



VIGEAT VERITAS

coba news

Oct 2016

Issue 49

From the Secretary

A big thank you to all who attended this year's Annual General Meeting. To those of you who were unable to join us – you were missed. Once each year we have this great opportunity to regroup and evaluate the activities of the past year and together plan our journey forward. Your presence at the meeting reaffirms your bond with the Campion Old Boys Association and reacquaints you with the school and the community.

I am grateful for the privilege to serve on the committee for another year. I don't believe there is a more relevant cause than COBA's to lend effort to. It has been inspiring working alongside such dedicated individuals. We on the committee have faced our share of challenges through the year. This is not the first time we have encountered unforeseen obstacles, nor will it be the last. But as a team, we have learned from the experience, overcome it, and moved ahead. The new additions to the committee are very welcome and will no doubt be a positive influence.

Ties between COBA Australia and the school back home remain as strong as ever. We look forward to the completion of the new roof that is to be constructed over the quadrangle. It will certainly be a valuable addition to Campion's infrastructure for many more years to come. So far, \$4,350.00 has been donated by individuals towards the Roof Appeal and COBA Australia has contributed an additional \$2,000.00. Please continue to donate towards this cause.

Our fund-raising activities have not been as well attended as we would have liked. We have a financial commitment to the scholarship recipients. I appeal to all our members to attend our functions. Please don't let the AGM be the sole COBA event we see you at.



Royston James

What's inside

COBA Committee 2016-17

An untiring teacher

My life in the Philippines

Hockey Team 1954

Special Events

Party Equipment

If you are planning a party, we have generous sized Bain-Maries for hire. Revenue generated from this contributes towards our scholarship fund. A big "Thank you" to those who have hired our equipment and donated generously towards our mission. Please contact us if you are interested.

Contact: Gerard Fernandez Mobile: 0439 197 627

Editor's Note

We are proud to publish some highlights of Fr. Rodney Hart's life in the Philippines in his own words. Thanks to Emmy D'Silva for sharing this beautiful account with us. Thanks to George Netto as well for permitting us to publish his article on Fr. Hession that was recently published in the Deccan Herald.

Take a look at the 1954 Campion Hockey team photograph. It's bound to bring back some memories. That's the sort of stuff we've been asking you to send to us over the years.

Feel free to send us any old photographs from your school days that you would like to share. If you need any assistance, contact and of us and we're glad to help. Our contact numbers are below.

Editor

We are always grateful for any contributions you could make towards the scholarship fund. Our thanks to all of you who have donated towards the COBA scholarship fund recently.

Adrian & Brenda Rodrigues
Christopher Quental
Teresa Meyer
Robert Rodrigues
Julian Maugey
Vijay Manthena

Dominic Scurville
Gerard & Christine Fernandez
Dr. Jean Douyere
Clare Sabatino
Jude & Dawn D'Rozario
Christina Miranda

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\$400 for a full page colour ad valid for three issues in the calendar year.

\$200 for a half page colour ad.

\$300 for a full page Black & White ad for three issues in the calendar year.

\$150 for half a page Black & White ad.

Please contact Loftus Callanan on +61 3 9369 7735 or by email at lcallanan@optusnet.com.au if you're interested.



coba news

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Below is the COBA Committee for the Financial Year 2016-17

Executive Committee

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<p>Secretary & Public Officer Royston James (Class '86)</p> <p>(M) 0408 266 436</p> <p>Email: roy.rjames@gmail.com</p>	<p>Assistant Secretary Christopher Quental (Class '91)</p> <p>(M) 0406 207 639</p> <p>Email: chris2lawquen@hotmail.com</p>
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Sub-Committee Members (Nominated)

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Scholarship & Friend In Need Sub-Committee

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Scholarship & Friend In Need Sub-Committee (India) Nominated

Co-ordinator Agnes Lobow Retired Teacher	Assistant Co-ordinator Beverley Wright (Class '55)
Althea Sherwood Teacher	Avis Wright Retired Teacher
George Evers (Class '54)	Percival Rozario (Class 2001)

Tribute to an untiring teacher

He was never known to raise his voice either in anger or to drive home a point.

By George N Netto

Teaching is considered to be one of the noblest professions and truly committed teachers are an invaluable asset to educational institutions, constructively moulding and shaping the lives of their students.

As a student in Tiruchy in the 1950s, I was fortunate to have had such a teacher. Father James Hession was a frail, soft-spoken Irish priest who taught us English and, in the process, kindled my interest in writing.

It all originated with essay writing - a subject dear to his heart. In simple language, he would hold forth on the importance of a central theme in every essay which, he stressed, should be expatiated upon without digressing from it. This was one of the criteria by which he evaluated an essay, the others being one's fluency in English and how one presented one's thoughts. A point he always emphasised - which I follow even now - is that the strength of a sentence lies in the verb. 'Be selective in the choice of verbs and adjectives,' he would repeatedly exhort us.

Fr. Hession encouraged us to read extensively. His favourite newspaper was The Mail, published from Madras, which incidentally carried a cartoon strip detailing, in verse, the exploits of a wonder pig named Curly Wee. While it was the cartoon that drew us boys to the newspaper, Fr. Hession insisted that we carefully read the editorial and news reports daily in order to improve our standard of English. And, to ensure we did, he would ply us with searching questions on the day's news.

Fr. Hession himself was a voracious reader cocooned in a world of books. His spartanly furnished room was lined with shelves crammed with musty old tomes. A small stack of books sat on his writing table, too, spilling onto his adjacent bed. Reclusive, he seldom had visitors. When I knocked on his door once, his faint "come in" was hardly audible, though he was seated near the door. It was a typical trait: he was never known to raise his voice either in anger or to drive home a point. Yet, it never affected his flair for teaching, for he gave us a sound grounding in spoken as well as written English.

Another characteristic was his undemonstrativeness. Even a commendable performance in essay writing or elocution elicited only a faint smile and a mild nod of appreciation from him. Yet, it was enough for us, coming as it did from no less a teacher than Fr. Hession.

When a few of us went to thank him on our final day at school, he was ill. Still, he greeted us warmly, a wan smile creasing his gaunt face, and wished us well for the future. Though persistently dogged by illness, he continued to teach English for as long as he could. He passed away in 1969, truly exemplifying the saying that a teacher is like a candle that burns itself out in lighting others.



I was ordained a Jesuit priest on March 18, 1970. During my years of formation, I was interested in leprosy work and spent the two months of my summer vacation every year for 7 years working in a leprosarium in Chennai. In my fourth year of theology in Pune, I asked Fr. Superior General in Rome for permission to work in a leprosarium in Culion, an island in the southern Philippines where the Jesuits had been chaplain since its foundation in 1907 until today.

In 1907, the government would round up lepers in different parts of the Philippines and bring them to the island of Culion from where they could not escape. Culion is no longer a reservation for lepers but has now become a municipality for the past couple of years. There are now very few lepers in Culion. Only the very bad cases remain. The Jesuits established a school and college. The children of lepers are not lepers and so very many leave Culion to study and work in Manila or other parts of the Philippines. Only this year, after 109 years, it was handed over to the diocese but two Jesuits remain to run the high school and college.

My request to work in Culion was granted in May, 1971. I landed in Manila and studied Tagalog for 6 months. In December 1971, I went over to Culion to work as chaplain among the lepers in the government run leper colony. I was there for 7 years. At that time there was still the fear of contracting leprosy. I was given the choice of returning to India or working in the Philippines. I opted to work in parishes and hospitals. I spent the next 22 years working among the poor. I was alone. It was a very poor parish. I could not support myself. The parishioners decided to supply me with food. I had 30 families giving me my breakfast, lunch and dinner every day. Even poor families opted to share their food with me. Often it would be some rice, fish or pork and an egg. I have never experienced such hospitality anywhere else. I was touched by the love and generosity of these people. This went on for three years. I was the last Jesuit there. After me, the Columban priests took over. I moved on to Ipil where I was the assistant parish priest and director of the school and college. I was here for 6 years. Margosatubig and Ipil are in Zamboanga del Sur, trouble spots. There were constant conflicts with the military in clashes with Muslim rebels and the NPA (New People's Army). Work was hard and food was scarce but God gave me good health. I never had fever even for a single day and it has been like that ever since for the past 45 years. Only once I had fever in Cebu for a couple of days. Also many years later in Manila when I was in a parish, the doctor prescribed a pain reliever for pain in my shoulder due to over exercise and it caused bleeding. I was in hospital for 3 days. I don't remember any other time when I was sick.

Of my 22 years of work among the poor, 9 years were spent as chaplain in Manila's biggest government hospital which treated mainly charity patients. We were two priests on a 24 hour duty every other day. We were like doctors on call at any time of the day or night. I experienced firsthand what suffering is, especially for the poor. I have seen all kinds of operations as at times we would be called to anoint people who were on the operating table with the operation in progress. I once witnessed an open heart surgery where I could see the heart beating. Hospital life was quite an experience.

After 22 years of living with the poor, my next 22 years were with affluent Jesuit parishes in Cebu and Manila. 8 of those years were in Cebu and 14 years in Manila in the same parish. It was quite a change in life-style, from being extremely poor to living among the rich. For my 45th year, I am now assigned as assistant parish priest in Iloilo, an island south of Manila. It is a Jesuit parish with mostly middle-class people.

Since my arrival here in the Philippines, I go home every 4 years for 6 weeks. I usually spend Christmas and New Year at home in Chennai. We usually have a family gathering some time in Christmas week.

I will now give you some highlights in my life here in the Philippines.

My first memorable experience in the Philippines was 4 days after my arrival in Manila. It was my baptism of initiation into Philippine life. It was the rainy season and I was on my way by bus to Quiapo, a shopping area to buy a rain coat or an umbrella. I was seated between two men on a seat for 3. It was raining. After a while the man on my left near the aisle got up and left. A short while later I felt cold wind blowing on my thigh. I looked down and saw a big L-shaped slash on my pants. My wallet was lying on the floor. I had been pick-pocketed. I must have shown signs of panic because the man on my right asked me what was wrong. I told him that I was pick-pocketed. Knowing that I was a foreigner, he asked me if I had any money to go back to my residence. When I told him that I had none, he gave me 5 pesos, the equivalent of 5 rupees. As I walked back to take a bus home, I had to hold my pants where there was big hold. I was ashamed to let people see the big hole in my pants.

In 1972, 6 months after my arrival in Culion, I rolled down the hill in my metal-top jeep and came out alive, badly bruised and bleeding, but with no broken bones. It was my first close encounter with death. In Culion, there was electricity only from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Past 10.00 that night I was called by the Sisters in the hospital to anoint a man who had been stabbed. I took our helper with me. After anointing, I tried to reverse my jeep on the narrow road. On one side of the road was the hospital. On the other side a steep slope. Further down the slope there was another row of houses. The road back to our residence was a winding road. To avoid taking the long route, I tried to reverse on the narrow road. My helper was giving me instructions how far I could go to the edge of the slope. I almost made it when the engine conked out. I forgot to change gears. When I turned on the ignition key, the jeep shot out into the precipice. It somersaulted sideways, I don't know how many times. As I rolled, the gasoline from the tank would pour on me. If the jeep caught fire, that was the end. As it somersaulted, I tried to jump out but could not make it as it would roll again. After a few somersaults the jeep came to rest at the trunk of a tree. I got out and held onto the tree as I was dazed. I could hear shouts from people from the hospital to hold on as they were coming down. I heard a sister tell me that she was giving me an injection to calm me. I lost consciousness. When I woke up, I was lying beside the man whom I had anointed. He was smiling at me. The sisters dressed my wounds and after about an hour took me home. It was around midnight. The next morning, a dentist from the hospital came to visit me. Jokingly he said that he thought I was going to have breakfast with him. One or two somersaults more and I would have landed in the kitchen of his house.

To be continued.....

Campion Hockey Team – 1954 (Winners)



Sitting (L to R): **Alphonse Bentinck, Francis Xavier, Father Masters, Sten Pears, Rex D’Cruz, Peter Morris.**
Standing (L to R): **Stephen Cowie, George Evers, Clarence Narcis, Loftus Callanan (c), Claude Vardon, Anthony Leo.**

I have very fond memories of the members of this team. Francis Xavier the goal-keeper was from Malaysia and a first class boarder. He was an excellent football player but no good at hockey. We were desperate for a good goalie, I suggested he play in this position. My instructions to him were to kick the hockey ball just like it was a football. He did just that with great success and played in the final in preference to Anto Patterson.

Anthony Leo was also from Malaysia and a first class boarder. He left Campion in 1955 and joined Montfort High School. I met George Evers twice in Trichy on my visits to Campion. He suffered a stroke a few years ago but has recovered completely.

I first met Claude Vardon and his brother Roy in Coonoor in the Nilgiris in 1946. We used to go on bikes to the forest and catch baby monkeys. Claude was an excellent pole-vaulter. Sten Pears was a wizard with the hockey stick and the main goal scorer. He now lives in Ireland with his wife Mary and their family. He came to Melbourne in 2009 for COBA’s Tenth Anniversary. We still keep in touch via emails and phone calls.

I met Rex D’Cruz’s son Gary who now resides in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Rex was known as the “Wild One” and as a Locomotive Driver was famous for arriving well before time.

Peter Morris was a good 100 metre sprinter and always pushed me hard for the first place. I have lost touch with the others in the photograph and would love to make contact. So if any of our readers has any information about the players in the photograph please do get in touch with me.

- Loftus Callanan

Special Events:

CONGRATULATIONS to Cedric and Deanna D'Rozario celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 5th October 2016.

CONGRATULATIONS to Roland (Rex) and Vilma Rodrigues celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 22nd October 2016.

CONGRATULATIONS to Loftus Callanan on the recent birth of 2 Great Grand Children. Jai Joseph born on 16th August 2016 to Nicole and James. This is Loftus's third Great Grand Child and first Great Grand Son. Scarlet Pearl born on 2th August to Rebecca and Danny. This is Loftus's fourth Great Grand Child.

A few photos from the Blue & White Ball Sep 2016



Our Australian Life Members

ELLIS	Sydney	Skye	VIC	CONYERS	Jennifer	Clarinda	VIC
D'ROZARIO	Jude	Mulgrave	VIC	HICKMAN	Lucien	Hampton Park	VIC
FERNANDEZ	Ronald	Noble Park	VIC	D'ROZARIO	Alister	Dingley Village	VIC
RODRIGUES	Roland	Oakleigh East	VIC	FERNANDEZ	Derek	Keysborough	VIC
FULLER	Tyrone	Hawker	ACT	RODRIGUES	Brenda	Templestowe	VIC
RODRIGUES	Ouida	Oakleigh East	VIC	CORREA	Jude	Thomastown	VIC
COTTER	Cecilia	Auburn	NSW	GONSALVEZ	Austin	Dandenong	VIC
COTTER	Gwendoline	Sefton	NSW	ROUSE	Norma	Noble Park	VIC
COTTER	Leslie	Sefton	NSW	COLOMB	Noel	Glen Waverley	VIC
COTTER	Milton	Auburn	NSW	ELLIS	Philo	Skye	VIC
RODRIGUES	Robert	Chester Hill	NSW	LOBOW	Marius	Cranbourne North	VIC
VAN HALTREN	Derrick	Glen Waverley	VIC	ROUSE	Alester	Berwick	VIC
GONSALVEZ	Bernadette	Narre Warren Sth	VIC	ROUSE	Melford	Noble Park	VIC
GONSALVEZ	Cyril	Narre Warren Sth	VIC	D'VAZ	Don	Dandenong North	VIC
D'ROZARIO	Dawn	Mulgrave	VIC	CARVALHO	Raymond	Narre Warren	VIC
LOPEZ	Joseph	Bentleigh	VIC	D'ROZARIO	Priscilla	Keysborough	VIC
KEIN	Royce	Oakleigh South	VIC	D'ROZARIO	Cedric	East Brighton	VIC
WRIGHT	Neville	Springvale	VIC	QUENTAL	Christopher	Cranbourne North	VIC
PAUL	Gary	Springvale	VIC	HENDRICKS	Rory	Shelley	WA
COTTER	Evelyn	Greystanes	NSW	FERNANDEZ	Gerard	Cranbourne	VIC
PATTERSON	Terrence	Canning Vale	WA	D'CRUZ	Cleaton	Bentleigh	VIC
LOPEZ	Sheila	Bundoora	VIC	BROOK	Neville	Narre Warren Sth	VIC
MICHEL	Lester	Collie	WA	HICKMAN	Daniel	Clarinda	VIC
HICKMAN	Desiderius	Hampton Park	VIC	RODRIGUES	Astrid	Keysborough	VIC
STARR	Robert	South Oakleigh	VIC	RING	Malcolm	Kellyville Ridge	NSW
FERNANDEZ	Patrick	Beaconsfield	VIC	LOBOW	Godfrey	Hampton Park	VIC
RODRIGUES	Adrian	Templestowe	VIC	GONSALVEZ	Dalton	St. Clair	NSW
HICKMAN	Joseph	South Clayton	VIC	McCUTCHEON	Tanya	Southbank	VIC
ROZARIO	Duncan	Rowville	VIC	McCUTCHEON	Bruce	Southbank	VIC
DEVISSER	Walwin	Clayton	VIC	MICHEL	Gavin	Lynbrook	VIC
KEIN	Campion	Mulgrave	VIC	GOMES	Patricia	Berwick	VIC
HICKMAN	Dymphna	Hampton Park	VIC	GONSALVEZ	Llewelyn	Keysborough	VIC
LOPEZ	Audrey	Bentleigh	VIC	JACOB	Rex	Sunshine	VIC
D'MONTE	Eric	Wantirna	VIC	GONSALVEZ	Craig	Figtree	NSW
MC CONVILLE	Audrey	Dandenong North	VIC	FERNANDEZ	Margaret	Beaconsfield	VIC
SMITH	Tommy	Clarinda	VIC	FERNANDEZ	Christine	Cranbourne	VIC
MICHEL	Kevin	Karratha	WA	MICHEL	Juan	Hampton Park	VIC
D'MONTE	Vernon	Mulgrave	VIC	ATKINSON	Edgar	Roxburg Park	VIC
D'MONTE	Mercy	Mulgrave	VIC	RODRIGUES	Dudley	Braybrook	VIC
PATERSON	Vera	Park Orchards	VIC	DEMONTE	Stanley	McDowall	QLD
D'LASSELLE	Bernard	Carnegie	VIC	JACOB	Sylvester	Pemulwuy	NSW
RING	Rudolph	Gosnells	WA	ALMEIDA	Melroy	South Oakleigh	VIC
GOMES	Christopher	Berwick	VIC	BROOK	Dagma	Narre Warren Sth	VIC
FERNANDEZ	Douglas	Mulgrave	VIC	MACEDO	Raulston	Bentleigh	VIC
VAN HALTREN	Winston	Fairfield	VIC	MOREIRA	Ronald	Berwick	VIC
KEIN	Callistus	Clayton South	VIC	VERNEM	Joyce	Doveton	VIC
COTTER	Joseph	Chester Hill	NSW	JAMES	Royston	Dandenong	VIC
WALKER	Canute	Clarinda	VIC	DILLON	Joseph	St.Helen's Park	NSW
CALLANAN	Loftus	Altona Meadows	VIC	DILLON	Clifford	Glenfield	NSW
RODRIGUES	Denzil	Carina Heights	QLD	EDWARDS	Royston	Cairnlea	VIC
HONOUR	Charles	Pearcedale	VIC				
JACOBS	Alfred	West Pennant Hills	NSW				
RODRIGUES	Vilma	Oakleigh East	VIC				

Our Overseas Life Members

FERNANDEZ	Claude	London	UK	EVERS	George	Tiruchirappalli	IND
BAYER	Winston	Oxon	UK	LOBOW	Agnes	Golden Rock	IND
GREEN	Cyril	Surrey	UK	PAUL	Patricia	Tiruchirappalli	IND
PEARS	Sten	Galway	IRE	WRIGHT	Avis	Tiruchirappalli	IND
GREEN	Kevin	Wiltshire	UK	WRIGHT	Beverley	Tiruchirappalli	IND
RODRIGUES	Noel	Ontario	CAN	SHERWOOD	Althea	Tiruchirappalli	IND
D'CRUZ	Basil	Essex	UK	NETTO	Elwyn	Alwaye	IND
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D'SILVA	Emmanuel	Kottayam	IND	HART s j	Fr. Rodney	San Juan	PH
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PAUL	Maxwell	Isle of Wight	UK	RAMAKRISHNAN	Nair	Chennai	IND
PILARRD	Henry	Cumbum	IND	SUKUMARAN	Arumugam	Chennai	IND
NETTO	George	Kerala	IND	BASTIAN	Ashley	Hounslow	UK
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