrading of the Laboratories,
- Teacher's incentive and motivation programmes; and,
- Assist the Old Boarders Association to undertake urgent repairs in the Hostel.

GCE (A/L) results great!

At the 2006 G.C.E. A/level examination for Catholic Private Schools in the island, the performance by College was most commendable.

St. Benedict's ranked 2nd in the Commerce stream, 4th in Medicine and the achieved 5th place in the Overall results.

Congratulations are also due to Supun Chaturanga who was placed 3rd in Engineering, Sadun Weerasinghe 5th in Medi-

cine and Michael Anton Peiris 12th in Commerce respectively.

Remarkable improvement in academic performance by Benedictines in recent years can be attributed largely to the dynamism and commitment of Rev. Bro. Director and the dedication shown by the tutorial staff of College.

Dancer with great future

Rukmal Liyanage, showed the versatility of Benedictines when he came second in the all-island schools Kandyan Dancing competition held in Badulla. He is the first Benedictine to do so in this prestigious competition.

Requiem Mass

The annual Requiem Mass for the dearly departed Old Bens took place on November 28.

The Religious Committee of the OBU, headed by Old Ben Kenneth Dabarera organised the well-attended service.

Bens' soccer wizardry

With a brilliant display of soccer wizardry St. Benedict's College beat Wickramabahu Vidyalaya, Gampola by 2 goals to nil in the Finals of the National Schools Games Soccer Competition conducted by the Ministry of Education at Kurunegala on 19th September.

Sir John Tarbat Shield

St. Benedict's College finished third overall with a total of 96.5 points at the Annual Schools Athletic Meet for the Sir John Tarbat Shield.

The Benedictines, however, retained the Jefferson Cup, awarded to the Relay Champions, which they won for the very first time in the games history last year. The Bens also won the overall Under 21 Championship at the Games with many of their Athletes finishing within the first three places in many events

*(Information provided by: Ravi
Irugalbandara in Colombo)*



• From left (standing): Roshan Pathinather, Stanley Sebastian, Prakash Fernandopulle, Fred Herft, Harold Christie-David, Tony Appathurai, Clem Christie-David, Maurice Teverayan, Harry Coomaraswamy.
(Kneeling): Kasum, Julian Pillai, Lionel Machado.

**Max Gerreyn's cartoon
is held back this one
time and will re-appear
in the next issue.**



When old friends meet!

Swing it with Sydney Bens

Freddie Herft found the time to capture these colourful moments at the Sydney Bens Christmas Party & Curry Night. If his photographs are anything to go by, then the 300 guests excelled in the enjoyment!



Carolling by the Sydney Bens choir



A moment for catching up...



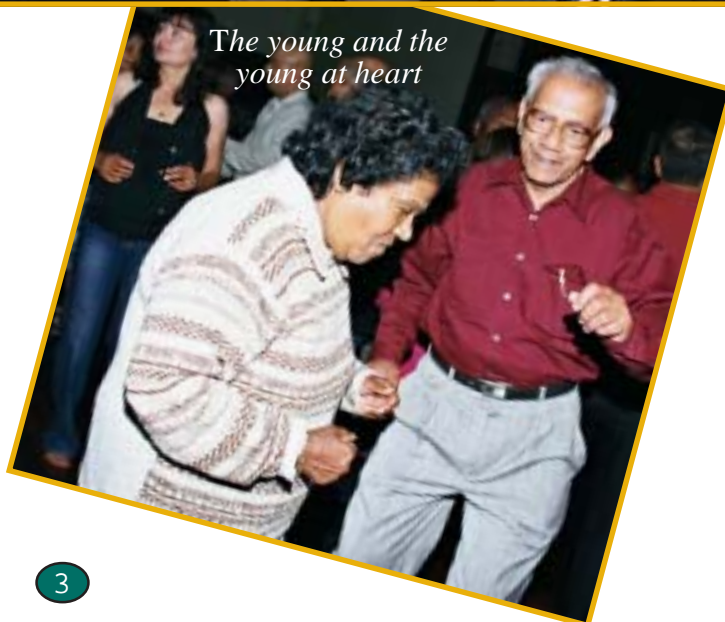
Oh, what have we done now?



To all Sydney Bens,
their families, Bens
everywhere and all
our friends...

...the committee
sends wishes for

**A Joyous Christmas
& a Happy and
Peaceful New Year**



*The young and the
young at heart*

Remember this landmark?

So you think you do, ha! Well, shame on you if you don't. It looks a lot different, but for the better, don't you think? Yes, it is the view of the gardens from the Benedictine Monastery style Brothers residence at St Benedict's.

This photo was taken by Rev. Bro. Ambrose Payne FSC

AO. Bro. Ambrose is the De La Salle Provincial Visitor of the District of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and resides at the Provincialate in De La Salle College, Bankstown. He visited College recently and this familiar Benedictine landmark caught his eye. He thought this would be of special interest to us Bens here.



UK branch going great guns!

The UK Old Bens' 2006 Dinner Dance, held in October, was a resounding success. A donation of £10 000 from the proceeds was pledged for the College Primary School IT development project. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1.7M with a monthly running cost estimated at Rs.30 000. For more information on this and other UK happenings log on

to [www.ldbens.co.uk/NEWS/CurrentNewsletters/OBUK/newsletterDec2006\(colour\).pdf](http://www.ldbens.co.uk/NEWS/CurrentNewsletters/OBUK/newsletterDec2006(colour).pdf)

News from Vancouver

Eric Motha, President of Vancouver branch informs us that Christie Dharmaratne (of Dharmaratne Brothers fame) is interested in performing in Melbourne and Sydney. Eric will keep us in the loop as further information is available.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2007

FEBRUARY 4

Cricket: vs Old Wesleyites at Ted Horwood Reserve, Baulkham Hills
Other details later.

MARCH 17

Sydney Bens Family Day
Details to be notified in due course

JUNE

Sydney Bens annual golf day
Rosnay Golf Course, Auburn
Date to be notified

JUNE 30

Sydney Bens Gala Dinner Dance

Castle Grand, Castle Hill
See advert below for details.

JULY

Sydney Bens AGM
Date & venue in due course

PENDING

Cricket match vs Old Joes
Watch this space.



2007 Sydney Bens Gala Dinner Dance

SATURDAY JUNE 30

At Castle Grand, Castle Hill

- Two bands – Breakaway & Cazcades
- Dinner catered by Curry Leaf
- Lots of Prizes & much more fun

TICKETS AVAILABLE SHORTLY

Book now to avoid disappointment

For reservations contact : Fred Herft (9639 9594)
Tony Appatturai (9894 7795) Doug Jones (9894 7449) Lionel Machado (9863 2716).



Wolstan D'Abrera is the first Patron of Sydney Bens

At the July 29 AGM of the Sydney Bens, Wolstan (affectionately called 'Wolly' by all who know him well) notched another first when the young-at-heart Old Ben was appointed Patron of the NSW Old Boys Association

Most loyal

Wolly is the most senior Old Ben in Sydney and a fine gentleman and along with his wife Maureen (of more than 50 years' of wedded bliss) they are a pair of great supporters of the Sydney Bens and the Alma Mater.