

HARTLEY COLLEGE



MISCELLANY 2007

A Publication of the Hartley College Past Pupils Association of New South Wales Inc

FIAT LUX: LET THERE BE LIGHT

கல்லூரி கீதம்

ஹாட்லி நின் மகனா நம்
நின் கித்திக்கிக வளறும்
உயர்ந்த கற்ற நம்-என்றும்
நின் வழி நிறுவும்

நின் றோதியால் எம் ஒளிவே
எங்கும் வீடுவேம்
நாட்டுக்குறையே செய்கிறீமை
நின் வாசல் வழி

ஹாட்லி என்றே எம் கலோகம்
எம் இலக்கென்று ஆயின
ஹாட்லி என்றே ஆடி எம் கலோகம்
ஒளி வீசட்டும்

ஹாட்லி எழும்
எப்போது அழகுக்கொன்று
அல்லே உடம் அறியாது
வீழ்வதை விடு நம்

நீயே வழிவழி
அல்லே உட்கிடம் கொண்டு
உடம் வே உறவி கொள்ளுவி
எப்படியும் போகும

ஹாட்லி என்றே எம் கலோகம்
எம் இலக்கென்று ஆயின
ஹாட்லி என்றே ஆடி எம் கலோகம்
ஒளி வீசட்டும!

COLLEGE SONG

Hartley, thy sons are we,
To thine honour, always wed,
Nurtured, taught by thee,
E'er thy way of life we tread.
Lit at thy hearth our flames burn bright
Always this light we shed,
Service to our nation true and right,
Thy portals ever lend.

Hartley for ever, that's o ur cry,
Our motto never let it die,
Hartley for ever, our motto ever let there be light,

Rise up all Hartleyites
Our motto she doth call.
Scholars and sportsmen vie,
Schooled in her noble halls
Follow our mentors, Proved and tried,
They who our ideals guide.
Hold fast your inner light of faith,
That, over storms shall tide.

Continuing to Propagate Our Rich Tradition



I take great pleasure and pride in presenting our magazine '**Miscellany**' for the Second consecutive year as the Editor. I hope you are all aware that Hartley College has been publishing its own high quality 'Miscellany' for more than 50 years. We hope that the publication of a similar Miscellany by the HCPPA of New South Wales would continue to propagate one of the rich traditions, creative writing, by Hartleyites and their family members in Australia.

One of the new features of Miscellany this time is the inclusion of articles written by young offsprings of Hartleyites. I have been successful in receiving articles from 7 school-going young kids. I am delighted to present the creative writing of our young kids and it is my earnest hope the future Editors of Miscellany would also endeavour to solicit articles from young kids to showcase their creative thinking and writing.

I would like to convey our appreciation to my classmate and the present Principal, Mr N Theivendrarajah for his warmest greetings. I wish to pay tribute to my friend Eng. D L O Mendis for writing an article about late Prof A Thuraiajah. I have managed to source articles from some of the distinguished Hartleyites, viz, Dr K Ratnagobal, Prof B Muhunthan, Mr Shan Shanmuganathan, Dr V Vasanthakumar, Dr V Sathiyaseelan, Mr. A Manicavasagar and Mr. Charles Somasundaram. I am pleased to note the contributions made by 2 old girls of Hartley College, viz, Ms Shanti Arulanantham and Ms Kanchana Krishnathasan.

Special thanks are due to our valued advertisers and sponsors who have provided generous financial support to make this publication a reality. The Executive Committee Members of HCPPA of NSW have always inspired me to make my Editorial task an enjoyable one. Our Vice Patron, Mr K Kaneshalingam has always been a source of strength to me in performing my task as the Editor. On behalf of the Executive Committee of HCPPA - NSW Branch I would like to say "thank you" to SAI Global for printing this magazine. I express my sincere gratitude to Charles Somasundaram for his support and encouragement during the preparation of this magazine.

I would like to urge Hartleyites to encourage their kids to learn our mother tongue: Tamil. Personally I believe it would facilitate them to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and to cherish their unique identity within the Australian multicultural society. It would be nice and pleasant to watch our kids speak in Tamil to express their feelings and emotions. Tamils today live in many parts of the world and all are doing well in their chosen profession. We know North and East of ancient Sri Lanka has had a continuous tradition of excellence in Tamil literature and it has been a centre of learning where literary councils met under the auspices of our former kings to further the cause of Tamil. From times immemorial Tamil literature has withstood the onslaught of foreign rulers and continued to cherish. My Amma (mother) always used to recite the following Thirukural and I get the feeling that I have lived according to the spirit of this world renowned couplet when I have prepared and edited this Miscellany:

"Learn perfectly all that you learn, and thereafter keep your conduct worthy of that learning"

Yours Sincerely,

Kidnapillai Selvarajah (Selva)

Email: KSelvarajah@hutchison.com.au



A, as its first letter, every speech maintains;
The “Primary Deity” is the first thought in all world’s domains

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Warmest Greetings from the Principal



It is a great pleasure for me to send my warmest greetings to your annual publication: **Miscellany**. I am very glad to see that HCPPA - NSW Branch is always in close contact with the college. We are very proud to say that Hartley College is trying to maintain its glorious tradition as an educational institution with the prevailing situation. The cooperation I get from the members of both academic and the non-academic staffs gives me encouragement to uplift the standard of the College.

We are thankful to the past pupils of our college who are always ready to lend their hands to assist us in running the school smoothly. Although the prevailing situation in the country is not conducive to impart the knowledge to our pupils, the results obtained by the college students in island-wide competitive examination have been encouraging. Such good achievements in examination by the students give us all great satisfaction. In the General Certificate Examination (Ordinary Level) held in year 2006, 117 students (out of 126 students) have qualified to continue their studies in the Advanced Level Classes. Like in the past, Hartley College students have the unique character of perseverance to do better under any circumstances. In this process, Hartley College has the potential to produce good future citizens.

I would like to say that there is no single object, which can inspire, excite, entertain and instruct better than a good book. A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit embalmed and treasured up for a life beyond life, according to the famous author Milton. Further, I could still recall the quote of Sir Francis Bacon: **“Reading maketh a full man”**. To continue one of the great traditions of Hartley College and encourage reading habit at tender ages, we have started a Children Library catering for young students of the college in March 2007. Mr S Sivam who is the proprietor of Sithamparapillai Book Shop of Nellyyady and an old boy of Hartley College has donated Rs.33, 000 worth of furniture. The Hartley College Past Pupils Association of Colombo branch has donated Rs.60, 000 worth of books for this library. We encourage our young kids to use this library whenever they are free.

I would like to thank Mr A Srikumar-Sydney who has installed some computer related equipment under the auspices of HCPPA of New South Wales. The Computer Centre is now functioning and students are eager to learn the computer technology. A computer class period is allocated for classes from Grade 6 to Advanced Level. I would like to point out the shortages of English Teaching staff to teach the world language to our students.

This year onwards the Colombo HCPPA branch has started a scholarship scheme for our needy undergraduate students and we plan to fund the university studies of selected students for the life of their undergraduate degree course. Mr.S.Ganeshan, former Senior Engineer of the Asian Development Bank and a Hartleyite funded this scholarship scheme. I request the HCPPA of NSW to consider funding a similar scheme for needy Harteyites.

It is my wish that “FIAT LUX” enlightens us all on the need of the hour and spur us to work for peace and harmony.

N.Thivendrarajah

Highlights of Hartley College Prize-Giving Day 2007



Principal Mr N Theivendrarajah Delivering his address





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14th July 2007



President's Column- Another Successful Year for the Association

I am delighted to welcome our Chief Guest, Dr K Ratnagopal, fellow Hartleyites and other distinguished invitees. I have had the privilege of having an experienced Executive Committee during the year. Many of the members have already served the HCPPA of NSW in previous years. The three Vice Patrons of the Association have provided me with guidance in the conduct of our day-to-day affairs.

We are now an incorporated entity with the Office of Fair Trading as a non-profit Association in terms of the provisions of the Associations Incorporations Act, 1984 in the state of NSW, Australia. Our Treasurer- Mr V Sugumar has been assigned with the task of Public Officer dealing with matters relating to compliance with the Office of the Fair Trading. I take this opportunity to salute the founding members of this Association in 1991. We have worked closely with the HCPPA Trust and other global branches in developing our school.

It is heartening to see the positive response received from the Hartleyites to help Nilojan, an Advanced Level student of our school who urgently needs kidney transplant surgery. It has been brought to our notice that the total expenditure for this urgent medical need is approximately AU\$8500 and we have contributed AU\$4000. We pray for the success of Nilojan's kidney transplant surgery and his speedy recovery. We are working closely with the HCPPA Trust on this matter.

Once again we achieved unprecedented success in recruiting life members during the year. I would like to thank our Editor Mr K Selvarajah who started this project three years ago and continues to play the lead role in contacting potential members and inspiring other committee members. We have now more than 100 life members and we have achieved this milestone during this financial year.

The Benefit Show is another success story to report during this year. We managed to raise more than \$3000 for our development projects. I thank all the committee members who worked tirelessly selling tickets and our members who supported the project.

Our Social Secretary, Mr Bala Kuganesan organised many social events including the annual cricket match and a tennis game with Jaffna Hindu College Old Boys Sydney. We hosted a BBQ type get-to-gather with two of our former teachers, Mr Vallipuram and Mr Thambirajah. Personally, I would like to pay a special tribute to Bala Kuganesan who provided the leadership in organizing these events successfully with the help of other Committee members.

Our Editor Mr K Selvarajah has invested his valuable time to produce the Miscellany again this year that is reminiscent of our school annual publication. He has also taken the initiative to publish news relating to our sister schools, viz, Methodist Girls High School and Vada Hindu Girls School. This could be a beginning for our association to evolve as a federation of all Past Pupils Association located in the NSW State. In the mean time we will continue to assist our sister schools from Point Pedro.

Though we are unable to communicate with our school due to the prevailing situation, we shall never lose our commitment and enthusiasm to develop our school. We continue to monitor the situation at home, waiting to recommence our help towards the school development projects. Our Prayers are with our brothers and sisters living in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

We have had another successful year for the Association. I thank all the committee members for the good work throughout the year and their families for their continued support.

K Paskey
President-HCPPA of NSW Incorporated

Prof C J Eliezer AM- A life-long Love Affair with Mathematics

A Manicavasagar-Colombo, Sri
Lanka



Late Prof C J Eliezer AM

The history of mathematics bears the imprint of many great personalities with unusual intellectual abilities and uncanny insights. It has seen many geniuses such as Archimedes, Pythagoras, Des Cartes, Newton, Lagrange, Gauss, Euler, Ramanujam and Einstein. These great people had unlimited intellectual passion and romance towards mathematics and physics. Discovery of many mathematical concepts and great moments in the growth of science have been associated with their names. However, Professor Christie Jeyaratnam Eliezer, a greatly respected Hartleyite, is a unique figure among the creators of the history of mathematics. Prof Eliezer not only had the stamp of a genius and excellence in mathematics but had also been an untiring worker for social justice and human rights. Born on the 12th June, 1918 at Alvai, a village in Vadamarachchi located a stone throwing distance away from the beautiful beaches of Point Pedro. According to his family circles, his actual birth location was Navatkuli when his mother had her birth pangs whilst attending a wedding of a close relative. Due to this, his parents named him as Eliezer (the Hebrew name 'Eliezer' means God's Help) as God has thoughtfully sent him to serve the world's people.

I met Prof Eliezer for the first time in 1956 when I entered the then University of Ceylon to read for a General Science

Degree from Hartley College. I was really shocked to observe his simplicity and amazed at the way he mingled with even the fresher undergraduates at the University. He taught me Mathematics in the first year as well as in the final year of BSc. During his lectures in the first year, he would occasionally digress to give the students short historical glimpses of the very famous mathematicians and scientists of the past. He would explain the great achievements of the world famous scientist, architect, engineer and painter Michaelangelo who designed, supervised the building and did all the intricate paintings inside the historic St. Peters Cathedral in Rome. Another day he would narrate very interesting stories about the great Indian mathematicians like Bashkar and Ramanujam. Thus he always encouraged and inspired his students to read and learn about the famous mathematicians and scientists of the past.

In our final year he took lectures in Advanced Statistics. Many students consider this subject very boring or quite difficult to understand. But the way he introduced and developed the subject was absolutely marvellous. He will give plenty of practical examples in real life where statistics come into play and made the class extremely attentive and interested. The approach was so interesting that Statistics became my most loved branch of mathematics while at the University and later in my Professional life too. Prof Eliezer was my Guru and mentor who shaped my Professional career in many ways. I also observed many of his outstanding human qualities that are difficult to find in other Professionals in today's world. One of his unique qualities was the way he treated all the students irrespective of their background, race or religion and I believe Professor Eliezer lived up to the spirit of the ancient Tamil couplet from Purananuru of 2nd Century BC:

All the world is my homeland,
All its people are my kinsfolk.

According to late Prof Eliezer, it was by a chance of circumstances that Prof Dirac

(of Quantum Statistical Mechanics world fame) agreed to supervise his research works for his Doctorate Degree at the Cambridge University. It is to be noted here that Prof Dirac, who was the Nobel Price Winner for the discovery of new productive forms of atomic energy at an early age of 31 years, did not normally take in students for supervising their research works. Professor Dirac was one of the giants of the 20th Century Physics who inspired Eliezer and his illustrious contemporaries include the famous scientists Bohr, C V Raman, Rutherford and Einstein.

Prof Eliezer's monumental research work carried out under the guidance of Prof Dirac on the Interaction between Electrons and an Electromagnetic Field earned him the PhD degree from the Cambridge University in 1945. He joined the then University of Ceylon as a Lecturer in Mathematics and was elevated as the Professor of Mathematics in 1949. He also served as the Dean of the Science Faculty of the University before proceeding to University of Malaysia as Professor of Mathematics in 1959. Later, in 1968 he was appointed as the first Professor of Applied Mathematics at La Trobe University, Australia and retired from his academic career in 1983.

Professor Eliezer was among a very few Sri Lankans to hold the prestigious doctorate degree of DSc obtained from the University of London in 1949. He was awarded the Charles. L. Mayer award from the National Academy of Science and was also a Fellow of Christ College, Cambridge. Prof. Eliezer's lofty achievements made him unique even amongst the elite circle of academics he belonged to. Interestingly, He also qualified as a Barrister at Law in London in 1949! He was invited to present papers at the United Nations Conferences on the "peaceful use of atomic energy" held in Geneva, Vienna and Bombay.

Prof Eliezer had a long innings as a University Teacher in Mathematics. He moved along a long road which has taken him to several countries and many famous

universities; 8 years in Cambridge, 13 years in Ceylon, 9 years in Malaysia and nearly 16 years at La Trobe University of Australia - with sabbaticals in Princeton Institute, University of Chicago and Matscience in India. For Prof Eliezer, his entire career was a life-long love affair with mathematics.

On the social side, Prof Eliezer was a celebrated champion of Tamil Rights. He was the founder of the Australian Federation of Tamil Associations. He had initiated action to teach Tamil at community level in Australia and was the founder of the Tamil Community College in the State of Victoria. It is for his love of his people that Prof. Eliezer's memory will be most cherished by all those who came to know him closely. Despite his demanding academic and professional commitments, he never put his people second. He proved it was possible, even incumbent for brilliant minds to serve their community while achieving their professional successes. Australia, honoured his achievements as well as his contribution to his people by presenting him with the 'Order of Australia'.

Editor's Note: Mr A Manicavasagar, a Hartleyite, was one of Prof Eliezer's distinguished students at the University of Ceylon and he was the First Director General of Telecommunications, Sri Lanka.

Prof Dirac, the Guru of Prof C J Eliezer was known among his colleagues for his precise and taciturn nature. When Bohr complained that he didn't know how to finish a sentence in a scientific article he was writing, Dirac replied, "I was taught at school never to start a sentence without knowing the end of it". When asked about his views on poetry he responded, "In science one tries to tell people, in such a way as to be understood by everyone, something that no one ever knew before. But in poetry, it's the exact opposite". Dirac did not believe in a personal God. He once said "God used beautiful mathematics in creating the world," but here he may have used "God" as synonymous with nature.

A Tribute to Professor Alagiah Thurairajah

Eng. D L O Mendis- Kandy, Sri Lanka



Late Prof A Thurairajah

In responding to a request by Eng. Kidnapillai Selvarajah (Selva) from Sydney to write a tribute to the late Professor Alagiah Thurairajah, I told him I could write a small book on my personal reminiscences about Thurai, as he was known among his friends and colleagues, and asked him what if any restrictions there were. Selva replied "I would humbly request you not to include anything on politics and no controversy please.

Fair enough I thought, but it was only when I collected my thoughts about Thurai that I realised that it is not easy to leave out some politics from a Tribute, so I ask forbearance from the readers of this yearly Journal of the Hartley College Past Pupils Association of New South Wales, for what I am writing, which is a collection of my personal reminiscences about a person who was a modest and humble personality, in rough chronological order, which I hope will not be too controversial.

For various reasons, I and later my wife and children too, knew the legendary Prof E O E Pereira for a long time, outside the Faculty of Engineering itself. Prof EOE as he was known, was the first Professor of Civil Engineering and Dean of the Engineering Faculty, University of Ceylon. I knew about his instantaneous liking for the young Thurairajah, virtually from the day he entered the Engineering Faculty at Thurstan road, Colombo from far away Hartley College, Point Pedro. Thurai had a crystal clear mind, which made light of the toughest theories of soil science, or hydraulics or whatever, that made him a delight for any teacher. He consistently topped his batch and when he won the University scholarship for Post-Graduate studies, Prof Pereira dearly wanted him to go to his own old University of Cambridge, rather than Imperial College, London, the other centre of excellence for the brightest scholars from the British Commonwealth at that time.

Before he left for Cambridge, still to outward appearance a rather gawky innocent village boy from Kamparmalai, a farming village in the north, Professor and Mrs. Pereira invited Thurai to their home and tactfully and lovingly introduced him to the niceties of table manners and such like while explaining to him the formalities of high-table dinner in the Cambridge University. Some years later we heard from a South African graduate student from the Cambridge University who was visiting in Colombo, how Thurai had impressed his supervisor, Professor K K Roscoe, who was a giant in soil mechanics with his sheer academic brilliance. I immediately took this person to meet Prof Perira to whom he repeated what he had told me. I remember to this day the way a beaming Prof EOE leaned back in his chair, took the pipe out of his mouth, and said: "You know LO, we wonder sometimes whether we are doing our best for our students, but in moments like these any doubts just vanish!" Of course he did not mean that all his students were like Thurairajah, but rather that one Thurairajah made up for all the others.

When Thurai returned from the Cambridge University to take up appointment as a young Lecturer in the Faculty of Engineering in Colombo, I remember a memorable occasion at a social in old King George's Hall where there was a ballroom dancing those days. While many on the dance floor were vintage staff members like old Prof EOE himself, the majority who were tripping the light fantastic were students who were not noticeably good ballroom dancers, many of them being more at home with the traditional 'baila'. In this motley crowd, we suddenly noticed a really striking young pair of dancers, sweeping across the floor with accomplished ease and grace. Surprise, surprise, this was the handsome Thurai who had found a dancing partner who he could lead to match his steps and keep up with the rhythm of the dance, in a manner beautiful even for us to just watch. Mrs. EOE Pereira, still fond and possessive, asked me "Who is that girl, LO?" - and I said I did not know, a mild white lie, because I knew Mrs. EOE would soon find out from others who she was anyway. Alas! no romance resulted, but Thurai's dance floor partner did join the Engineering Faculty when she married another young lecturer, (a non-dancer), some years later.

Prof EOE Pereira was not keen on the shift of the Engineering Faculty to Peradeniya at first, I thought because he would miss his fishing at the Wellawatte canal outfall. Nevertheless he did his best to find the entire necessary laboratory and workshop equipment for the new Engineering Faculty, a vast improvement on the old labs at the Ceylon Technical College, Maradana, which Engineering Faculty students from Thurstan road, like myself, had to make do with in those days. And, the Prof EOE Pereira theatre in Peradeniya, one of his pet buildings is a really magnificent auditorium that serves the citizens of Kandy to this day. In the construction of the new faculty, Prof Pereira had the services of many of his staff and especially the Survey Technical Assistant, the late Mr. Wilfred (Willy) Dahanayake, who had a knack

of making friends with staff and students alike, and Thurai and he were special friends from the first days at Peradeniya.

I also recall an incident when my young wife was visiting in the Engineering Faculty and happened to wander into Thurai's soils mechanics lab. Having parents who were practical farmers, she had studied Geography, and married an Irrigation Engineer (myself!). Her natural interest in soils made her ask questions and Thurai gave her an informal rudimentary lecture on soil mechanics. It's hard to say who was more thrilled by this encounter, Thurai or my wife Agnes, who was starry eyed by the experience of being taught, even so briefly, a complex subject by a genius who made it all seem so simple and understandable, as she told me.

Most of us knew even in those early days that Thurai's succession to the Chair in Civil Engineering was just a matter of time, after the retirement of some senior staff, his own teachers. Sometime after Thurai was appointed Professor of Civil Engineering at the Peradeniya University, Professor EOE Pereira was himself elevated to the post of the Vice Chancellor. When Professor Pereira passed away in 1988, the first Professor EOE Pereira Memorial Lecture in the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka, was given by Prof Thurairajah. I had the honour of giving the second memorial lecture in 1989.

Meanwhile Thurai had married and had a small family of boys and girls, when tragedy struck in Peradeniya. He lost his first son when he was barely ten years old, as I remember. Thurai was demented for a while, and it must have taken all his mental reserves to recover from the shock of the tragedy of losing his eldest son, more so because I think he felt that he had neglected his family while serving the faculty with dedication. I recall the late Prof Sanath Ranatunga telling me of an incident during the turbulent days of campus student unrest in the late 1980s. Sanath had heard that some students had taken hostage the then Dean of the Science Faculty, and immediately rushed across to the Senate, but by the time he got there he found that Thurai was already there and talking to the students in a friendly manner to get the Science Faculty Dean released from the hostage! Students knew and loved Thurai, without any question of ethnicity or whatever.

In the mid 1960's when I was working on construction of Uda Walawe headworks, I was able to officially consult the Engineering Faculty, where Thurai was the acknowledged authority on soil mechanics in the country. The Resident Engineer, Uda Walawe Headworks, the late NTK Munasinghe, himself a soils engineer who had done Post-Graduate studies in Stanford University, USA struck up a beautiful friendship with Thurai over this consultancy work. Thurai's early demise was a personal loss to Munasinghe who was many years his senior and passed away last year.

When I was invited to work with Dr Joseph Needham in the Needham Research Institute in the Cambridge University in the 1980s, Thurai was very happy for me and gave me a hand-written introduction to his friend Professor Andrew Schofield, who had just been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). He took me to lunch and invited me to give a lecture on the ancient irrigation systems of Sri Lanka to a group of scholars in the University. On another occasion, I met another old friend Prof S T Ariyaratnam of Waterloo University with whom Thurai had spent a sabbatical as a Visiting Professor, and Ariyam, himself a famous scholar, introduced me to another of Thurai's Cambridge friends Prof Archie Roth, if I remember the name correctly. All these scholars had achieved great distinctions like FRS, which would have been well within Thurai's reach also had he so aspired.

Another highlight of Thurai's life in the 1980's was the post of President-elect in the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). He was proposed for election as was customary at the time, by the incumbent SLAAS Council, but an objection was made and another engineer's name was proposed which was submitted to the General Membership at the Annual General Meeting which followed. The general membership at the AGM rejected the new name, and there was no General President from Section C, Engineering, Architecture and Surveying, for some months, while the incumbent General President acted till the early months of the next year when another engineer was elected by the Council. Meanwhile a case was filed in the civil courts contesting the decision of the AGM, and as far as I know that case is still unresolved. Thurai could not have cared less about this type of thing, but sadly it is an indication of the depths to which our premier science institution in our country has been reduced in recent times.

From Peradeniya, Thurai moved to the Open University in Colombo where he served as the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technology for some time. After that he was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Jaffna University. During his term in the Open University before he went to Jaffna, we had the occasional chance to talk together about the ethnic problem in general and in particular, problems in Jaffna. Thurai had a way of rather naively referring to "our boys" and I would equally naively respond "they are our boys also", and Thurai would laugh in his friendly manner as much as to say "Come off it LO !", a term of disbelief I have learned from my North American friends.

It was after his untimely death in June 1994 that I personally realised how much we had lost, when I had the opportunity to visit the Vanni in November 2005. I was a member of the Peoples Planning Commission set up by the Movement for National Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR), with Prof H Sriyananda as the Chairman, on account of the unsatisfactory way in which post tsunami restoration work was being done, and we visited all parts of the

country. In Killinochchi we were met in the Conference Hall of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), by Maran, Director, Humanitarian and Development Agencies, Planning and Development Secretariat of the LTTE. On account of the need to conserve electricity there was only one big light on at the end of the hall, but Maran switched on another light behind where I was seated and asked me to look at the picture on that wall. He asked me if I could recognize the persons in the picture and I said of course they were Prof Thurairajah and the LTTE leader Mr. V Pirabhakaran. I remembered then how the Sri Lanka army had over-run some underground bunkers in Jaffna and found a photo of the late Prof Thurairajah about which much media publicity was given at the time. One of his friends, Eng Konara Wanigasekera wrote a spirited defence of Thurai at that time, ending with the phrase “let us give him the benefit of the doubt”. Thurai’s contacts with the LTTE could have and should have been used by us in the manner that international Pugwash conferences were organized in the 1950s as will be described in what follows. It is to be noted here that the purpose of the Pugwash Conferences is to bring together, from around the world, influential scholars and public figures concerned with reducing the danger of armed conflict and seeking cooperative solutions for global problems.

I had the privilege of being invited to a Pugwash symposium in 1978, after which my friend Tharumaratnam, founder of the Nigerian Construction Consortium, (NCC) offered to fund an international Pugwash conference in Sri Lanka. Joseph Rotblat the founding father figure of Pugwash visited Sri Lanka and met local scientists and reported to Pugwash Council that the 1983 Pugwash conference could be held in Sri Lanka. Thereafter I called a public meeting to set up the Sri Lanka Pugwash group, but a clique of local engineers and scientists objected to “spending such a large sum of money on foreign scientists when local science and scientists are starved for funds”. Mind you they were referring to Tharu’s money. So, the Sri Lanka Pugwash group organized a Workshop on Tropical Agriculture instead of the 1983 international conference. I have often stated what a difference it would have made to the recent tragic history of our country if the 1983 international Pugwash conference had been held in Sri Lanka. The International Pugwash and Joseph Rotblat were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995, and when the British Pugwash Group held a celebration at their AGM in April 1996, I gave an Invited Address on “Environment and Conflict in Sri Lanka”. Sadly, Thurai who was aware of my Pugwash activities had passed away at that time. Sir Joseph Rotblat himself passed away in 2005 in his 97th year, and a Memorial Service for him was held in the Royal Society, London, on December 9, 2005 at which I was again invited to speak.

In my presentation I said:

“I was able to visit the so-called ‘uncleared areas’ in the Vanni, under control of the Tamil Tigers, for a few days in November. I

saw similarities of course on a miniscule scale, with the global situation in the cold war years in the 1950s which led to the Russell – Einstein manifesto in which Joseph Rotblat had a big hand, and the first international conference of scientists from across the cold-war divide on neutral ground in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada, which was the birth of the Pugwash conferences. I feel that a similar meeting of Sri Lanka scientists from the Vanni and the global Tamil diaspora should be arranged”.

(Mendis, D L O. 2005. *Alternative Development*. Vol. I Pugwash. Part I, *Remember Your Humanity, A Tribute to Sir Joseph Rotblat*. p. xiii. Vishwa Lekha, Colombo)

In this connection, I have visited Sydney in December 2006 and spoken informally to members of the Senior Tamils Association of Australia on some of these issues. I do hope to be able to make a more formal presentation at a future date, may be to the Hartley College Past Pupils Association of New South Wales. Meanwhile I send all of you my best fraternal greetings!

In conclusion, having exceeded my quota of space I must conclude at this point, leaving many more anecdotes unwritten, because Thurai was a legend in his time, and as I said I could write a small book about Thurai. He would live forever in the hearts and minds of people living in Sri Lanka.

Editor’s Note: Eng D L O Mendis was the President of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka in 1986/87, and has a keen interest in “Hydraulic Civilizations, Irrigation Ecosystems, and the Modern State”, the title of his Prof E O E Pereira Memorial Lecture in 1989.

Thurairajah Theorem: Thurai’s research work carried out with the guidance of Prof Roscoe on shear properties of soil at the Cambridge University not only earned him PhD degree in June 1962 but gave him worldwide recognition to his newly invented Dissipation Function which is popularly known as Thurairajah Theorem among his colleagues and students. The Civil Engineers know the important role played by Cam-Clay model that offers detailed insight into the soil behaviour for any built in structure. According to Prof Andrew Schofield of the Cambridge University, the original Cam-Clay locus was based on the Thurairajah dissipation function plus Calladine’s plastic flow curves.

**JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN
RIGHTS
OUR ROLE AS A HARTLEYITE**

Dr.K.Ratnagobal - Hobart, Tasmania.



Justice, Freedom and Human Rights are the birth right of every human being in this world. Wherever they are violated we, as decent human beings, have a moral obligation to raise our concerns against it. We are hearing various stories of violation of these basic rights based on Race, Religion, Color and Caste around the world. Our College taught us not only to perform well academically but also to treat others fairly. Our Alma Mater taught us to accept victory and defeat equally and to help each and every one let down by the society.

Most of my contemporaries will know that during the sports duals with other schools, our legendary Principal, late Mr. K Pooranampillai, popularly known as KP, wanted us to encourage our team as well as the opposition team. As most of us come from very humble beginnings we shaped our lives with the help of our dedicated teachers likes of *RMG, ST Samuel, WNS, C.Ratnavel, SG Deva, and M. Atpathanathan*. This list goes on and on. We should take our hats off to all of our teachers who helped us achieve what we have to day. We should achieve much more to make our community, our college and ourselves proud of these achievements. We learned at school as to how to pursue a goal under testing circumstances. Our school has produced many great personalities who are well known for their chosen profession.

Justice should not only be done, but

seem to be done too. We listen to various stories about our brothers and sisters who are arbitrarily detained and kept away from their loved ones for months due to the prevailing situation in our birthplace. After the shocking 9/11 incident in New York many western democracies have enacted laws to curtail the movement of people across nations. As law abiding citizens we, Hartleyites living around the world comply with these new legislation but we need to understand that ordinary people are going through various hardships particularly when they travel from one country to another for genuine reasons. We understand and recognise the concerns of these nations after the 9/11 incident. We all know that pupils of our beloved school in Point Pedro at the moment are studying under trying circumstances with a High Security Zone surrounding the college. As a Hartleyite, we have a moral obligation to raise our concerns peacefully to ensure that justice is done.

Human rights were enshrined in the constitution when we were born. Everyone has equal rights irrespective of their Race, Religion, Cast, Creed or Color. We need to educate fellow countrymen on the norms of human rights with a view to building a universal culture of human rights. As Hartleyites we should commit to the following principles in this regard:

- Strengthening of respect for all mankind and fundamental freedoms;
- Development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity
- Promotion of understanding, tolerance, gender equality and friendship among all communities, indigenous peoples and racial, national, ethnic, religious and linguistic groups;
- Promotion of people-centered sustainable development and social justice.

We live in a society that is not perfect. Wherever I worked in Sri Lanka and abroad, Hartleyites stand out for the above basic instincts of human rights. You can be proud of their politeness, respect for others and the

dedication to finish the job on time. The important values Hartley taught us are ***Responsibility, Reliability and Punctuality***. My sincere appeal to fellow Hartleyites is to raise your voices in a concerted manner acceptable to all for Justice, Freedom and Human Rights. If we voice our concerns wherever these values are violated, our Alma Mater, Our fellow Hartleyites, Our community, and our Teachers who taught us these values will be proud of us.

I read the article written by my classmate and friend Dr M Sreetharan in the last Miscellany about Sornalingam. We all studied together from Grade 4 till our High School. We played marbles together during lunch breaks and Soccer together with tennis balls. He was a great person and wonderful sportsman who stood for our values. We should be proud of him. It is my sincere appeal to all our fellow Hartleyites to treasure our values, culture and traditions. I appeal to everyone to pass our culture and values to our next generation. We don't want to see Tamil names in future without them knowing their mother tongue. That is the gravest fear I have.

In the decades since the end of World War II, the concept of human rights has gained near universal acceptance by all over the world. Advocacy of human rights by organizations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have been invaluable for popularizing the idea that each individual has certain inalienable rights. But these organizations, along with multilateral institutions like the United Nations have for the most part limited their focus to certain kinds of abuse, those involving civil and political rights. As Hartleyites we should look at the Issues involving economic and social rights and basic questions of gender equality.

We are living in a beautiful country that has adopted us. We should preserve our identity while integrating into the broader Australian community. We have a rich language, culture and tradition. Let us spread it around. I am a Hartleyite and I am proud of it, so you should be too. *FIAT LUX*.

Editor's Note: Dr K Ratnagobal is an old boy of Hartley College and a career Medical Officer (mental health) based in Tasmania. He has been invited as the Chief Guest for the annual AGM/Dinner.

Legendary Principal K Pooranampillai about Prof C J Elizer: After graduation, I joined Hartley as an Assistant Teacher in May 1932. Among my assignments was the teaching of English History to the Cambridge Junior Class-A Division. They were the brightest and most restless pupils. Of them, Jeyam Eliezer was the most diminutive and probably the youngest in the class.

His father had died earlier and as he told me later, he decided to make his way through life by hardworking. By the end of 1932, he passed the Cambridge Junior Examination with honours and distinctions. As he had also qualified to gain exemption from the London Matriculation, he could proceed to prepare for the Intermediate Examination in Science, but he could not enter University College, as he was under 17 years old age

He joined the University College in the BSc (Maths Stream). At the examination he won First Class Honours and obtained a Scholarship to Cambridge University. He did well at the Cambridge University too among other things learnt to be a good public speaker. I remember reading in Jawarharlal Neru's autobiography that there was a rule at the Cambridge Union that students had to speak at least once in a term or give the reason why.

I remember an occasion late on when Jeyam was Professor and also a member of the Synod Methodist Church, Mr. E R de Silva doyen of Principals had spoken on the language problem. Then Jeyam got up and expressed a different point of view. And then to everyone's surprise the great E.R. de Silva withdrew his submission.

After the "Sinhala Only Act in 1956" the atmosphere in academic circles changed and Jeyam accepted a place in Malaysia and thereafter in an Australian University.



HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INCORPORATED, AUSTRALIA

Secretary: G.Thirukumaran
 117, Rausch Street, Toongabbie NSW 2146, AUSTRALIA
 Voice: 61-2-9636 1693 Mobile: 0416191979 Email: gunat@optusnet.com.au
 Website <http://www.hartleycollege.com/hweb/ppa/nsw/>

Secretary's Report for 2006/07

14th July 2007

Dear Friends,

As usual, the past year has been another eventful year for our Association.

We honoured a couple of our past teachers whose valuable service to our alma mater produced many Doctors, Engineers and other Professionals. One of them was Mr. Vallipuram who served Hartley in the 1970's as a Physics Teacher and Vice Principal. The other teacher was Mr.Thambirajah who taught Zoology at Hartley from 1978 to 1998.

HCPPA of NSW was instrumental in setting up another academic award scheme for one of the best students in commerce in the G.C.E (A/L) from funds contributed by Mr. P.S. Paramatheva. He also contributed funds for the College Library. We thank Mr Paramatheva for his kind gesture.

The Principal indicates that he would like similar award schemes for a student in the Arts and Chess as an encouragement for more student participation in these areas. I would invite the membership to come forward to establish similar awards in their keen subject/interests or in remembrance of any loved ones.

Our Association has also contributed some funds towards the erection of a new fence surrounding the College premises.

I herewith express my heartiest gratitude to all the members, fellow committee members and their families, who have helped us and the College in various ways. I look forward to have more member participation in our activities in the coming years.

I would also like to thank Mr. Shan Shanmuganathan, the Chairman of the HCPPA Trust who helps us in all the mediation with the Principal and any other matters related to our association.

My sincere thanks also go to the members of hartleycollege.org web team, especially Mr. Sivaananthan who coordinates the publication of our Newsletters and event notices very promptly.

Yours Sincerely,

G.Thirukumaran



**HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC
(INC 9886632) (INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION)**

Treasurer: Vadivelu Sugumar
7, Vermont Court, Seven Hills NSW 2147, AUSTRALIA
Voice: (02) 9679 7854 Or 0414790908 Email: Sugumar@bigpond.net.au
College website: hartleycollege.com



14 July 2007

Vanakkam,

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

The Association's overall financial position was stable and was similar to previous year. We received \$14,323 during the year and expended \$11,448 giving a surplus of \$2,875. The accumulated fund improved from \$14,500 to \$17,375 at 30 June 2007. Our life membership hit the one hundred mark during the year and this membership fund of \$10,300 is set aside as a restricted fund not available for operational expenses. Details are provided in the audited financial report in the annual report.

Key Financial Transactions for the year included:

- Expenses incurred on sporting activities \$510
- Life membership received \$1600
- Deficit from 2006 annual dinner \$231
- Surplus from benefit show \$3,115
- College Computer Laboratory Maintenance expenses \$300
- Receipt from Mr Paramatheva for Commerce prize and library \$200
- Payment of prize monies to track athletes of (Mr Mathivanar) \$200
- Our share of funding for college fence \$500
- Fundraised for Mr Nilojan medical needs \$4,260
- Remittance of Nilojan's collection to the HCPPA Trust \$4,000

The Executive Committee of HCPPA of NSW and Nilojan's parents thank all members for their generous donations.

I appreciate the courtesy displayed by the membership during my financial dealings with them and congratulate every member for their prompt payments.

Nanri

Vadivelu Sugumar
Treasurer-HCPPA of NSW

Australian Population: According to Peter Costello, the Federal Treasurer, the preliminary figures show that the number of births in Australia in 2006 was 266,000, the highest number since 1971 and the second highest in Australian history. Projected population data shows that the next decade will experience a shrinking taxpayer population. For example, there are currently five people of working age to support each person aged 65 and over. By 2047, there will be only 2.4 people to every person aged 65 and over. This is a result of declining fertility rates since the 1960s and increasing life expectancy. Australia's population is set to pass 21 million on the 29th June 2007, according to calculations from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Point Pedro

Ms Shanti Arulanantham-London

Point Pedro,
The quiet harbour-town,
On the northern tip
Of our homeland
Evokes such memories.

She was such a peaceful town,
Busy when cotton was at its heyday.
Our erstwhile rulers,
The warriors of now humbled Portugal,
Gave her, her distinctive name.

The folk of our little town
Minded their business,
Whether it was on the sea, the farms
Or in sundry activities.

They took pride in their schools,
Hartley, our Alma Mater,
M.H.S, our sister school,
And many, many more!

School girl memories of this our town
Come crowding into my mind:

Chattering scholars, boys and girls,
Walking, cycling to school,
While the breakers dashed
On Point Pedro's beach.

Quiet Sunday afternoons
And family visits to the beach,
To build sandcastles on the shore,
Paddle in the sea
And get nipped by sandy-hued crabs!

The thud and the bump of the ball,
As brawny youths played volleyball
On the green off College Road.

The occasional visit to our indoor market,
With its colourful wares of brinjals, drumsticks,
Mangoes, jak fruit and various berries,
Where customer and vendor haggled noisily.

Tamils and Sinhalese,
Hindus, Christians and Muslims
Lived in such amity,
And temple and church bells pealed
Without rancour.

* * * * *

Gone are those days!
 This bane of human beings,
 Ethnic chauvinism,
 Has marred all.
 The shame and the agony of civil conflict
 Has devastated our land.

Young men have sought justice,
 Through the rifle and the land-mine,
 To combat the military might
 Of an unjust State!

Eminent professionals and scientists
 Have fled our town, our homeland!
 We, the émigrés, flourish in foreign climes.
 Dare we forget the town that nurtured us?

Editor's Note: Ms Shanti Arulanantham- an old girl of Hartley College and the eldest daughter of late Mr K Pooranampillai-the legendary Principal of Hartley College.

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Brief Report by HCPPA Trust

This brief report is prepared as an addendum to the more elaborate report we provided last year, and will discuss the events over the past year.

Need less to say, given the ground situation in the country we cannot talk of any significant development or progress on the initiatives we undertook earlier. Whilst some of the construction activities initiated by INGO's were suspended following violence in the areas, we could not even continue with the furniture replacement program initiated by the Canada PPA branch, due to shortage of materials. We therefore concentrated more on building a more sustainable scholarship schemes for deserving students.

A past pupil Dr.Rathan M Subramaniam, from the USA offered to set up a scheme to the value of Rs.1 Million over a period of 5 years, with emphasis on students entering Medical Faculty, while another past pupil Mr.Ganeshan through the Colombo PPA Branch offered a further scholarship of Rs.1 Million. Both schemes are being finalized at the moment. It is our intention to build a strong coverage of Institutional Educational funding support so that we could attract the best students to our college from the neighboring areas, despite the fact that we operate within the high security zone. I must also mention the support given by your branch in repairing the boundary walls of the school, (the work currently on) and by your member Mr. Paramatheva who has offered a prize to a deserving student in the Commerce stream and also pay for books in the field of economics

You must be aware that the school, infact all the schools in the Jaffna district were closed for almost 2 months last year and again as recent as last week, disrupting education at a crucial time. The good news from home base is that despite the ground situation, the school delivered better than previous year's results in the GCE (A/L) and (O/L) examinations and we have a very dynamic principal in Mr.N.Theivendrarajah who is certainly making a difference in the way school is managed, and in building an excellent rapport with the NGO's and the Government officials. This is certainly bound to benefit the school in time to come.

Shan Shanmuganathan
Chairman: Hartley College PPA Trust

Maintaining Our Individual Cultural identity: A Food for Thought: We, as Hartleyites acknowledge the significance of English Language 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. Our children born in the host countries such as Australia perceive differently from most of us who were born and brought up in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). Many parents are unaware of this fact while the children are young and are within the home environment. But as they grow up as young adults they question the need for some of our customs, norms, values and rituals. Our parents never experienced these situations. Hartleyites must encourage our kids to learn Tamil whilst trying to master the English and use the Tamil in the best possible way, at least to expressing our emotions, sentiments, and feelings in our home. It is to be noted here that the research is very clear about the significance of Bilingualism that has positive impacts on our kids' psychological, linguistic, emotional and educational developments.

With Best Compliments from~



Dr. Vathany Jeyaprakash

MBBS (Hons), FRACGP, Dip - Child Health

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ஒன்றுவீட்ட ஒரு வெள்ள

8:30-5:00

ஒன்றுவீட்ட ஒரு சன்

8:30-12:00

Showcasing the Creative Writing of Young Offsprings of Hartleyites

As the Editor of the Miscellany, I have tried to solicit articles from young kids who are offsprings of Hartleyites but are still studying in the schools. This is a new feature of Miscellany. I have been successful in receiving articles from 7 school going young kids. One of the aims of Miscellany is to bring talented young kids out of the woodwork and to provide a meaningful platform for them to showcase their literary works in matters relating to socio-economic. I am delighted to present the creative writing of our young kids below in the order of receipt of their articles. It is my earnest hope that the future Executive Committee of HCPPA of NSW would continue to encourage our young kids to showcase the creative writing skills: Editor

Australian Federal Election Issues

Ms Sinthuja Balachandran- Year 12, Stuartholme School, QLD

The Australian Federal election is to be held this year. I am 17 years now and many of my friends do not honestly care for politics and the issues surrounding it. We are not yet old enough to vote but, in my opinion, it's more of a reflection on our acute disinterest in anything that doesn't involve celebrities in the entertainment field. The reason I take an interest in the upcoming election is due to my economics assignment, which explore the economics of the government.

Having researched and read a satisfactory amount of information regarding the issues of the forthcoming Federal election, I am conceited enough to consider myself an authority on the subject and to endeavour to write this little piece of work. From what I gathered from my research, there are three key issues that are expected to influence the upcoming Federal Election. Well, more like three debatable issues that I can actually understand. The three issues are industrial relations, education and climate change. I'll try my best to summarise these issues.

On the subject of industrial relations, let's just say Mr. John Howard, the Prime Minister is not getting on too well since the introduction of work-choices legislation last year. As everyone who watches TV should know by now, the introduction of work-choices legislation abolished some basic rights for workers, reduced allowable award matters and increased restrictions on allowable industrial actions. This caused workers around Australia to groan and sink to the ground while their employers hailed the Prime Minister as their most favorite person.

It is my personal opinion that Mr. Howard has lost some crucial voters because of the introduction of work choices legislation. The Federal Opposition Leader, Mr. Kevin Rudd may seem to gain from it but Labor's workplace relations do not seem to garner many positive reviews either. It seems that Labor has misread the present public mood and don't realize that people, generally anti-union, do not want trade unions back in their daily life. Hence, in my opinion both Mr. Howard and Mr. Rudd seem to be on an even keel regarding this issue.

Another issue is education. As the Opposition Leader, Mr. Kevin Rudd plainly means with his many words, the more you invest in education the bigger the 'return' you'll gain from it. In his budget reply speech, he promised a '\$2.5 billion Trades in Schools program over ten years to build new Trades Training Centres. He wants upgrade existing facilities and equipment in all of Australia's 2650 secondary schools – both government and non government'. He likes to raise the year 12 retention rate to 90% from the current 75%. He says that the 540,000 young Australians aged 16-24 who are not in full-time study or work may contribute to the trade industry.

The Howard Government's education policies seem lack lustre by comparison. Unlike Labor, they are only spending *millions*, not *billions* on education. The budget speech of the Federal Treasurer, Mr. Peter Costello seems to value the university sector and the teachers. No doubt, they are essential ingredients for our society. Mr. Rudd also seeks to introduce Asian languages to the school curriculum as he believes it will benefit Australia's trade relations with future superpowers, China and India. No doubt it will add an exotic touch to our school language program.

Another important issue is climate change. The only thing I can reasonably discern in the whirlwind debate surrounding this topic is Labor's accuse that Mr Howard has not tackled this issue in his eleven years. But then again, in my opinion, Labor hasn't exactly formed a plan to tackle this issue in *their* idle eleven years.

Ms Sinthuja Balachandran is an offspring of Hartleyite and she is a Year 12 student at Stuartholme School in Queensland.

Global Warming

Mathangan Paskarajothy- Year 10, Ryde Secondary College, NSW

The issue of global warming represents a topical environmental concern for all in contemporary society. Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans in recent decades and its projected continuation. Human's reliance on crude oil as an energy source has contributed to this. The dilemma lies in changing current energy practices to be more environmentally conscious and sustainable. As a school going kid, I have tried to answer the questions: What is Global Warming and why is it worrying so many people across the world.

Currently, crude oil is being used at an unsustainable rate. To outline this, it is necessary to look at the long process of oil formation. Millions of years ago when the universe was born, everything on earth was constructed with the base element as carbon. As this material deteriorated or oxidized it released carbon into the atmosphere, where it became carbon dioxide. As more carbon dioxide filled the atmosphere, the earth's temperature started to rise. This caused the ice caps to melt preventing ocean currents to occur. These plants started to reproduce faster than usual because the conditions were perfect. As more and more plants were produced the older ones died and settled on the sea floor. As more plants die, the layer on the sea floor grew. Consequently, the layer of dead material becomes covered in kilometers of rock over millions of years. The pressure of this rock has squeezed and heated this dead material so that the carbon atoms in the dead plant matter changed their composition to make coal and diamonds. If the conditions are right, carbon atoms will fuse with hydrogen atoms to make crude oil. This crude oil was trapped underground for millions of years. Here, the carbon could not be used to heat up the atmosphere.

As human's technology advanced and they looked for more power, they searched for stronger and more efficient fuel sources. Humans found the vast reserves of oil just waiting to be used; they snatched up the chance and started to build pumps all over the world. For instance, in the last century, the world's energy requirements increased sharply. As more third world countries become developed, more crude oil has been pumped out. As this oil is burnt it splits the hydrocarbon molecule and fuses the carbon atoms with oxygen, forming carbon dioxide. It represents the unwanted cycle of carbon emissions. We are releasing an estimated 15 cubic kilometers of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Naturally, the ice caps on both the north and south poles keep the oceans circulating because the cold and warm water formed currents that prevented too much plant matter from growing. Now that we are bringing up carbon from its underground prison, the melting of ice caps and increase in sea levels have tipped the scales on the balance. If we continue using as much crude oil as are do today, we will have brought up the carbon that heated our planet millions of years ago and potentially cause another ice age or natural catastrophe.

This can easily be prevented. Many pioneers have created ways to produce energy without the harmful side effects to our environment. Giant turbines powered by wind generate electricity. Although wind power is currently producing only 1% of the worldwide power, this number has been rising since 1997. Many products have also been produced with reducing greenhouse gasses, such as energy efficient Cars, light bulbs and houses. Multi- national companies have embraced environmentally efficient practices. For example: companies create power stations that use renewable sources such as wind and solar. Consumers can pay to these companies so that their households will run on only renewable power sources. Government action is required to enforce legislation to ensure all citizens comply with environmentally friendly measures. However, individual participation in such programs can make securing a safe environment for future generation.

Small steps can do big things. Showering for one minute less, installing energy efficient light bulbs at our homes and turning off lights that you don't really need can not only save you money but also save our environment.

Mathangan Paskarajothy is an offspring of Hartleyite and he is a Year 10 student at Ryde Secondary College, New South Wales.

Australian National Days

Ms Bathithi Selvananthan- Year 10, Girraween High School, NSW

In true Australian spirit we always strive to advance, grow and build the many facets of our way of life such as national pride, spirit, unity, diversity, caring environment, and community participation when we celebrate our national days.

The Australian National day on the 26th of January is an opportunity for us to think about the importance and value of being Australian. I have learnt that the Australia Day has been commemorated each year from 1788. On this day, we reflect the greatness of Australia – the Aborigines, our farmers, sporting heroes, ANZAC battlers, fragile and enduring land, our lush and bountiful scenery, our multiculturalism, our unity, our spirituality and knowledge, art and history, our freedom and democracy, fairness, mateship and compassion. As part of the national Australia Day celebrations, the Prime Minister announces the recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards.

Centuries ago, the United Kingdom arrested people for the smallest of crimes e.g. stealing a handkerchief. The number of prisoners grew so much that they could no longer hold this many people in the country. On the 26th January 1788, Captain Cook and Arthur Phillip set out to find land to abandon these prisoners in. The First Fleet led by Captain James Cook and botanist Arthur Phillip set out towards the south of the globe, where they founded Australia. The British then dug up the land and drove away the natives. Prisoners worked as convicts and the British began to move to Australia to settle here. The population of Australia began to grow with more and more immigrants from various countries settling in Australia. The day Australia was founded was the day we now call Australia Day.

ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) Day is commemorated annually on 25 April by Australians for the dedication, valency and determination of the millions of ANZAC soldiers in World War I. They fought in Gallipoli, France and Belgium battlefields, where 50-60% of them sacrificed their lives for the war. ANZAC Day is a remembrance of their first major military. Millions of young soldiers, as young as 14 years old, participated on a thrilling journey and experience of blood, mateship, highs and lows, and learning.

In 1941, Australia was a Federal Commonwealth for about 14 years. A year later, Australia and New Zealand formed this military expedition to fight out in the Black Sea. With great courage, the ANZAC set out to play a part in maintaining world peace. They strategically made their way into Turkey, before the Turks began to fire and kill more than 8000 ANZAC soldiers. They suffered many casualties and endured many hardships. Although ANZAC did not win against the Turks, they have shaped Australia's identity, past and present.

Today, we appreciate and look up the inspiring soldiers who kept Australia alive and changed our entire country and reputation around the world. Around the country, we commemorate the soldiers with wreaths, 'the last post' which was their bugle call to end off the night, 'the reveille' which was their morning bugle call, one-minute silence, National Anthem, and poppies and other flowers. Let us salute all these true patriots of Australia.

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The Drought in Australia

Ms Catherine Thushyanthy Jeevanayagam- Year 9, Mt.St Michael's College, QLD

Australia, one of the oldest continents in the world, is also the driest inhabited continent in the world. The availability of water is huge because of the extensive river system, but as it has gradually stopped raining, things have changed rapidly. Currently, Australia is going through one of the worst droughts because of the lack of rainfall. In general, a drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period where there is insufficient water for everyone's needs. Australia has detailed, historical rainfall records and they demonstrate that some parts of Australia are affected by drought every 18 years. Australia's rainfall is extremely variable and climatic extremes are attributed to the phenomenon called Southern Oscillation. It is a major air pressure shift between the Asia and Pacific regions and is referred to as the El Niño effect. By understanding the effects of El Niño, the Bureau of Meteorology has been able to accurately predict drought conditions.

The drought has also disrupted cropping programmes and has reduced breeding stock. This has affected the farmers dramatically. Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, is in the subtropical zone. However, at present, the major dams, which supply water to South-East Queensland, are only at 18% capacity. Due to the water loss, across our Australian nation, Brisbane is now on Level 5 water restrictions. Queenslanders are banned from washing their vehicles and can only water their gardens with a bucket two times a week. As well, Brisbane's residents have been asked to use no more than 140 litres per person, per day. A concerted effort by everyone has seen daily usage recently reduced to just 137 litres per person, per day. This has been a huge challenge for many of us living in Brisbane because in the past, the community watered their gardens everyday with a hose or irrigation system.

Whilst the drought increases everyday, there are ways everyone can contribute to saving water. Even though saving water cannot be so easy, here are a few ideas that are so simple and easy to implement. The first and easy to implement is to reduce the amount of time we use our shower. I believe many people may find it difficult to achieve the 4-minute shower. Every minute less in the shower saves one bucket of water. This is an amazing amount of precious water being saved for our society. If everyone in Australia had 4-minute shower, billions of buckets of water would be saved. Another way to save water is to use a half flush instead of a full flush when going to the toilet. That saves an enormous 4 buckets of water per day. A jug of water should be kept in the fridge instead of letting water run down the plughole while waiting for the water to run cold. These straightforward and easy steps to save water are very useful in order to save the most important resource that is needed for the survival of mankind. Currently, the Queensland Government is subsidising rainwater tanks for business and householders. Additionally, the water wise programme encourages the preservation of water. For just twenty dollars, a licensed plumber will visit your home, check all taps, both inside and outside, toilets and install one water-saving showerhead.

This current but one of the most prolonged droughts has helped people Australians to realise how we should treasure water. Australians have tried particularly hard to save a huge amount of water by thinking of their own solutions to preserve water. In the future, we can hope that we get more rains often in order for us to have a larger water supply. However, at the moment, every drop of water counts. Both Federal and State governments throughout Australia are implementing programmes such as the building new dams and installing desalination plants to ensure Australians never run out of water. It is vital that we as Australians conserve water now to ensure the survival of our future generation in this beautiful continent.

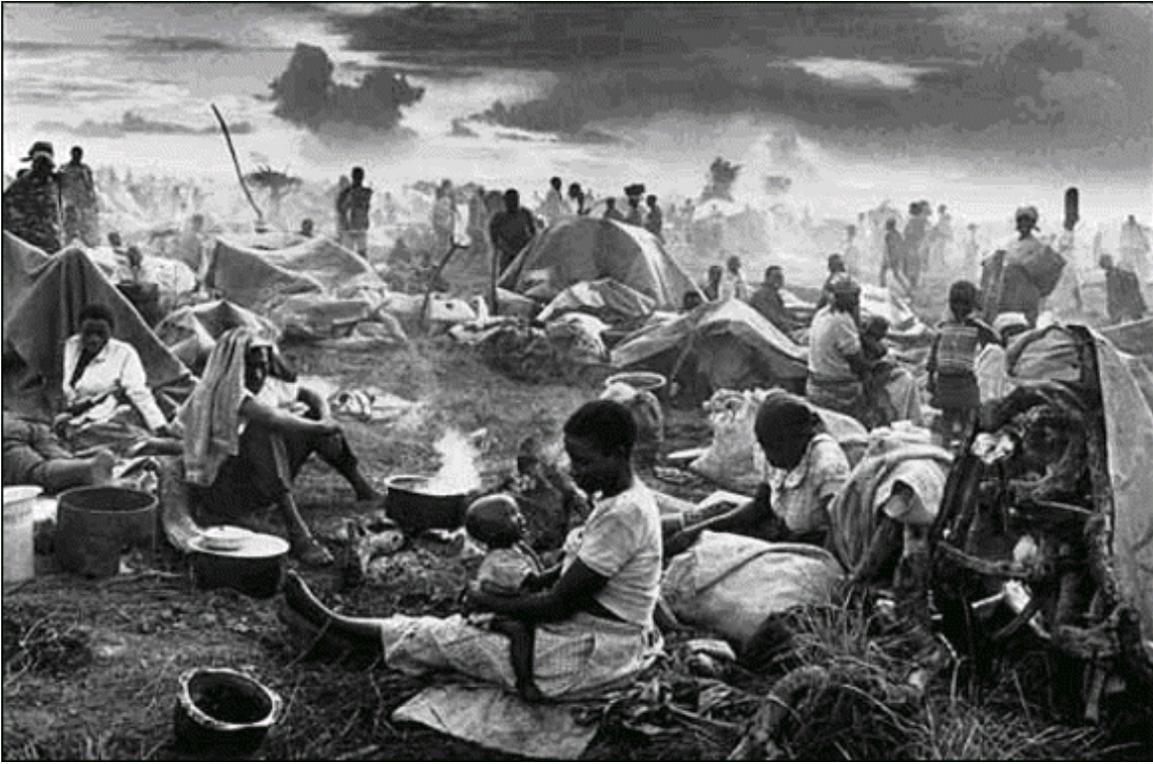
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Rwanda: The Genocide

Ms Serene Sugumar- Year 9, Girraween High School, NSW

Rwanda is a tiny country of only 26,000 square kilometres with a pre-genocide population of seven million. In the late 1980s, one of Africa's most promising economies began to slide, accompanied by

authoritarian politics. President Habyarimana, who declared a policy of ethnic "balance" that supposedly allotted school places and jobs according to the national ratio of 85 percent Hutu and 15 percent Tutsi, was in fact a Hutu supporter who kept the spoils of Rwanda's wealth for his own family.



On April 6, 1994, Rwanda President Juvenal Habyarimana and Burundi President Cyprien Ntaryamira were killed when their plane was shot down by a missile believed to have been launched by the Hutu military rulers. The killings of the Tutsi by the Hutu began half an hour later.

Within 24 hours of Habyarimana's jet being shot down, roadblocks began to appear around Kigali, Rwanda's capital. The Tutsis were separated from the Hutus and were beaten to death with machetes, or knives. Thousands were killed on the first day, and more than 800,000 were slaughtered over a period of three months. On April 8, 1994, the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front), which was made up of about 14,000 Tutsi refugees, initiated a major campaign to end the genocide and rescue 600 of its troops around Kigali. In July 1994, the RPF took over Kigali, which forced the Hutu government to flee to nearby Zaire.

The Hutus wanted to get rid of the minority Tutsi, or "Inyenzi" (the Kinyarwanda word for "**cockroach**") forever, and they almost succeeded. This "ethnic cleansing" was carried out with extraordinary cruelty. People were burnt alive, thrown into pits alive or dead and were often forced to kill their own friends and relatives.

In 1994, the small African country of Rwanda was awash in blood. Extremists in the majority Hutu-controlled government organized a systematic genocide of Rwanda's minority Tutsi population. The massacre was halted around 1997, but for Rwandans the ordeal does not yet have an ending. Today, the physical scars sustained by survivors are fading, but emotional scars remain.

After the genocide, Rwanda's economy was destroyed with no hope of a quick recovery. The hatred that had started the war remained on both sides. Many Tutsis believed that their survival depended on the Hutus' death and the Hutus were convinced that only the annihilation of the Tutsis would solve the problems that the genocide had caused. Rwanda was in a crisis—economically and socially. The local and government institutions were destroyed, the nation in ruins. Around three-quarters of the Tutsi population had been slaughtered. During the 13-week period it lasted, approximately 800,000 people had died.



The Rwandan Genocide, despite international news coverage, was overlooked. Most countries, including France, Belgium and the United States ignored the massacres. They refused to intervene or take action against the horrific murders. Canada led the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) but did not authorize them to intervene or stop any of the slaughter that took place there.

In July 1994, a government was formed which helped refugees return to Rwanda. Almost 100,000 people were placed in prison for aiding or being involved in the genocide, and 500 were sentenced to death. The genocide left Rwanda shattered, and not much has changed. Even now, they have no roads, bridges, and telephones. Many teachers died in the genocide, and the education level is very low. The Tutsis believe that the only way to live is by making sure the Hutus don't have much freedom under their government. The Hutus believe no-one cares about their sufferings now. Rwanda is still suffering the after-effects of the genocide, and many people now are afraid that genocide might, again, break out.



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Our Traditional Cultural Festivals

Suthan Sivarajah-Year 10, Melbourne High School, VIC

Today we are proud to be part of this great Australian society. In this beautiful country everyone has the right to identify with a cultural identity whilst at the same time bracing Australian values. By considering this and also as an offspring of Hartleyite I would like to share my thoughts on the important Tamil Cultural festivals that we should celebrate with our families and friends in this country. These festivals have much significance to our rich Tamil culture. In my opinion, the three festivals, which hold major significance, are: Tamil New Year, ThaiPongal and Deepawalli. Generation after generation, these festivals