

HARTLEY COLLEGE

Past Pupils Association
New South Wales



13ம் ஆண்டு சிறப்பு இகம்

ஹாட்லி கல்லூரி
பழைய மாணவர் சங்கம்
நியூ சவுத் வேல்ஸ் கிளை
அவுஸ்த்ரேலியா



Point Pedro



13th Annual Dinner
Saturday, 10th July 2004
Grantham Church Hall,
SEVEN HILLS





HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH, AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL DINNER 2004

Saturday, 10 July 2004

நிகழ்ச்சி நிரல் - Program

- 07.00** Arrival of Members, Families and Guests (Parking available only after 7 P.M)
07.00 மங்கள வாத்தியம்
07.15 அக வணக்கம் Observation of Silence (Please Stand)
07.17 விளக்கேற்றல் (அனைவரும் எழுந்து நிற்கவும்)
07.20 தமிழ் வாழ்த்து (அனைவரும் எழுந்து நிற்கவும்)
07.23 Australian National Anthem (Please remain standing)
07.25 The College Song (Please remain standing)
07.30 Welcome Address - Mr Charles Somasundaram
07.35 தலைவர் உரை - திரு வடிவேலு சுகுமார்
07.40 Presentation of certificates and trophies - Cricket 2003
07.50 பிரதம விருந்தினர் உரை- திரு கருணாகரன்
08.00 Guests, Kids and ladies dine with video music
08.00 Annual General Meeting for the Membership
08.45 Members join the dinner
09.30 'Trivialgia' (quiz) -Dr Vadivelu Vasandakumar
10.00 நன்றியுரை திரு க பாஸ்கரஜோதி
10.05 குறு நாடகங்கள் - திரு சுபேந்திரன் சுந்தரவேல் சோமசுந்தரம்
10.30 Raffle Draw and Distribution of Prizes
10.45 Good Night - வணக்கம்

Venue:

Grantham Church Hall, Seven Hills



வந்தவர்கள் வாழ்க மற்றவர்கள் வருக



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.

கல்லூரி கீதம்

ஹாட்லி நின் மக்கள் நாம்
நின் கீர்த்திக்கே என்றும்
வளர்ந்து கற்ற நாம்-என்றும்
நின் வழி நிற்போம்

நின் ஜோதியால் எம் ஒளியே
எங்கும் விசிடுவோம்
நாட்டுக்குச்சேவை மெய்-நீர்மை
நின் வாசல் ஈயுமே

ஹாட்லி என்றும் எம் சுலோகம்
எம் இலக்கென்றும் அழியா
ஹாட்லி என்றும் அது எம் சுலோகம்
ஒளி விசாடும்

ஹாட்லியீர் எழுமின்
எம்மாதா அழைக்கின்றார்
அவர் பீடம் கற்றோரே
விற்பன்னர் வீரர் தாம்

நீர்வர் வழிநின்ற
அவர் லட்சியம் கொண்டு
உம் வீர உறுதி கொள்ளுவீர்
எப்படினும் போதும்

ஹாட்லி என்றும் எம் சுலோகம்
எம் இலக்கென்றும் அழியா
ஹாட்லி என்றும் அது எம் சுலோகம்
ஒளி விசாடும்!!



HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH, AUSTRALIA

President: Vadivelu Sugumar
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Website of the College: <http://www.hartleycollege.org>

10 July 2004

அன்பான நண்பர்களே!

எனது மாலை வணக்கங்கள். உங்கள் அனைவரையும் வருக வருக என வரவேற்கின்றேன். இந்த ஒன்று கூடல் சந்தோசமாய் அமைவதாக.

I welcome the members, spouses and children to our annual dinner. A special welcome to our chief guest Mr N Karunakaran and his spouse Mrs Karunakaran. As you are aware Mr Karunakaran has been an enthusiastic supporter of this association for many years. We thank Mr and Mrs Karunakaran for their time and continuous support.

We also welcome our guests and families from Jaffna Hindu College, St. John's College, Jaffna Central College and Methodist College, Point Pedro. We wish to strengthen the relationships between these associations so that we could build a united community.

We continued to extend our assistance to Hartley College in many ways. We sent funds, collected textbooks and organised 'Dr and Mrs Velmurugu' annual award with the sponsorship of our member Mr V Mathivanar. We also raised and remitted funds for needy Hartleyites on humanitarian basis. The membership responded appreciably for these charitable courses. The committee members contributed their time and efforts on Hartley projects. We express our sincere gratitude to the families of committee members particularly to the spouses.

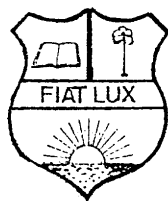
The committee met the Member of Parliament for Jaffna, Mr Sivajilingam in June 2004. He advised us on current issues relating to school developments in Northern Province.

It was very sad that we lost our vice president Mr V Balakrishnan. He will be remembered for his gracefulness, gratefulness and his generosity. We showed our appreciation for his service by a token gift to his family.

Our quarterly Newsletters now reach more than 150 members and we continue to address the apathy of some Hartleyites living in Sydney. We trust that they shall not forget Hartley. My special thanks go to our editor for an excellent Souvenir and the Newsletters. Please enjoy the evening and catch up with your friends. We have a variety of tasty home cooked food. On behalf of all I thank the families who prepared them.

Finally I would like to thank the guests, members, spouses and children who are present here for your time and participation. 'Fiat Lux' at Hartley, in Jaffna and in our Country.

நன்றி கலந்த வணக்கத்துடன்
வடிவேலு சுகுமார்



HARTLEY COLLEGE PAST PUPILS ASSOCIATION NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH, AUSTRALIA

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10 July 2004

Dear Friends,

First and foremost I wish to pay my respect to our dear friend Bala who is sadly missed by all. He was a great contributor to Hartley and the community. Our thoughts are with his family.

I am pleased to present my third report as the secretary of the association. I am proud to be a part of the committee that achieved the following during 2003-04.

- Forwarded funds for electrical wiring of the college laboratory
- Finalised Dr and Mrs Velmurugu annual award for top students
- Extended financial help to a Hartleyite for kidney transplant surgery
- Showed appreciation to a late member who worked hard for the college
- Collected books and materials for shipping to the school
- Visited the college and surveyed the requirements of the school
- Initiated discussions with Member of Parliament for Jaffna on school development

We had two Hartley functions this year. The cricket match with Jaffna Hindu attracted more participation and this will be an annual feature every year. The cricket match for 2004 is planned for 24 October 2004.

I am happy to report that the unity and willingness to help the college is rising steadily with the addition of new members coming to Sydney. I ask you to pass on the information about the association to your Hartley friends and encourage them to contribute to the welfare of our college.

Many of our colleagues continue to help us in many ways and I express my sincere gratitude to all of them. May God bless them as they help others?

I thank the families of the committee members for hosting the monthly meetings and providing a grand dinner at the end of the meetings.

Finally, let there be peace at Hartley, Point Pedro and in our motherland.

Yours truly,

K. Paskrajothy (Paskey)

Message from the editor

Dear friends,

Welcome to the end of another year and this Souvenir issued at the Annual Dinner is the third publication prepared by the outgoing Committee. We continue to struggle to get worthwhile information and articles from our members. Fortunately we are more in touch with the school administration and have managed to get worthwhile information directly from the School. Special mention should be made of the Deputy Vice Principal, Mr. N.Gunaseelan who has been sending monthly reports on activities at the school. His report for the year is verbatim reproduced. We like to thank the President of the UK branch and the Chairman of the Hartley College PPA Trust for their messages.

In October 2003 *Thinakural*, a daily newspaper in Sri Lanka allocated a full page to Hartley which we are proud to reproduce in this Souvenir. Dr. Vasanthakumar's article took me back to my school days (he is my classmate) and fond memories of two of my favourite teachers Mr. Gunaratnam and Mr. Ratnasabapathy. We managed to get a copy of an old *Report Book* and have reproduced some pages.

We know things are getting to some sort of normality when we see the Annual Inter House Athletic Meet took place as we remember it, and to see the records of Kamaleswaran in *Pole Vault & Triple Jump*, Gunanayagam in *Discuss* (both my classmates) and Mathivanan (one year junior) in *100M & 400M* still standing undefeated bring some fond memories

I hope that you will assist the in-coming editor with more help by contributing more articles and I wish him all the best. Enjoy the evening and the publication. I wish to thank all the other Committee members and other members for the support during the year and my employer, SAI Global for allowing me to use their printing facilities to produce this publication.

K.Kaneshalingam
Editor

Treasurer's Report – June 2004

The committee's campaign to promote membership to the Life Member Club added three more names during the year. However I am disappointed to report that only three more members paid up their annual membership fees.

Hartleyites in NSW showed qualities of solidarity and brotherhood in helping Balakrishnan's family following the untimely death of Bala and contributing to Leo Arul Gnanarajah's kidney transplant operation. Leo's operation was successful and he is recovering well in Colombo.

We received A\$200 for Dr and Mrs S Velmurugu prize for the best academic and sports performance award. The money was remitted to the principal to enable the distribution of the prize. We also sent a further sum of SLR 30,000 equivalent to pay for urgent and critical repairs to the physics laboratory.

Apart from any specific fundraising events the only other source of income we have to pay for regular projects such as newsletter production and the annual souvenir is the annual membership fees. The current level of response in paying the membership fees is not adequate at all to fund these activities.

I appeal to the members to make a conscious effort to pay the fees when you attend the Annual General Meeting. Soon we may have to eat in to the little reserve of Accumulated Fund we have in case I don't receive your contributions.

Charles Somasundram
Treasurer, Hartley College Past Pupils Assoc. NSW Branch

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF GUEST

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to be here, this evening, in the midst of Old Hartleyites, their kith and kin.

We Hartleyites, though scattered in various parts of the world, do preserve and enhance our identity, by forming Past Pupils' Associations, wherever possible. The New South Wales branch of HCPPA, now in its fourteenth year is an active body, providing fellowship to the members.

Many of us grew up in a social structure in which the 'extended family' system was practised. This taught us at a very early stage of our life, the merits of interdependency. It is true that we are now living in a new place and a different social environment. However, we do have the liberty to incorporate into our social ethics those time-tested values, suitably modified, where necessary. As we all know, there is no end to human ingenuity!

Our Alma Mater went through some testing times, in the recent past. This should not deter us from striving for a better future for Hartley. Thanks to the concerted efforts of the various PPAs, plans are well under way to attend to the future needs of Hartley. It is more than gratifying to note that our PPA plays a major role in the welfare of our Alma Mater.

God said – Let there be light

N.Karunakaran
175 Fitzwilliam Road
Toongabbie
NSW 2146



May 26, 2004

The President and Members of the Hartley College PPA- New South Wales Branch

It gives me great pleasure to forward this message towards the Annual Dinner Event scheduled for July 2004.

Hartley College PPA Trust, formed in mid 2002 and registered as a legal entity in late 2003 is moving forward with the assistance from the global branches and dedicated past pupils. The web site of the Trust www.hartleytrust.com clearly spells out the activities of

the Trust and the achievements to date, so I would not wish to go in to detail except to say that during the past 20 months we have primarily concentrated in developing a basic foundation and an information backbone necessary to carry the development activity. This task included, but not necessarily limited to, developing an available resources, needs and gaps statement and based on which a development plan has been proposed, development of a web site containing details of the activities and progress in a transparent manner and updated on a quarterly basis, sharing of information with the branches to avoid duplication, establishing a practice to seek financial and other assistance from partners in development namely NGO's and the Government rather than solely relying on the past pupils, facilitating the purchase of land around the school for purposes such as Auditorium, ICT center, Sports Utility House etc , establishing an arrangement with Asia Foundation for supply of Books to Library on a regular basis and even entering into a dialogue with the Security Forces with regard to security arrangements around the school, where we were successful in removing the restrictions placed on past pupils and parents to enter the school on a daily basis.

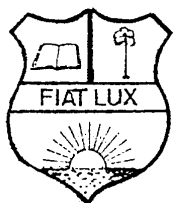
Now that the foundation is in place, the next twelve months we hope to concentrate on identifying the different sources to fulfill the development plans proposed and to monitor the progress. There has been positive response to our efforts - for instance a past pupil has come forward to fund the construction of a new canteen for the students and currently we have engaged the services of another past pupil to prepare the building plans and BOQ's in respect of the proposed Auditorium so that we could seek the necessary financial assistance from the Government for this project. It is our desire and a goal we have set for ourselves that we would have made significant progress in every single plan outlined in the development plan by middle of 2005.

I seek your assistance in making this a reality. Please visit our website and let us have your comments and ideas as to how each one of you could play a role in this great restoration. The assistance you give need not be limited to funding, as it could be in the form of professional services, spending some time at school to solve a problem and even offering a suggestion to take care of an issue. The Trustees are willing to listen and communicate with you and I am proud to say that up to now we have responded to any email or phone query from a branch or a past pupil on a 24 hour turnaround time basis and we hope to maintain this response time in future as well.

I would at this point like to thank the President and the members of the NSW Branch for the continuous support you have given us in executing our action plan and in particular the funding assistance in purchasing a property adjacent to the school. I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention the significant role played by Mr.P Elango, a senior member of your Executive Committee, in formulating the birth of the Trust and obtaining a global consensus for setting it in dynamic motion.

On behalf of the Trustees I wish your Annual Dinner event a great success.

Shan Shanmuganathan
Chairman
Hartley College PPA Trust



**HARTLEY COLLEGE (POINT PEDRO) PAST PUPILS
ASSOCIATION UNITED KINGDOM BRANCH**

President: Mr.T Sivagurunathan Email: siva_kami@yahoo.co.uk

16 June 2004

The President
Hartley College Past Pupils Association
New South Wales Branch
Sydney

Dear Sugumar,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT HCPPA (UK)

On behalf of Hartley College Past Pupils' Association (UK), it is with great pleasure that I convey my warmest greetings to everyone attending the Annual Dinner of the HCPPA NSW, Australia.

The deep-rooted education and values we gained at Hartley College has enabled all of us to be successful all around the world. It is with the help of past pupils associations such as ours that we are able to reminisce in our past and share our memories with our children. We should therefore applaud members, those volunteers and committee members for tirelessly working for the benefit of the Hartley College Past Pupils associations.

My best wishes for a successful Annual Dinner and all the very best for the future.

T. Sivagurunathan
President – HCPPA(UK)

HARTLEY COLLEGE

POINT PEDRO.

PRINCIPAL :
Mr.V.PATHMANATHAN

B.Sc.Dip-in-Ed.
S.L.P.S - I



Founded 1838
☎ 021-2263292

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL :
MR.N.GUNASEELAN

B.Sc. Dip-in-Ed.
S.L.T.S - I

12th May 2004

Deputy Principal's Report

It is a great pleasure in sending a message to your Severnior. We are very glad to see that HCFPA, NSW Branch is in touch with the College at present.

Staff & Students detail

At present the number of students and staff are as follows:

Students : 1309
Teaching Staff : 51
Non-Teaching Staff : 07

Mr.V.Pathmanathan (Principal), Mr. N.Gunaseelan (Deputy Principal) came to the College on January 2003. Mr.S.Pushparajah (B.Sc.), Mr.S.Sivaganesan (B.Sc.), Mr.S.Gnanasorupan (Dip.-in-Music), Mr.K.Thavanesan (Com.Trd.) and Mr.N.Sundramoorthy (B.A.) came to College in the year 2003/2004.

Mr.K.Sivanathan (Deputy Principal) was transferred to Nelliady MMV on April 1st 2003.

Examination Results

G.C.E. (O/L) Dec. 2003

| 10 A | 9 A | 8 A | 7 A |
|------|-----|-----|-----|
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 14 |

G.C.E. (A/L) April 2003 - 7 students got Distinction in all the subjects. 86 students qualified to enter the University and 22 only entered the University according to the Z - score.

Sports & Games

Athletics : Our Annual Inter House Athletic Meet held in 8th February 2003 and 14th February 2004.

2003

Chief Guest : Mr.V.Sethunayagam
(Ex.President PPA)

Mr.B.Subramanian
(District Judge, Chavakachcheri)

| Position of Houses | 2003 | 2004 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Paulpillai | 713.5 pts. | Paulpillai 790.5 pts. |
| 2. Abraham | 624 " | Thamotheran 740 " |
| 3. Thamotheran | 520 " | Abraham 709.5 " |
| 4. Kanapathipillai | 482.5 " | Kanapathipillai 667.5 " |
| 5. Sherrad | 476 " | Sherrad 491.5 " |

The points of each houses are increased this year. This is a good sign of mass participation in sports this year.

Cricket

: We had our U12, U14, U16, U19 cricket teams. All the teams played matches with Jaffna schools. U16 team are runners up in the Jaffna District.

S.Thushyanthan, B.Senthuran, S.Ramanan are selected for the Jaffna District Team.

Soccer : We had our U14, U16, U18, U21 Soccer teams.

These teams played matches in Vadamaradchy, Jaffna and Colombo. U21 team participated in the 'Peace Trophy' at St.Peters College. Jaffna College, St.Johns College, Jaffna Central College, St.Patricks College and St.Xaviers College (Mannar) participated in this match. Hartley College Team played well and came 2nd in the Tournament. B.Vasanth from our College was selected as the best footballer in the Tournament.

Volleyball : We had our U17, U19 team and played in the schools vadamaradchy.

Chess : U15 chess team are champions in the Vadamaradchy Zone in 2003 and 2004.

PT Competition : Our PT Squad are champions in the Vadamaradchy Zone in 2003 and 2004. Our PT Squad are champions in the Jaffna District in 2004.

Competitions:

Our students participated in the Tamil Day, English Day competitions and won places in the Zonal and District level. In the Maths Science competition our students came 1st and 2nd places in the District Level in 2003. In the All Ceylon Saiva Paripalana Saivism competition our student Ganeshalingam Pratheepan came 1st in the Island level and won the Gold Medal.

Jaffna Schools Science Association in collaboration with the University of Jaffna conducted Quiz Contest and Essay Competitions in 2004. Our Science Team won 1st Place and got the Medal. Also our students got all the three places in the Essay Competitions.

Associations

Hindu Association : Our Hindu Association had prayers every Fridays and celebrated Navarathiri and also other Hindu religious functions.

SCM : After a gap of three years our SCM celebrated 'Oli Vila' on 2003.11.28 in the Church Hall.

Social Science Association : Social Science Association consists of Arts and Commerce students published a book 'Vali' (Path) every year. In 2003 Mr.S.Vigneswaran (AO, DS, Point Pedro) and in 2004 Mr.S.Sivarajah (Retired Adml. Provincial Director of Education) were the Chief Guests.

Science Association : Science students jointly conduct various activities in Science. Specially they publish a book "Thedal" (Search).

Scout Association : Our Scout Troop involved in various activities inside and outside the College. Specially they help Samnathy Temple and Vallipuram Temple during the festival time.

Computer Society : This was inaugurated in 2003 for the benefit of the students to train in information Technology. After College hours students learn to operate computers donated by the PPA.

Advanced Level Union : After a gap of three years our A/L students had the opportunity of conducting Advanced Level Social in the College. In 2003 our old boy, Mr.P.Vigneswaran (Zonal Director, Jaffna) and his wife were the Chief Guest. In 2004, Dr.S.Navaneethan (Surgeon, Jaffna Hospital) our old boy and his wife were the Chief Guest. Our A/L students behaved well and enjoyed the social.

Past Pupils Association : The PPA in Canada, London, Australia, Colombo and Point Pedro are helping us whenever we need help. Our parent body is in touch with us and do the necessary help. Colombo Branch is also having contacts with us regularly and do the needful help. Specially Mr.S.Balachandran (President), Mr.S.G.Deva (Secretary), Mr.M.Thirunelakandan (Treasurer), Mr.V.Nahadeva (former President) visited the College and presented Gold Medal for seven students who obtained 3 A in the G.C.E. (A/L) April 2003 Examination.

School Development Society : This consists of parents and teachers meet once a month and discuss the urgent need of the College and fulfill the needs. This SDS is also having a close relationship the PPA (Parent Body).

New Educational Activities :

1. In 2003 we had started the English Medium Class in Grade 6 and now we are having one Division each in Grade 6 and Grade 7 in the English Medium.
2. Special English classes are conducted by the teachers after College hours to promote the standard of English.
3. Special Maths classes are conducted to O/L students who are weak in Maths by our teachers after College hours.
4. Our College Assembly is held on every Tuesdays and it is being conducted in English too.
5. Practise tests and paper discussions are done to O/L and A/L students by our teachers during the College hours. Mr.V.Mathivanan is giving Rs.10000/- for this project.

Conclusion

NECORD is constructing three buildings to us. One is a 130' x 20' upstairs building, other is a Library Block 60' x 30' and the third is an Environmental Laboratory 40' x 20'. We don't have a hall for the assembly and prayer hall for prayers. We are in short of classrooms. We had constructed a Video - Audio room and it is used by the students for their educational purposes.

Our old boys presented OHP, Photocopying Machine, Laboratory Tables, shelves and stools. They are of great use for us now. We are sending the detailed monthly report from January 2003 to our Hartley website in Canada. We had celebrated Pooranampillai Memorial Day on 2004.04.22 Thursday and Mr.K.Bala-subramaniam gave a talk in the assembly about Mr.K.Pooranampillai.

Mrs.Shanthy Arulanandam (daughter of Mr.K.Pooranampillai) and Mr.P.Jeyakumar (son of Mr.K.Pooranampillai) visited the College and we were very happy to receive them at the College.

Our former teachers Mr.S.Vanthasamy and Mr.K.Jeganathan visited the College and addressed in the assembly. Many past pupils visited the College to view the present situation. We are also happy to see them in the College. Hope our past pupils will come and see the present situation of the College to ensure whether the gossip all over the world about Hartley is true or false.

Our sincere thanks for all Hartleiets who are abroad to keep a place in their heart to develop Hartley in the mere future.

N. Gunaseelan

N. GUNASEELAN
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
HARTLEY COLLEGE
POINT PEDRO

Flashback to a Photograph - A drift into nostalgia

by 6848

The pleasant yet painful sensation of *Nostalgia* (*Nostos- return; algia-pain*) is something we all like to enjoy, perhaps because it colours our recollection of the past painting it rather rosier than it actually was. But coming across this photograph of the **Hartley Prefects' Guild 1967/68**, my mind flew back to Hartley in the sixties, and I have to say things were rather better then....



(Muthukumar, Balasingham, Selvanantharajah, Sathananthan, ManuelpillaiB, Buell, Rajkumar Thavarajah, Sreetharan, Anandan, Mr.Gunaratnam, Vasanthakumar, Kirupairajan, Mr.Ratnasabapathy)

For one thing there was no standardization (in fact eighteen students will enter the university from Hartley to study engineering that year). Our main concerns used to be what excuse we would give at home for returning so late (only bad light will stop play before we left Point Pedro to catch our buses); or which film we could manage to squeeze into the next week. If we had used up our bus fare on *Ice palam* or *Pila palam*, that would be sad indeed!

At the end of the 50s we had started at Hartley, and the regular talks at Tuesday assembly were preparing us morally and mentally to face the world confidently in adulthood, whether it be in Sri Lanka or the Western world. Physical training and games were compulsory, emphasising the need to have a balance, anyway no one wanted to be called a '*Choththi Fellow*' by Deva master. Where would you have the English Master (Mr.Manuelpillai) drawing a picture to explain how one Geoff Boycott scored his first boundary in test cricket? (through the slips, actually)

We learnt to be gracious in victory and defeat- it was a time when being a Hartleyite was enough to be offered positions where honesty, integrity, discipline or a sense of responsibility were a requirement. Mr.Poornanampillai (KP), who passed away 2 years ago, was the chief architect behind these developments and he was well supported by many teachers, including Mr R M Gunaratnam (RMG) seen in the centre of the photograph.

On the right we have Mr. Ratnasabapathy, another colossus who was endearingly referred to as '*chaakkar*' - he took over as Principal and although I personally was not taught by him, I know that very many Hartleyites all over the world have his dedication and sacrifice to thank for their position today.

It was dangerous to stand near RMG at football matches- it was not just his shouted instructions to the players (and he was not the coach or anything) but he would actually kick the empty space around him, and bad luck to you if you happened to occupy that space! If the ball was near the opponent's goal it was time to move away! It was equally dangerous not to pay attention during his classes- since RMG knew the students and their whole family, there would be some sarcastic remark that would upset you more than a kick!

Our early memories are of our teachers in the smaller classes, too many great names to mention, but all similar in dedicating their lives to the improvement of the children. Imagine (I am talking to the Hartleyite parents here) sending your children to school and forgetting about everything- the school would look after *every* aspect of the child's development. It was well known that no student will tell his parents about any disciplinary action taken against him, usually detention or caning- and that is because they knew too well that there will only be another dose without inquiry if they did.

Mr. Pooranampillai himself told me of the time when a Hartleyite was nabbed by the police and taken to court for some minor traffic offence. The magistrate told the lawyer, "This is a matter that can be simply dealt with by the school, why have you brought him here?" The lawyer had a quick chat with the boy and his father, then said, "My Lord, my client would rather have the matter dealt with by yourself!"

There was certainly no discrimination in disciplining students- I was once walking past the office during a period when our teacher was absent. Mr. STSamuel, vice principal then, asked me what I was doing and I had to *ad-lib* saying that I came to look at the time. He took me and let me see the clock, but only when I had to turn round to receive the caning! My brother and I were pretty disorganized about getting our father to sign our report books (our parents lived in the East) and it was routine for us to receive a couple of 'cuts' at the start of the term.

There were many thrilling moments in sport, and we had some great sportsmen, prefects and head-prefects to guide us. In the photograph we see S. Anandan, Head Prefect in 1967; also seen is M. Sreetharan who would be head prefect the next year. It was a great group to be part of, and boy, did we have power? The boys at the school were more worried about being nabbed by a prefect than by the police. However it had been drilled into us that power goes hand in hand with responsibility- what would Sri Lanka be like today if our politicians knew this!

It must have been the turn of the decade when we had one of our bowlers (C. Skandaruniam) hitting 6 fours in one over; and there were magic catches, sprints, jumps and relays; our July sports meets were like *Deepavali*, *Ramadhan* & Christmas rolled into one. R. Rajkumar once scored some 70+ runs allowing us to beat St. Patrick's by an innings- they had been the team of the North with an outstanding bowling line-up and had beaten all the other teams.

May be we had something over St. Patrick's because we would beat them at football 5-2 later on, again when they were considered the best in the North. The next year in the 'revenge' match we won again 1-0. St. John's College on the other hand always did very well against us and it was only in the 70s we finally managed to beat them at cricket.

Our school and therefore every Hartleyite had a great fillip during our time because of our rise in cricket. Perhaps it was KP's compulsory cricket practice introduced many years earlier but M. Nadarajasunderam became and remains the most outstanding cricketer to come from the North. Many of us would not move from our position when he came to bat- and I certainly did not when he scored 120 against St. John's; and 75 or so in the second innings too, and this was against a team that contained top players including M. Theivendra. Nadarajasunderam, currently President of our parent Past Pupils' Association (Point Pedro) was also a good bowler who once took 4 wickets in 4 balls. His innings of 80 or so against the visiting Indians (containing some future test stars) playing for the North at the Jaffna Central ground is talked about even now.

There was once a cyclone that destroyed part of our school so the school operated in two halves, am and pm. If that was hard, how difficult would it have been for our younger generations to study in the distressing and much harsher circumstances in the past 20 years or so?

I will finish with another story relating to KP; it was a day when half the students were asked to sit quietly (what else?) in the assembly hall (now destroyed) because of a teachers' meeting. KP walked into the hall because there was some general unrest, and to settle things (and rather unusually) asked if there was anyone who could sing. There was a lot of shouting, and, irritated by this KP grabbed the boy who was shouting most (he was only trying to show the right person) and told him to sing!

Now this boy was no songster but KP *insisted* that he should sing. So after some hesitation, (having considered the alternative in mind), he practically spoke (or sang) a rather simple *Thamil* song that was popular at that time, and it went:

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>"Unnai onru ke..tpen unmai solla ve..ndum Ennai paada son..naal enna paada tho..nrnum.."</i> | <i>crudely translated.....</i> | <i>"Let me ask you something you must answer truthfully If you ask me to sing what (in the world) can I sing"</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|---|

The boy was pretty happy and the crowd seemed to enjoy it all. KP simply walked up to him and gave him a slap! He had thought that the boy had made the song up to ridicule him! (well, we always knew KP did not listen to *Thamil* cinema songs but that was a hard way to find that out!)

Fellow Hartleyites, it may be nice to think of our good times but the current need is for Hartley and Hartleyites to be supported at home and abroad. That responsibility is ours- we who are reaping the benefits of the selfless sacrifice of our land, our community, our school and our teachers. I hope, together, we can bring back the glory days to Hartley.

Thank you

-V Vasanthakumar

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(6848 is not a prisoner number- it is my Hartley Index Number; and in these days when mothers are taken to court for touching their child I wish to make it clear that the Discipline at Hartley helped us all much more than it hurt us- and to my knowledge did not create any criminal!)

An older lady gets pulled over for speeding...

Older Woman: Is there a problem, Officer?

Officer: Ma'am, you were speeding.

Older Woman: Oh, I see.

Officer: Can I see your license please?

Older Woman: I'd give it to you but I don't have one.

Officer: Don't have one?

Older Woman: Lost it, 4 years ago for drunk driving.

Officer: I see...Can I see your vehicle registration papers please.

Older Woman: I can't do that.

Officer: Why not?

Older Woman: I stole this car.

Officer: Stole it?

Older Woman: Yes, and I killed and hacked up the owner.

Officer: You what?

Older Woman: His body parts are in plastic bags in the trunk if you want to see.

The Officer looks at the woman and slowly backs away to his car and calls for back up. Within minutes 5 police cars circle the car. A senior officer slowly approaches the car, clasping his half drawn gun.

Officer 2: Ma'am, could you step out of your vehicle please! The woman steps out of her vehicle.

Older woman: Is there a problem sir?

Officer 2: One of my officers told me that you have stolen this car and murdered the owner.

Older Woman: Murdered the owner?

Officer 2: Yes, could you please open the trunk of your car, please.

The woman opens the trunk, revealing nothing but an empty trunk.

Officer 2: Is this your car, ma'am?

Older Woman: Yes, here are the registration papers. The officer is quite stunned.

Officer 2: One of my officers claims that you do not have a driving license.

The woman digs into her handbag and pulls out a clutch purse and hands it to the officer. The officer examines the license. He looks quite puzzled.

Officer 2: Thank you ma'am, one of my officers told me you didn't have a license, that you stole this car, and that you murdered and hacked up the owner.

Older Woman: Bet the liar told you I was speeding, too.

History of my College

My college is Hartley College. It is one of the most famous colleges in Sri Lanka. It is at Point Pedro in Jaffna Peninsula.

My college was started in 1838. The founder of our college is Hon. Rev Peter Percival. At the beginning of our college's history, it was a Christian Missionary college named Wesleyan College. Majority students were Christians and a few were Hindus. But now most of the students are Hindus. The motto of our school is "Fiat Lux". Our college's symbol is its yellow and blue background and there is a Palmyrah palm, a big book and a rising sun over the sea.

At the commencement of the history, there were only forty-five students and three staffs. But now we have more facilities. There are thousand three hundred students and about sixty staffs. We have six buildings a well equipped library, a well laboratory, as well as a chemistry laboratory. We have also a big playground. Nowadays we have a computer and telephone facilities. We have teams for cricket, soccer, volleyball, chess, and badminton etc. Now our principal is Mr. V. Padmanadan. He is honest, kind, and very sincere.

Our students as well as our old boys are very bright and brilliant in studies. Not only in studies but also they are very good in games and extra curricular works like dramas and oratory. Prof. Elyazer, Prof. A. Thuraiajah, former minister, K.P. Ratnayake and I.C.P. Mr. T.E. Anandaraman are some of the famous old boys of our college. Prof. A. Thuraiajah, proved a theory called "Thurai's theory". Most of the old boys are now in big posts.

Late Mr. K. Poornampillai is a remarkable principal in Hartley College's history. He is very punctual and is very disciplined. Hartley still maintains the discipline in the footsteps of Mr. K. Poornampillai. In all ways our college is an example for others. So I am glad to say that I am a student, studying in grade 11 in Hartley College and I'm proud about my college.

-By: S.Saranga. Grade 11 "B"

Discipline at Hartley College

Hartley College is one of the famous leading Colleges in the island and the best in Vadduwanaleby. It is well known for its discipline. All the other schools look forward Hartley for its integrity from the inception.

The students of Hartley College set good examples to others. They come to the College on time. Late comers and absentees are punished. During the college hours pupils are in uniform. Small children are in blue shorts and white shirts and higher class students are in white shirts and trousers and wearing shoes, slippers are not allowed.

The prefect system of our College is very active and productive. The Prefects direct the pupils in the proper way according to the rules and regulations of the College. The students keep silence in the class and do their work systematically both in the college and at home. They respect their teachers. The students take keen interest in the curricular activities of the college and sports. They are polite and decent even if they win or lose.

The scouts & yeoman services in the college outside and during temple festivals.

The students are very obedient to the Principal and teachers. They maintain high standard in all the activities in the College. They follow the foot path of the distinguished old boys. They are very proud of being Hartleites.

-B. Aingaram, Grade 11 "B"

நான் அறிந்த பாலா - ஒரு நண்பனின் இதயத்திலிருந்து



வேலாயுதம் பாலகிருஷ்ணன் “பாலா” திடீர் மரணமடைந்து ஐந்து மாத காலமாகிறது. அவரின் தீடீர் மரணம் அவரது குடும்பத்தினருக்கும் அவரின் நண்பர்களுக்கும் பெரும் அதிர்ச்சியை கொடுத்துள்ளது. கடந்த வருடம் ஹாட்லிக்கல்லூரியின் பழைய மாணவர்களின் வருடாந்த ஒன்று கூடல் நிகழ்வை முன்னின்று பொறுப்புடன் நடத்திய “இரத்தினம்” என செல்லமாக உறவினர்களினாலும், ஊரவர்களாலும் அன்புடன் அழைக்கப்பட்ட வேலாயுதம் பாலகிருஷ்ணன் இன்று எம்முடன் இல்லை. அவர் இந்த மண்ணில்கில் இல்லை என்பதை என்னால் நம்ப முடியவில்லை. என் மனம் இதனை நம்ப இன்னும் மறுக்கிறது. நண்பர்களாலும், சகபாடிகளாலும் “பாலா” என்று வாஞ்சையுடன் அழைக்கப்பட்ட இவர், எனது கல்லூரி தோழனாகவும் கடந்த 30 ஆண்டுகளுக்கு மேலாக எனது நெருங்கிய நண்பராகவும் விளங்கியவாராவார்.

நான் முதன் முதலில் பாலாவை ஹாட்லிக்கல்லூரியின் ஆண்டு எட்டுக்கான தெரிவுப்பரீட்சையில் சந்தித்தேன். புன்னகையுடன் கூடிய பாலாவின் முகத்தை பார்த்து கதைத்த அந்த பசுமையான நாள் இன்றும் என் மனதில் நிற்கின்றது. 1970ம் ஆண்டு

மார்சு மாதம், நாம் முதன் முதலில் சந்தித்த நாள் தொட்டு இருவரும் ஒருவரை ஒருவர் புரிந்து கொண்ட நண்பர்களாக இருந்து வந்துள்ளோம். 1970ம் ஆண்டு ஹாட்லிக் கல்லூரியால் நடத்தப்பட்ட தெரிவு போட்டிப்பரீட்சையில் “பாலா” முதலாவதாகத் தேறி பாடசாலையில் ஒரு அதீத விவேகமான மாணவனாகக் கணிக்கப்பட்டதோடு, மாணவர்கள் மத்தியில் மிகவும் பிரபல்யம் அடைந்தவராகவும் இருந்தார். கிட்டத்தட்ட 35 வருடங்களுக்கு முன்பு நான் சந்தித்த “பாலா” இந்த உலகத்தின் பொய்யான கூட்டை உதறித்தள்ளி விட்டு பூவுலகில் இன்று பூத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார் என்பதை என்னால் நம்பமுடியவில்லை.

யாழ் குடா நாட்டின் வடமராட்சிப் பகுதியிலே தொழில்வளம் மிக்கதும் செல்வம் கொழிக்கும் நெல்லைநகர் கரவெட்டிப்பகுதியில் வேலாயுதம்-இராசம்மா தம்பதிகளுக்கு வளம் சேர்க்கும் புத்திரனாக 1958ம் ஆண்டு தை மாதம் மூன்றாம் திகதி பாலா அவர்கள் இப்பூவுலகில் கால் பதித்தார். பாலாவுக்கு நான்கு சகோதரர்களும் ஒரு சகோதரியும் உண்டு. இவர் தனது சகோதரியில் மிகவும் பாசமும் பற்றும் கொண்டு இருந்தவர். இதனை நாங்கள் இருவரும் பேசும் குடும்பக்கதைகளில் இருந்து நான் மிகவும் இலகுவாக அறியக்கூடியதாக இருந்தது. இளமையிலேயே துடிப்பும், சுறுசுறுப்பும், விவேகமும், ஆற்றலும் அமையப்பெற்ற பாலா எதையும் மதிநுட்பத்துடன் ஆராய்ந்து அறியும் திறமையை பெற்றுக்கொண்டவராக திகழ்ந்தார். பாலா தனது ஆரம்ப கல்வியை வதிரி திரு இருதயக் கல்லூரியில் ஆரம்பித்தார். பின்னர் நெல்லை மெதடிஸ்ஸ் மிஷன் தமிழ் கலவன் பாடசாலையில் சேர்ந்து ஏழாம் ஆண்டு வரை தனது கல்வியை தொடர்ந்தார். இந்த பாடசாலையில் படிக்கும் காலத்தில் 1968ம் ஆண்டு நடைபெற்ற ஆண்டு ஐந்துக்கான அரசாங்கப் புலமைப்பரீட்சையில் சித்தியடைந்தார். 1971ம் ஆண்டு எட்டாம் ஆண்டில் ஹாட்லிக்கல்லூரியில் சேர்ந்து பல்கலைக்கழகம் போகும் வரை தனது கல்வியை தொடர்ந்தார்.

இவர் ஹாட்லியில் படிக்கும் காலகட்டத்தில், வடபகுதியிலுள்ள பாடசாலைகளுக்கிடையே நடாத்தப்பட்ட பொது அறிவுப் போட்டியில் இரண்டாம் இடத்தைப்பெற்று தனக்கும் தனது கல்லூரிக்கும் பெயரையும் புகழையும் ஈட்டிவந்தார். கல்லூரிப் படிப்பை முடித்துக் கொண்டு க.பொ.த. உயர்தர பரீட்சையில் சிறந்த பெறுபேறுகளைப் பெற்று பேராதனைப் பல்தலைக்கழகத்தில் பொறியியல்துறை சார்ந்த பட்டப்படிப்பை தொடர்வதற்கு தெரிவு செய்யப்பட்டார். 1981ம் ஆண்டு பொறியியல் பீட இறுதி பரீட்சையில் சிறப்பு சித்திபெற்று அதே பல்கலைக்கழகத்தில் ஒரு வருடம் செய்முறை பயிற்சியாளராக(Instructor) பணிபுரிந்தார். 1983ம் ஆண்டு தேசிய நீர் விநியோக வடிகால் அமைப்புத் திணைக்களத்தில் ஒரு பொறியியலாளராக பதவி ஏற்றார். இத்திணைக்களத்தில் பணியாற்றும் பொழுது கொழும்பு, திருகோணமலை, யாழ்ப்பாணம் ஆகிய இடங்களில் பொறியியலாளராக பணிபுரியும் வாய்ப்பும் இவருக்கு கிடைத்தது. மேலும் இத்திணைக்களத்தில் கடமையாற்றிக் கொண்டிருந்த காலத்தில் ஆசிய தொழில் நுட்ப கல்லூரியின் (Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok) புலமைப்பரிசில் பெற்று பாங்கொக் சென்று இரண்டு வருட சுற்றாடல் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட பட்டப்பின்படிப்பை (முதுமாணி-விஞ்ஞானம்) முடித்துக் கொண்டு தாய்நாட்டில் நிலவிய பதட்ட நிலைமை காரணமாக தான் பிறந்து, தவழ்ந்து, வளர்ந்த மண்ணை விட்டு விரும்பியோ, விரும்பாமலோ பாலா அவுஸ்திரேலியாவில் குடியேறினார்.

குடியேறிய நாட்டிலும் கூட தமிழ்மொழியின் வளர்ச்சிக்காகவும் இந்து சமய மேம்பாட்டிற்கும் அயராது தனது பங்களிப்பை செலுத்தி வந்தார். ஈஸ்வூட் தமிழ் பாடசாலையின் வளர்ச்சிக்காக பெரும் பாடுபட்டார். NSW மாநில ஹாட்லிக்கல்லூரியின் பழையமாணவர் ஒன்றியத்தில் சேர்ந்து பாடுபட்டதோடு தீய மரணம் அடையும் நாள்வரை இணைந்த நிர்வாகக்குழுவில் உபதலைவராகவும் பணியாற்றி வந்தார்.

கல்லூரியில் மாணவனாக இருந்த காலத்திலிருந்தே நன்றாக வாசிக்கும்

பழக்கமுடையவராய் திகழ்ந்த பாலா தமிழ் ஆங்கிலப் புதினப்பத்திரிகைகள், செய்தித்தாள்கள், சஞ்சிகைகள் வாசிப்பதில் மிகவும் ஆர்வம் உள்ளவராய் இருந்தார். எங்களையும் அந் நற்பழக்கத்தில் ஈடுபடச்செய்தார். பாடசாலையில் ஓய்வான நேரங்களில் அவரைக் கல்லூரியின் நூலகத்திலே நாம் காணலாம். க.பொ.த. உயர்தர பரீட்சைக்கு நாங்கள் எங்களை தயார் செய்து கொண்டு இருக்கும் பொழுது நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் கூட்டுச் சேர்ந்து படிக்கும் பழக்கம் இருந்தது. தூயகணிதம், பிரயோக கணிதம் போன்ற பாடங்களில் எழும் சந்தேகங்களை பாலா இலகுவாகத் தீர்த்து எங்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரு சிறந்த ஆசானாகவும் வழிகாட்டியாகவும் இருந்தார். அத்தகைய பெருந்தன்மையுடைய விவேகமான நண்பன் எங்கள் மத்தியில் இப்போது இல்லை என்பதை நினைக்கும் பொழுது என்னால் தாங்க முடியவில்லை.

ஒரு நாட்டின் தூதுவராக நியமிக்கப்பட்டவர் எப்படி தனது வார்த்தைகளை அளந்து பேசுவாரோ பாலாவும் தான் பேசும் பொழுது ஒரு நாட்டின் தூதுவர் போல சொற்களை அளந்தே பேசுவார். பாலா யாரிடத்திலும் பகைமை பாராட்டியது கிடையாது. எப்பொழுதும் சாந்த சொருபியாகவே இருந்து வந்துள்ளார். வீண் பெருமையோ பிடிவாதமோ அவரை பிடித்தது கிடையாது. எப்பொழுதும் குதூகலமாகவும் கலகலப்பாகவும் ஆனால் மிகவும் நிதானத்துடன் பேசி சிரித்துப்பழகும் சிறந்தபண்பு பாலாவிடம் காணப்பட்டது. அவர் நட்பின் மகிமையை விளங்கி எல்லோருடனும் மிகவும் அன்னியோன்னியமாக பழகும் சுவாபமுடையவராய் காட்சியளிப்பார்.

பாலா எப்போதும் தனது கவலைகளை மற்றவர்களிடம் வெளிப்படையாகச் சொல்லி அவர்களுக்கும் அக்கவலையை சுமத்துவதற்கு பதிலாக தனக்குள்ளேயே அடக்கிவைத்து அதற்கான தீர்வினை காண்பார். அதே நேரத்தில் இன்பங்களை தனது நண்பர்களுடன் பகிர்வதில் எப்பொழுதும் பாலா பின் நிற்பதில்லை.

அவருடைய தீய மரணம் நடைபெறுவதற்கு இரண்டு நாட்களிற்கு

முன்பு பாலாவின் நண்பர்கள் இருவருடன் நான் அவரை வைத்தியசாலையில் பார்க்கச் சென்ற பொழுது, முகமலர்ச்சியுடன் எங்களை கைலாகு கொடுத்து வரவேற்ற சம்பவம் இன்றும் என் மனக்கண் முன்பு நிற்கின்றது. இரண்டு நாட்கள் கழித்து அவர் காலமாகிவிட்ட செய்தியைக் கேட்டதும் எனது காதுகள் நம்ப மறுத்தன. அச்செய்தி என்னையும் என் போன்ற அவரது நண்பர்களையும் தாங்கொணத் துயரத்தில் ஆழ்த்தி விட்டது.

முன்னெப்பொழுதும் இல்லாதளவு, விஞ்ஞானத்துறையிலும் தொழில் நுட்பத்துறையிலும் முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்துள்ள இன்றைய நவீன உலகம் ஏன் இன்னும் புற்றுநோய் போன்ற கொடிய நோய்களுக்கு இன்னும் தீர்க்கமான பரிகாரம் காணமுடியாமல் தவிக்கின்றது. இதனை நினைக்கும் போது ஒரு பக்கத்தில் வியப்பாகவும் மற்ற பக்கத்தில் புரியாத புதிராகவும் உள்ளது.

தனித்துவமான திறமையும் நற்குணங்களும் பண்புகளும் நிரம்பப் பெற்ற இப்பெருந்தகையின் மறைவையிட்டு நாங்கள் கலங்கி நிற்கின்றோம். பாலாவுடன் நெருங்கிப் பழகிய நண்பர்கள் அன்பர்கள் ஆர்வலர்கள் யாபேருக்கும் பாலாவின் தீமர் மரணம் ஓர் ஈடு செய்ய முடியாத பேரிழப்பாகும். இவ்வேளையில் அவரது துணைவியாருக்கும் அவரது இரு புதல்விகளுக்கும் எங்கள் மனத்தேற்றத்தையும் ஆறுதலையும் எடுத்துரைப்பதோடு அவர்களுக்கு மீண்டும் பழைய உற்சாகத்தையும் ஊக்குவித்தலையும், தன்மம்பிக்கையும் துணியையும், வல்லமையையும் எல்லாம் வல்ல முருகக் கடவுள் அள்ளி வழங்க வேண்டுமென பிரார்த்திப்பதோடு அவர்களுக்கு மனச்சாந்தி கிடைக்க வேண்டும் என்றும் இதய பூர்வமாக நான் வேண்டிக்கொள்கின்றேன்.

செல்வா
(கிட்டிணபிள்ளை செல்வராஜா)
Toongabbie,
NSW 2146.



Committee members meeting the visiting Member of Parliament
Mr. Sivajilingam



Hartley College Winning the Cricket match against Hindu College

MR.K.B.RATNAYAKE

On 30 April, this year, Mr.Kiri Banda Ratnayake passed away at the age of 80. He was a fine gentleman, a seasoned politician, a highly respected former Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka and a former Governor. It was during his tenure of office as Minister of Sports the Sports Law was formulated and passed in the Parliament.

Mr. Ratnayake joined Hartley College as a hosteller in 1936, at the age of twelve. He completed his secondary education in 1943 and left Hartley as a young man, ready to face the outside world. As a student at Hartley, he excelled in sports – cricket, football and athletics. He was a college and hostel prefect. Mr. Ratnayake not only captained the Hartley Cricket Team with distinction, but also as a batsman was responsible for breaking the roof tiles of the College hostel!

I have reproduced below excerpts from his message, which he penned for the souvenir to commemorate the sesquicentennial celebrations of our dear Alma Mater, in 1988, in which he recounts his ties with Hartley:

Happy, because I was amongst those whose friendship became abiding, formative because the impressions made on my young mind during that period taught me that certain things are just not done, and certain things mean more in life than what was temporarily expedient. When I joined Hartley I knew very little English and no Tamil. But I seem to have learnt English through Tamil so much so that some of my close friends occasionally remark that my English has a distinctly Tamil accent! My first contact with Hartley was when Mr.S.C.Rasaratnam passed through my village near Anuradhapura on one of his elephant hunts. He got friendly with my father and suggested that I be sent to Hartley and that he would be responsible for the new boy from Anuradhapura. I recollect with gratitude Mr. C.P.Thamotheram, the then Principal, and Mr. S.A. Rasaratnam, the Head Master and Warden of the Hostel. They spared no pains to make me feel wanted and happy in their midst. Mr. P.W.J. Muttiah, who taught me in the Matriculation form, was also our cricket coach. Of these many teachers, I well remember, Mr.K.Pooranampillai, who is fortunately still with us and most active in the field of education. Of those, who were students with me, were the late Mr. S.P. Nadaraja and Mr. W.N.S.Samuel, who retired recently having been Principal of Hartley College.

After completing his education at Hartley, he served as a Land Officer in the Anuradhapura District, in the 1950s. He took to playing tennis and for many years captained the Anuradhapura Government Services Tennis Team. His tennis partner was the late Dr. Sivaramalingam of Sigiriya/Kimbissa fame.

Mr. Ratnayake entered the Parliament by winning a by-election on the SLFP ticket in June 1962. He was elected as the Speaker of the 10th Parliament on 25 August, 1994. His first portfolio was Parliamentary Affairs and Sports. From 1975 to 1977 he was allotted the Transport Ministry. From 1971 to 1977, in addition his other duties, he served as the Chief Government Whip

On 10 June, 1989, the AGM and the Annual Dinner of the Colombo branch of HCPPA was held at Hotel Taj Samudra. It was a special occasion to mark the 150th Anniversary of

Hartley College. Mr. K.B.Ratnayake gave a thought-provoking and at the same time a delightful speech. He had this to say on education:

Three things condition the success of education. They are, a sacrificing and willing teachers, an obedient set of students willing to learn and an encouraging Past Pupils' Association. Hartley is fortunate to have all the three. Hartley has shown concretely during the last three years that buildings alone do not make a school. I wish my Alma Mater more successes in the future.

The ease with which he rattled off the names of his cricket and football team-mates, including their nicknames was amazing!. He kept the audience laughing for most of the time with anecdotes and some hilarious incidents from his Hartley days. Though he spoke in English, where necessary, he switched over to impeccable Tamil to add flavour to his stories. I not only enjoyed his speech, but was very much struck by his personality. Even though he was in his sixties, he looked a handsome man, tall, fair complexioned and with chiselled features. In short, he was a commanding figure.

That particular evening I could witness in Mr. Ratnayake, an Old Hartleyite, thoroughly enjoying the occasion in the midst of friends, mentors and well-wishers.

The death of Mr. Ratnayake is a great loss, not only to his family, but also for the country.

May his soul rest in peace.

(Compiled by N.Karunakaran)