



VIGEAT VERITAS

coba news

June 2018

Issue 52

From the Secretary

The last year has been a special one for me as I met Barbara Dubier in Chennai and we got married this year in April. I thank all my friends and members of COBA for their good wishes and I am looking forward to a new life in my twilight years.

At our Committee Meeting in July 2017 I was nominated again as President for another year. I surprised the Committee and Royston by suggesting that the President and Secretary should swap positions. I explained my reasons for suggesting this action. The idea was to entrust COBA to the next generation of Campionites and ensure the continuance of this association's spirit. Hopefully the move will improve our image and attract many younger Campionites to the association.

In the past twelve months COBA Australia has made considerable headway with new membership and received substantial donations from the public. At present our Executive Committee is actively implementing changes to our accounting system. Meanwhile, we have also received resignation letters from Agnes Lobow, George Evers and Bernard D'Lasselle – all some of our senior-most members.

We welcome Shannon Vassou (Class of 1991) to join the Trichy Scholarship Team and provide us with his valuable service. I wish to thank all Members who supported my appeal to raise funds to build a Roof over the three existing buildings at Campion. Considerable progress has been made on this project and I have been informed that the construction will be completed on the 2nd October 2018. A receipt of COBA Australia's contribution to the Roof Appeal was recently received; endorsed by the Principal of the school and the committee responsible for the completion of the roof. You will see the progress made so far in pictures in this edition. Pictures of the completed Roof have also been circulated to all Members recently via email.

We are in the process of planning our 20th Anniversary in 2019. We are considering the usual three-day event, with a Meet & Greet on Friday followed by the Blue & White Ball on Saturday and end the with Mass and Dinner on the Sunday. We invite any comments or suggestions from Members if we should follow the same format or implement a change.

Our next event will be the Annual Blue & White Ball. Members are well aware this is our flagship event each year. Once more I request you all to attend with family and friends. The flyer will be circulated via email and Facebook. Please do your bit for the association by assisting us with improving attendance at this function.



Loftus Callanan

What's inside

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Member Profiles

Michael Lewis: Currently serving as Vice-President COBA, Mike is an amiable extrovert. During his days at Campion, Michael was the captain of the senior hockey team and led the school to many a thrilling win against our arch-rivals Vestry and RSK. He finished from Campion in 1979 and enrolled for his Bachelor of Commerce degree at St. Joseph's College, Trichy. During his 3 years at St. Joseph's, he served as Vice-Chairman, President of the college cultural affairs wing and captain of the hockey team. Michael then moved to Loyola College Chennai, where he completed his Master's degree in Commerce. There too, he continued to pursue his passion for hockey. He started his career with Air India as traffic assistant based in Chennai and after 3 years moved to Yellow Pages as a senior Sales and Marketing executive. Mike moved to Australia in 1993 and is employed as a Relief Manager with the Woolworths Dan Murphy, BWS Group for the past 16 years in the Liquor Division. He and his wife Bernadette recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. They have 2 sons, Darius and Leander. Michael lives in Point Cook in the western suburbs of Melbourne.



Ean Brewty: A strong supporter of COBA over the years, he has recently taken on the challenging role of Treasurer. Part of Campion's "Golden Jubilee Batch (1985)", Ean completed his education at Campion with outstanding academic results. During his years at school, he was part of the Hockey team and represented the school at a number of competitions. He completed his Masters in Computer Science at St. Joseph's College Trichy and migrated to Australia in 1991 to commence his career as a software professional. He has worked across a variety of technologies related to telecommunications, retail, banking, finance and insurance. Ean recently completed 17 years with the National Australia Bank in Melbourne. Ean is passionate about contributing to the local community and has been a committee member on a number of local organisations, including the Church Parish Committee at St Andrews (Clayton South) and the School Education Board at Sacred Heart Girls College (Oakleigh). Ean and his wife Maria have been married for 24 years. They are active members in their local parish, facilitating prayer groups and supporting parish events and functions. They live in Clarinda, located in the south eastern suburbs of Melbourne, with their two daughters, Rebecca and Stephanie.



A Spooky Experience

- Elwyn Netto (Class of '55)

The incident which I am about to recount took place over half a century ago while I was working for a tea plantation company in the town of Munnar in the High Ranges of Kerala.

Soon after my marriage in January 1965, while my wife and I were staying in the Company quarters allotted to me in Munnar Town, my parents were staying on Letchmi Estate, where my father was working at that time, and which is situated about 10 kilometres from Munnar. During this time, as my wife was unwell, I had taken and left her with my parents on this estate for a couple of months and I used to go over there on the week-ends, returning to Munnar for duty early on Monday mornings.

There were no regular bus services to this estate at that time and the only way to travel to and from the estate was by hiring a taxi which was a fairly expensive business. Those were the days before auto-rickshaws made their appearance in the High Range. However, my mode of travel was to walk to and from the estate and I covered the distance in a little over an hour and a half.

It was while travelling one week-end to my parents' house that I had a very strange experience. Though the motor road from Munnar to Letchmi Estate was around 10 kilometres, there was another pathway through the tea fields, fuel plantations and jungle which was shorter by about two kilometres, but which had the disadvantage of passing through mostly uninhabited areas. However, I preferred this route, even though it was very unlikely that I would meet another person over most of the way, as it would get me to my destination quicker. Being mostly uninhabited, there was also the possibility of running into wild animals, especially elephants, but this was a risk I decided to take every time I took this route.

My usual practice was to leave my house at Munnar around 4 p.m. on Saturdays after work, carrying a flask of hot tea as refreshment en-route, and I would start to walk at a brisk pace towards my destination. The first few kilometres would be through proper estate roads, but after about a third of the distance had been covered, the pathway would narrow down and wind its way through the tea bushes and fuel plantations.

After I had covered about two thirds of the distance, there was a spot where there was the stump of a Eucalyptus tree by the side of the pathway, and on this stump I would usually sit and drink the tea I had brought with me. This was my usual practice and on the many occasions that I had passed through this area, I had not the slightest qualms, even though I knew that I was in the middle of an area where there were all sorts of wild animals; even carnivore, apart from wild elephants.

On the particular Saturday which I refer to, as usual, I stopped at the stump by the side of the pathway and drank the tea and, as I used to smoke in those days, lit a cigarette and started smoking it. It was while I was sitting thus that it suddenly struck me that I was being watched by someone or something.

Even though I had sat at this spot on several occasions in the past, this was the first time that I got this uneasy feeling. Still sitting on the stump, I carefully looked around but could see nothing out of the ordinary, even though I had a clear view over a fairly wide area. The feeling

of uneasiness still remained and so I decided to move on and got up from my seat on the stump.

It was then that I noticed that just behind the stump I had been sitting on there was a big Eucalyptus tree growing, and nailed to it was a piece of red cloth with several human hairs tied to it. The stories I had heard of local exorcists driving out evil spirits from persons possessed by them and finally nailing the spirit to a tree, immediately came to my mind.

One glance at this and I decided that it was in some way the cause of my uneasy feeling and without further ado, I left the spot and almost ran the rest of the distance to my parents' house. I have not been able to get a rational explanation for this, but that was the last time I used that route, because shortly thereafter I bought a bicycle and thereafter used this for travelling by the main motor road to and from my parents' house.

The butler did it

- **George N Netto (Class of '61)**

During the British era in Munnar, conversations in social circles often centred round the misdeeds of domestics, especially those working for gullible bachelors inexperienced in running a household. The married planter, of course, relied on his shrewd spouse to keep light-fingered cooks (or butlers as some were grandiosely designated) in check.

One butler developed a taste for Scotch, helping himself on the sly to his employer's stock now and then. However, he was careful to replace the quantity consumed each time with an equal quantity of water. It was only when the Brit found he needed two to three pegs more than his usual quota to get high that he cottoned on to what was happening! When questioned by his employer who smelt a rat, the thieving cook—also a Scotch fancier—blithely attributed the diminishing level in a bottle of Johnny Walker to natural evaporation since it hadn't been corked properly—by none other than the culprit himself!

One morning a young Scottish bachelor wasn't amused when he caught his butler breakfasting on bacon and eggs while he—as part of his initiation into a planter's life—had got only two lumpy 'dosas' and some watery coconut chutney. Quite unabashed, the butler coolly explained that he was merely sampling an English breakfast just as the Scot had sampled an Indian one!

Suspecting that his cook was conning him, another young British planter, lounging in bed one Sunday morning, counted the sizzles coming from the kitchen as his cook made dosas for breakfast. Soon five piping hot ones were placed before him. "Bring me the remaining dosas too," ordered the Brit. Perplexed, the cook replied, "There was enough batter only for five." "But I counted ten sizzles!" countered the Brit triumphantly. The harassed cook had to convince him that it takes two sizzles to make one dosa!

There was also the memsahib who couldn't figure out how her butler was filching eggs. Then one day by sheer chance she solved the mystery and confronted him. "Since when has your turban become a nest?" she demanded. Seeing the man blink, she added icily, "Well, I found five eggs in it today!"

Campion Boys from the 1950s down to the '90s at the COBA Curry Night on 16th Jun 2018



L-R: Dale Theobald, Carlton Fernandez, Cedric D'Rozario, Don D'Vaz, Ean Brewty, Glen Johnson, Royston James, Loftus Callanan, Royden Joseph, Michael Lewis, Robbie Starr, Christopher Quental, Michael Devisser, Randy Bentick, Des Hickman, Raymond Carvalho, Cresswell Narcis, Floyd Rozario, Gary Paul, Felix Chelladurai, Dominic Rozario, Alester Rouse, Berry Lewis, Melford Narcis, Charles Honour, Peter D'Souza, Gerard Fernandez, Ken Samuel

Construction of the Roof over the quadrangle



NEOLOGISMS: Newly-coined alternate meanings to existing words

1. Coffee : the person being coughed on
2. Flabbergasted : shocked at the amount of recent weight gain
3. Balderdash : a rapidly receding hairline
4. Lymph : to walk with a lisp
5. Gargoyle : a really distasteful mouthwash
6. Negligent : absentmindedly answering the door in your nightgown
7. Abdicate : to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach
8. Esplanade : to attempt to explain something while drunk
9. Flatulence : an emergency vehicle sent to rescue you when you're passing an excess of gas
10. Pokemon : a Rastafarian proctologist

Our thanks:

We are grateful for support offered to COBA the local businesses and individuals who have given us tremendous support in our fund raising efforts, throughout the year.

Congratulations:

LOFTUS Callanan married Barbara Dubier on 15th April 2018 in Chennai. Congratulations to the newly wedded couple.

Obituaries:

MELVILLE D'ROZARIO (Class of 1961) passed away in Melbourne on 7th May 2018. Our condolences to his wife Christine, their children and grandchildren, his brothers Cedric and Ronnie, his sister Marie and all the family.


DOUGLAS FERNANDEZ (Class of 1957) passed away in Melbourne on 13th July 2018. Our condolences to his wife Marina, their children and grandchildren, his brothers Ronnie, Derek, Patrick and Ralph, his sister Yvonne and all the family.

coba news



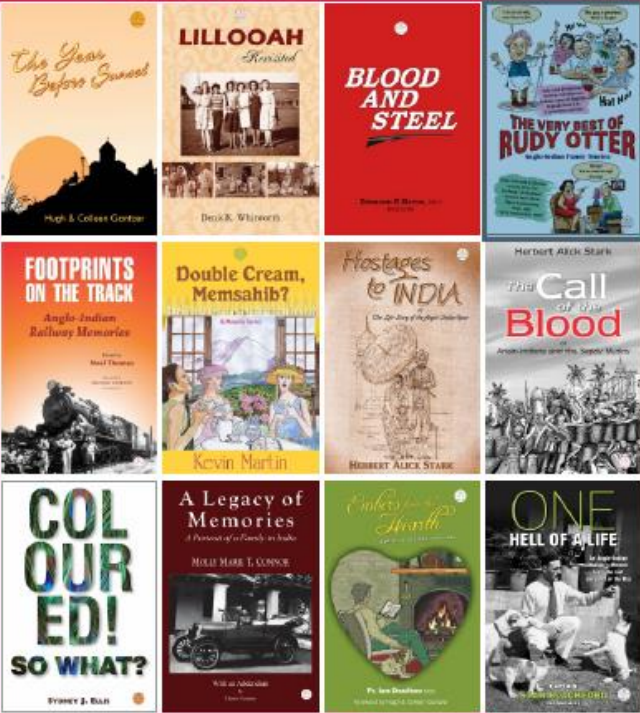
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