



The Don Bosco

# Past Pupils' Association

**Where The Past Holds Hands With The Present To Look Towards The Future. . .**

On 24 June 1870, when in Italy, the Turin Oratory was celebrating Don Bosco's Feast, there came a special group of visitors led by Mr. Charles Gastini. They were Don Bosco's past pupils. Don Bosco always thought that his past pupils were his greatest joy. He had loved them as young students and loved them even more as grown up men.

Mr. Charles Gastini assured Don Bosco that in return of the education received they would form an association of past pupils that would be a 'living monument of Don Bosco' and would be driven by the motto 'Know, love, help one another and keep united.'

In DBL, the Alumni Association that seeks to promote a social awareness of the Salesian mission of service to the young and the poor, cements the fraternity between its members, the Salesians, the teachers - both past and present - and the present pupils.

On 2 October 1955, the first Past Pupils' Day was organized at Don Bosco Liluah with 25 boys and Fr. Roland O' Hara, also a past pupil, being present. The alumni went ahead with their work under the stewardship of several Salesians and past pupils. The unit of Past Pupils' Association in Don Bosco Liluah came into existence in 1967 with Rev. Fr. Patrick Sheehy as the first delegate and Mr. Joe Andrade as the first president.



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*Don Bosco Liluah is more than just a school. The school has immensely contributed in shaping our lives and in influencing significantly our present standing. My heartfelt gratitude to all the Salesians and teachers. Don Bosco is an inspiration!*

**Rajiv Tikmany**

(Liluah Unit President, National President and a World Confederal Member)

The DBL Past Pupils' Association, subsequently, spread its wings under the stewardship of several past pupils.

The first important activity of the Liluah unit was to make the Centenary of the Past Pupils (1970) a grand success.

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On 14 August 1972, there was a variety show held at Kala Mandir, Kolkata, to collect funds to turn 'Slums into Homes'. The event was graced by Mother Teresa. The project was a joint venture of the past pupils of Don Bosco School, Park Circus and Don Bosco School, Liluah.

The experience of the 6th National 'Boscoree' is one of the high water marks of the DBL Past Pupils' spirit of service and dedication to a cause. This scouting event, guided by the motto 'Care and Share' was held at DBL and the catering was ably handled by the past pupils.



*When I reflect on the achievements of the last 24 years, I think it has been possible largely due to the grooming that I received in DBL. The Salesians and my teachers have had a very significant role to play in my upbringing.*

**Akash Gupta**  
(Sr. Vice President, Asia Head, RBS)



*My days in DBL were the best days of my life. Every alumnus is an extension of Don Bosco in today's world - to serve the society, especially the young and the needy. Long live Don Bosco!*

**Vinod Agarwal**, Past President of the Alumni and now based in New Delhi



The Night School which today is a boon to the underprivileged local children, began as a small project with the past pupils helping out financially as well as lending voluntary service. In this context, the names of past pupils like Mr. Manminder Singh Rait, Mr. Ajay Bhardwaj, and Mr. Sunil Bolia will go down in the annals of history.

Another major permanent social project of the past pupils, the Adult Education Project (AEP), started on 22 April 1991, with 35 students. This project caters to the upliftment of illiterate girls above fourteen years. Vocational classes in stitching are held, alongwith classes in spoken English, personal grooming, etc. Free medical facility is also provided to the AEP girls.



*What I am today is because of DBL and even after 33 years of passing out of the school, the attachment with DBL remains the same as it was when I joined the school.*

Santosh Agarwal, Batch of 1979



Another foremost project of the association is the Free Medical Unit. It was inaugurated by His Grace Lucas Sirkar, Archbishop of Kolkata, on 31 January 2007. It is run every Sunday morning and provides free medical check-ups and medicines to approximately 150 patients every week. Till date more than 35,000 patients have benefitted from this initiative. Every week ten to fifteen dedicated past pupils volunteer their services towards this project. Some past pupils, who are doctors, regularly visit the place, providing honorary service. Free medicines are distributed by the alumni.

The association has donated funds for the construction of a hospital near Liluah station. It has also started a free charitable dispensary at Bhattanagar.

A Water Filtration Plant in the school campus, sponsored by the DBL Alumni had been set up in 1997, for the benefit of the present pupils.



*Education in Don Bosco has taught me the true meaning of life.*  
Kisan Sony, Past President of Alumni



*A selfless attitude in the Past Pupils Association leads one to achieve great honour. Such has been my experience in my association with DBL.*

**Binod Adukia**  
(Past President of the Alumni)

Some of the other pet projects of the alumni are: organizing the Hepatitis B vaccination for the local people as well as for DBL students, visiting old-age homes and leprosy homes and making donations towards worthy causes. During the Kargil War, they contributed a substantial sum to the Army Welfare Fund.

An annual event of the alumni is the blood donation camp, the first of its kind organized in 1998, with 90 donors. Besides these socially-relevant projects, the past pupils regularly organize the Annual Reunion Day, Diwali Meet, Holi Meet, football, volleyball and cricket matches. They also participate in a debate with the present pupils.



*I really feel blessed to be associated with DBL since my childhood, first as a student then as a member of the alumni. I consider myself fortunate to be guided by Don Bosco even today.*

**Akhilesh Singh**, Past President of the Alumni and now based in Lucknow

*The education which I received in DBL was more of inculcating discipline and for which I am indebted to Don Bosco and all its Salesians and teachers.*

**Naresh Jalan**, MD, Ramkrishna Forgings Ltd.



*DBL has always been a source of inspiration and motivation in all spheres of life. Today as a parent, I have tried to bring up my child with the same values that I grew up with.*

**Rohit Seksaria**  
(Policy Making - Derivatives, HSBC London)



*I am proud to have been nurtured by and associated with DBL in the formative years of my life.*

**Aurobindo Bannerjee** (Past President, Alumni)

The DBL Alumni have been stalwarts in the Kolkata Provincial Council and have participated in National Meets and International Congresses. Mr. Manoj Agarwal represented the Association at the Sydney Congress, Mr. Ajay Bhardwaj and Mr. Surendra Kumar Agarwal at the Seoul Congress, Mr. Rajiv Tikmany at the Philippines Congress and Bangkok Congress. Mr. Rajiv Tikmany also attended the World Assembly of Alumni at Rome.



*Over four decades of association with DBL invokes a feeling of deep reverence.*

**Manoj Agarwal**  
(Past President, Alumni)



*Mr. Rajiv Tikmany (Liluah Unit President, National President & and a World Confederal Member) at the Asia-Oceania Conference of the Don Bosco Past Pupils at Bangkok.*



**Mr. Kailash Pachisia**  
(Batch of 1966)

*Mr. Kailash Pachisia, a committed alumnus, joined school in 1957, when Fr. Peter Lourdes was the Prefect of Studies. He was the group leader of the Literary and Debating Clubs and was appreciated by students and teachers alike. Immediately after passing out of school in 1966, he dedicated himself to the various activities of the Past Pupils' Association.*

*He was the founder member of the Night School, which started on 5 November 1967. Under his leadership, the Liluah unit of DBL organized the 'Shoe Shine' campaign. Mr. Pachisia participated in the National Centenary Celebration of Don Bosco Past Pupils held at Matunga, Mumbai. He went on to become the First Provincial President from Liluah and the first Vice-President at the national level.*

*Mr. Pachisia was awarded the World Confederation of Don Bosco Past Pupils Award for his 'Fidelity to Don Bosco's Spirit' by the Rector Major's delegate during the third Asia-Australia Congress Meet, held at Mumbai in 1984.*

*His selfless attitude and his ability as a leader comes across through a small incident while he was still a student of DBL. The school had given over and a DBL student, who was on his way home, was hit by the Mithila Express at the Liluah station. From a crowd of several onlookers, it was Kailash Pachisia, who in a trice, was by the side of his companion. He not only immediately informed his Rector, Rev. Fr. Sheehy of the incident but also helped to rush the injured boy to the hospital. Mr. Kailash Pachisia's ability to rise to the occasion saved a precious life that day.*

“As I loved you when you were young pupils, now that you are grown men, I love you much more.”

**Don Bosco**

A GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO DON BOSCO, FATHER AND FRIEND OF YOUTH  
FROM THE ALUMNI ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF DON BOSCO LILUAH

The Liluah unit of the past pupils is widely acknowledged to be the most effervescent unit in the world with more than 800 members. A glimpse of this vibrancy was evident in the gusto, with which they welcomed the relic of Don Bosco into the school premises in July, 2011. Their contribution to the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of the school is also too compelling to be ignored. They have led from the front in garnering funds, sponsoring events, networking with people and arranging celebrity performances. The towering statue of Don Bosco sculpted by Manik Talukdar which was installed in the forecourt of the auditorium during the closing week of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations is a gift of the past pupils to their alma mater. This 8 feet tall statue that stands on a pedestal of 6 feet is one of the many visible examples of the fact that the flame of DBL still burns strong in the heart of each of its past pupils.