

EIGHTY CLUB MELBOURNE

CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

1st EDITION APR 2022 - JUN 2022

NEWSLETTER NO: 157

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May God bless you at Easter, And keep you all year through. May God give you all the faith it takes, To make your dreams come true. May His love and wisdom always help, To guide you on your way. May His light shine down upon you now, To bless your Easter Day. Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter

Easter, A Time to give Thanks for Life's Blessings.

A Time to Help those in Need

A Time to Pray that our Lives be

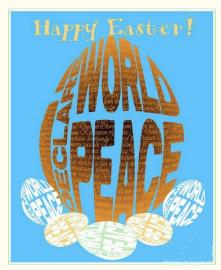
Blessed with Good Health

A Time to Pray for All those who seek refuge from War

A Time to Pray for Peace in Our World.

A Time for Caring, A Time for Sharing,

President's Message - Earle Ferdinand



On reflection, it would be fair to say that many of us would think, the worst was over. The New Year we hoped, would usher in much sought after relief from the pandemic and that our lives would only get better. Yet to many across the world, there is untold suffering and pain in their lives due to war and economic disaster.

One would think that history would teach mankind the futility of war. The destruction it causes, the pain and suffering of families being torn apart and the loss of loved ones. On another front, economic mismanagement in the country of my birth, is causing immense hardship with an escalating cost of living, the lack of basic necessities like food, electricity, fuel and much more. Faced with little hope, the agonizing pain of hunger and not being able to fend for their families, people have taken to the streets in protest.

In no way do I want to make a dissertation on world politics or the economic mismanagement of people in power. However, the policies and core values of people voted into power and public office is to ensure the welfare of their people. Today, the poor have no options other than to queue or beg for food. Currency has been devalued resulting in steep inflation and a rise in the cost of living. Newspapers have stopped printing and student exams have been cancelled due to a shortage of paper and the list goes on. The terror of falling ill to Covid has faded away to be replaced by a greater need. The need for essentials like food, milk powder for infants and simply, trying to stay alive.

Over the years, the club has endeavored to alleviate the suffering of the poor in our community, educate needy students and together we have achieved many things. Even with the isolation due to the Covid pandemic, you have all extended your generosity and made it possible to continue our work. Your donations and support made it possible to extend and expand our aid to these deserving, poor people. I am sure, that all those fortunate to receive assistance, cannot find words to express their gratitude and thank you, for your compassion and kindness.

Committee deliberations always center around the need to increase our aid to the Welfare Beneficiaries. Reading and hearing about the ongoing problems in Sri Lanka, our collective thoughts and motivation are how we can improve their situation in life. The current high conversion rate of the A\$ to the SLR has enabled us to double the mid-year bonus to Rs 6000, however the high cost of food alone negates the increase in the bonus payment. We would dearly love to revise and increase the present rate of pensions paid, but as always we need to consider our ability to raise the required funds. Furthermore, the numbers requiring welfare assistance are increasing daily. The lives of these poor people are indeed tragic.

With fund raising activities cancelled for over 2 years, the easing of restrictions have enabled us to schedule these events once again. Understandably members and guests are cautious to attend these fundraisers and a crowded venue, making it hard to reach the minimum attendance to make it viable. Also, a drop in membership due to the demographic of our elderly members moving into aged care has also impacted on the funds we receive.

I do appreciate and sincerely thank you for your generosity and your commitment over the years.

My appeal to you this Easter, is to ask you to explore any avenue that you may think of, to generate much needed funds to help us continue assisting our community in Sri Lanka.

The need now is greater than ever and all I can do is to plead with you to engage and make known to every one you meet, with the work we do. Convince them to become a member or make a donation. There is so much to do and we need the resources to continue our mission.

Together with the Committee, our Welfare recipients and students, Shireen and I wish you all the Blessings of Easter and Good Health in the years to come.

Thank You.

WELFARE BENEFICIARY NEWS

In this column, I have highlighted the plight of many in the Burgher Community. Old, infirm, no finances and untold hardships in life, their only hope is to submit an application and be considered for WB status. As always, your response has been tremendous and we are able to bring comfort and support them in many ways. Today, more than ever, they face challenges, just to survive. Now it is not a question as to how we can help feed the hungry. Today, we are faced with how to feed and care for the starving. Helping them in every way possible, at a time when they need all the help we can give.

starving. Helping them in every way possible, at a time when they need all the help we can give. Below is the story of a father, Joe Wijeyanayake, like every parent worrying about the future of his children. His story is detailed in the letter below, penned in 2018. With 2 'special needs' children, the daughter needing more care than the son, we will never know how much hardship the parents went through in life, caring for them.

Losing his wife, he strived alone to raise these children. We can sense from his letter, the love and affection for them and even though he struggled to care for them, they were never considered a burden to him. He agonized over their future, especially that of his daughter and the knowledge that she needed full time care.

Faced with ill health and the knowledge that his time was limited, he tirelessly explored every avenue, pleaded and even begged that his daughter would secure some institutional aid.

Sadly, Joe is no longer with us, however he has achieved what he set out to do. The Club has transferred the welfare payments of the parents to their 2 children, which helps subsidise payments for her upkeep.

We are thankful to all of you for supporting the WB scheme and this is only another facet of the work we do and how your generosity extends in many ways.

With Every Easter Blessing to Each and Every one of You. - Shireen Ferdinand & Yvonne de Vos.

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May our Blessings

and prayers protect you Always

30th November, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

HUMBLE REQUEST FROM for Wijayanayake No, 228

This refers to the conversation I had with you on 13th November 2018. regarding a very important matter which has been tormenting my mind from the day my loving wife Jennifer Philomena Wijayanayake nee Van Gramberg passed away on 25 February 2015, due to a sudden Heart attack.

Thereafter I was burdened with the task of taking care of my mentally handicapped daughter Nicola Anne Wijayanayake, who was subject to fits and mentally handicapped due to a forceps delivery that crushed one side of her brain

This was an uphill task for me at my age of 72 years, with no job and no pension. Iwas forced to beg for financial help for daughter, son and myself to survive. Nicola's medication was so costly that I had to appeal to Mrs Jayatunga, Secretary DBU for help. I thanked God when I was informed that my wife Jennifer's allowance will be passed on to me, enabling me to take care of my daughter.

Nicola has been in and out of 05 Elders Homes, and 05 various hospitals for breakdown of the mental condition, and also she had to undergo several operations on her left and right hand elbows due to a fluid collection. Due to this unbearable situation the stress and severe hardships has made me a very sick man. Presently taking treatment from the Base Hospital, Panadura, for an infection in my kidney, Breathing difficulty and high Blood Pressure every month.

While at the Parami Elders Home at Dodangoda, Nicola was very restless and was taken to the Mental Hospital, Angoda. She was there for 18 days, but no improvement. Once again she was strapped down at the Kalutara Base Hospital. Nagoda and taken back to the Mental Hospital Angoda. She was discharged within a short period and taken back to the Parami Home, at Dodangoda. Again Nicola became very restless and had to be admitted to the Nagoda hospital at Kalutara, She was there for 02 months, almost losing her life.

In the meantime I was corresponding with the Director Health Services at Angoda, Dr. Kapila Wickramanayake way back as March 2018, to explore the possibility of my daughter gaining admission to the Female Villa at the Mental Hospital, Angoda.

On sympathetic grounds the Director, Dr. Kapila Wickramanayake informed me that my daughter Nicola can be admitted to the Female Villa

On completion of the treatment Nicola was discharged and gained admission to the Female Villa on 01" September 2018. I had to pay Rs 8,250/= for September 2018. For October I paid Rs. 9,035/=. For November | paid Rs 5,710/=.

Dear Sir, my main worry today is that my health condition is deteriorating fast as I am aging and feel that my life may end soon at any time. In the event of my death the only survivor to care for Nicola, is my son George Arthur Thomas Wijayanayake. I humbly request yourself to kindly permit my son to have this allowance, so that he will be able to pay the Female Villa the charges every month. | will also inform my kind hearted sponsors to assist my son George to pay the charges so that my daughter Nicola will not be left stranded.

Isincerely hope and pray that this humble request will be granted and pray that God will bless and prosper you abundantly.

Thanking you, Yours faithfully,

Joe Wijeyanayake

THE PSET SCHEME

The formal definition of the PSET scheme is education and training that occurs outside of the Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary Education system using a structured mode of delivery.

Post-School Education and Training includes:



- 1. Higher Education Level at University;
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training;
- Apprenticeship;

The Eighty Club Melbourne was introduced to this concept by the late Mr. Ivor de Kretser who was instrumental in adopting this for use of sponsored students who had completed their schooling and were continuing their education. In fact, Ivor was so dedicated to this concept that he bequeathed a generous sum to the Club to be used exclusively for the PSET scheme.

Used at the inception with the funds provided, the scheme has been dormant for the past number of years as our Agent in Colombo, the Dutch Burgher Union had a large endowment gifted to them for assisting deserving students with their post-secondary education.

However, as the DBU is not pursuing this anymore the Eighty Club has revived the PSET scheme and we currently have three applications for consideration.

Dave - University – Management studies

Sandrelle - Diploma in Psychology Amy - Diploma - Caregivers

The last student Amy continues to receive financial support from her ECM sponsor and will not need full PSET assistance.

The PSET Scheme is funded by the ECM, unlike the Student Sponsorship Scheme where the finances are provided by the individual sponsors. This means that the PSET scheme will need funds to continue the assistance.

Funding varies on the course or university studies undertaken and any members who wish to assist and contribute to this PSET fund or consider a Student Sponsorship, are requested to contact the: Student Sponsorship Program Coordinator for further details. Contact details: email: trevorcollette43@bigpond.com or (03)97061084.







IMPORTANT NEWS FOR BANK/EFT REMITTANCES



HELP!!!

We appreciate your commitment and generosity to the 'Less Fortunate, however we need to identify and acknowledge your remittance of payments made. Please do take the time to identify the deposit you make.

If the Club cannot identify your deposit, we are not able to allocate it for the purpose intended.

Thank You for your cooperation!! - Treasurer

MEWS & MOTES

FUNDRAISING ENT









With the restrictions in place for the Covid pandemic being eased, the Club is once again organising the fundraising lunches and dance events for this year. As always, your safety comes first and the club will comply with the numbers permitted per venue and vaccination requirements in place.

After almost 2 years of inactivity, it was great to have our members and well-wishers enjoying in the company of friends, a traditional Sri Lankan Stringhopper Pilau Lunch catered by 'Jolly J Caterers' at the Palmyrah Hall, Dandenong.

These functions are important to raise funds for the poor and they need your help more than ever. It also gives us the chance to get together as a community, meet old friends, make new ones and share a common goal to extend our good fortune to those in need.

We appreciate your continued support over the years. Your generosity and donations have helped the Club continue with our financial commitments and provide care for the 'Less Fortunate'. - Editor











Rodney conducting the raffle with Dalanjali visiting from Sri Lanka drawing another winning ticket









IN GOD'S CARE

ALTHOUGH THE CURTAIN FALLS

THERE COMES A TIME FOR ALL OF US
WHEN WE MUST SAY GOOD-BYE
BUT MEMORIES OF THOSE WE LOVE
LIVE ON AND NEVER DIE.
ALTHOUGH THE CURTAIN FALLS AT LAST,
IS THAT A CAUSE TO GRIEVE?
THE FUTURE LIFE IS BRIGHTER STILL
IF ONLY WE BELIEVE
SO TRUST IN GOD'S ETERNAL CARE
AND WHEN THE MASTER CALLS,
WE'LL KNOW A FAIRER WORLD'S BEYOND,
ALTHOUGH THE CURTAIN FALLS.

DE ZILVA, Doris (nee VANDERWERT), wife of Edward de Zilva, mother of late Gary and Jude, mother-in-law of Sandy. Grandmother of Reece and Jarred. Daughter of late Edward & Mona Vanderwert. Sister and sister-in-law of late Huxley and late Walter (Doreen), Ronnie (Estelle), Maureen (Ronnie Steinwall), Aubrey (Brenda), Churchill (Heather), late Rosemarie (Meredith Van Ryke) and Jennifer (Ron Tusker, Canada), in Newcastle, NSW on 27 October 2021.

GAUDER, Muriel- Age 91, peacefully passed away on Friday, November 6, 2020. Loving sister to Shelton, Mervyn, Ivan, Doreen, Stanley and Trevor (All Deceased). Ninette, Noeline, Beulah and Audrey and loving sister-in-law to Elmo and Cynthia. An Aunt, Great Aunt and Great, Great Aunt with a heart of gold. In our minds and hearts you will stay forever

HICKEY, Kevin Joseph-Passed away peacefully on 7.3.2022. Loving Husband of Doreen (nee Melder). Brother to Thomas and William (both dec) and Margaret Blumanis. At rest with Jesus and forever in our hearts.

JANSZ, Trevor Eustace -26/09/1923 - 07/03/2022. Leaving us with great sadness Trevor passed away at home after a very long, successful and happy life. Husband to Inez (70 yrs). Brother to Maureen and Maurice (dec) Father to Haig & Diane. Grandfather to Bryson, Elizabeth and Paris. Great Grandfather to Theodore. Forever in our hearts and memories. Rest in peace.

LOURENSZ-Elmo (Maurice) - passed away on 14/03/2022. His funeral service was held on Tuesday, 22/03/2022 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, East Mailtand. NSW. Forever in our hearts

ONDAATJE, Aelian Jurgen - 23.07.1944 - 26.07.2021- Loving husband of Patricia, much loved father to Andrew and Sarah, adored brother to Peter, Mary, Tessa & Jay (dec.) Now Resting Peacefully Forever In Our Hearts

WELFARE BENEFICIARIES- BATTICALOA

All Welfare Beneficiaries in Batticaloa are widows with no income and struggle to make ends meet. Some of them receive a paltry sum of Rs300 (approx. A\$2) as assistance from local charities and depend on welfare payments from the Club for their living expenses. Presently the Club has only 16 of these poor widows receiving WB payments, however there are around 200 of these widows requiring assistance.

We hope to increase our commitments to many of these poor people and perhaps send the Batticaloa Union extra funds to purchase food hampers to help them out at a time of great need.

Please help us to help them

















Date	Name	Amount	Description	
08.12.21	Michael Silva	1,000.00	Has no money for food. Lives alone. ECOM WB	
			Came from Kalutara. Single parent and has no regular income. Seemed	
09.12.21	Mrs. Jones	1,000.00	desperate	
			ECOM WB. Son has met with an accident and she needs to buy	
09.12.21	Bonita Gomez	1,000.00	medicine	
14.12.21	Lucille Varney	1,000.00	Has no income and no food. Looks very poorly.	
			Has no work and no food. Is going out of Colombo to be with his	
14.12.21	Edward Rodrigo	1,000.00	daughter for Christmas. Needs money for bus fare.	
			71 years. Has no income and pays Rs.5,000 as room rent. Came to	
17.12.21	Bonny Jansz	1,000.00	check if he could get a hamper for Christmas.	
20.12.21	Louis Pereira	1,000.00	Has no income. Lives on the pavement outside a pharmacy at night	
			ECOM WB. Looks very poorly. She said she had no money even for	
20.01.2022	Flora Rooff	1,000.00	food	
			Has no income and looks very poorly. Gave him a fresh ECOM	
21.01.22	Louis Pereira	1,000.00	application	
			Has two young children. She has no income and cannot get a job as	
21.01.22	A. O. Ceaser	2,000.00	she is sick at the moment	





Mr & Mrs Millon & Sandra de Kauwe

Mr & Mrs Bob & Anne Caldwell

Mr & Mrs Jeremy & Julie Holmes

Friends!

We would like to see some new members joining the Club.

If we are to expand the welfare services we provide to the Less Fortunate members of our community in Sri Lanka, then we need to expand our membership.

If you have a friend or relative who, you would like to invite and would consider joining our prestigious Club, then please obtain an:

Application Form by ringing our Membership Secretary - Allan Pinder on 9700 6178

email: <u>membersec@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au</u>

You may also download an application from our website:

www.eightyclubmelbourne.org.au.

THE BEST WAY TO PURSUE HAPPINESS IS TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE. BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPIER. - GEROGE LUCAS -

PROJECT UPDATE

CATARACT SURGERY.

Now that the Covid situation in Sri Lanka has improved, we were able to send Mr Hamer to the Sight First Hospital in Sri Lanka, to have his cataract surgery done in January 2022.



Thank you to all those who generously contributed to this ongoing project.

USED SPECTACLES

The practice of sending used spectacles to Sri Lanka is not a viable option at present.

As approved by the Eighty Club committee the club has donated approximately 150 pairs of used spectacles, since May 2021, to the Lions Club of Dandenong, who organise for these spectacles to be graded and distributed through their network to deserving persons worldwide.

Allan Pinder

Project Coordinator -Ph: 0410 863716.

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

Donations received from 14th December 21 to 27th March 22

ASWG	1000.00
Bartholomeusz, Moira(Vic)	10.00
Bertus, Anthea	50.00
In memory of Bernard Bertus	
Bright, Terry	70.00
Brohier, Anthony Jean	5.00
Caldwell, Bob & Anne	30.00
Carron, Hazel	100.00
Caryl, Donohue	50.00
Caspersz, Annesley	40.00
Collette, Trevor Jill	50.00
Repair to N De Fry's toilets	
Da Silva, Clifford	470.00
Fernando, Audrey	200.00
In memory of loved family members	
Misso, Rozanne	15.00
In memory of Mervyn Da Silva	
De Kauwe, Faye, Heschell & Friends	325.00
In lieu Xmas Dance	
De Zilwa, Aubrey & Marlene	5.00
Steer, Annalene, David	250.00
In memory of Ron Carron,	
Laurie & Joan Steer	
Ferdinands, Edred & Denise	220.00
Gill, Sharon	400.00
Gooneratne, Gladwin Audrey	20.00
Halliwell, Sue & Stewart	30.00
Harris, Dimitri & Sarah	100.00
Heatherich, Martin Patricia	70.00

70.00				
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25.00				
ANONYMOUS DONATIONS				
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240.00				
100.00				
500.00				





POINTS TO PONDER

Note from Sri Lanka

The situation is quite heart breaking for all and these poor folk. I really don't know how they are existing. It is a very, very sad state of affairs and presently no hope at all. One never knows what is in store for us. The Ukraine war on one side which is affecting the entire world and then SL almost like a war zone at times – people fighting and dying to get gas or milk powder or something else that is in short supply. Strangely, SL is still running – opening airports, roads and what not. I think the Govt. has just closed its eyes and washed their hands off the human suffering. (Name withheld)

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." - John Bunyan

"The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer." - Gandhi

"There is not a man of us who does not at times need a helping hand to be stretched out to him, and then shame upon him who will not stretch out the helping hand to his brother." - Theodore Roosevelt

"Every sunrise is an invitation for us to arise and brighten someone's day." - Richelle E. Goodrich,



The Eighty Club Melbourne Inc.

presents

That in Sprieg Extravagança Lunch Dance

BYO

Dress Code

Smart Casual

Donation: \$45

at the Palmyrah Hall - 44 Londsale St., Dandenong 3175

Sunday - 3rd July, 2022 - 12 pm to 4 pm

Sumptuous Sri Lankan Smorgasbord Lunch
by Jolly J Caterers

Trip the light fantastic to the music of Elmo Wells-Jansz

PALMYRAH HALL



For further tickets and table reservations, please contact the co-ordinators

Rodney & Marie de Kretser Ph: 9848 4623 Trevor & Jill Collette Ph: 9706 1084

All Committee Members

events@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au

Table bookings preferable to 10 pax.
LIMITED TICKETS

PLEASE BOOK EARLY FOR AVAILABILITY

Please note that all bookings must be confirmed and paid for in full by

18 June, 2022

BANKING DETAILS

ANZ BANK:

Mailing address:

- ----

PO Box 2645.

Eighty Club Melbourne Inc.

ROWVILLE VIC 3178

BSB: 013479 Ac.No: 300355583 Please ensure ID for BANK deposit

RIGHT OF ADMISSION RESERVED

IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO OUR MEMBERS

Please be advised that with the introduction of our new accounting software and to streamline our

Accounting procedures, the following changes have been made.

The bank account Nos: will be as follows:

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION PAYMENTS:

ANZ BANK BSB: 013479 Account No: 3003 555 83

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP AND GIFTS TO STUDENTS:

ANZ BANK BSB: 013141 A/C 852 301 233

FOR ALL EFT TRANSFERS AND BANK DEPOSITS MADE TO A BANK TELLER:

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR ID / REFERENCE:-- IS THE INVOICE NO: OR YOUR PHONE NO:

CHEQUES /MONEY ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE:

EIGHTY CLUB MELBOURNE Inc ADDRESS: PO BOX 2645, ROWVILLE, VIC 3178

PLEASE ATTACH THE TOP HALF OF YOUR INVOICE WITH YOUR POSTAL REMITTANCE



HELP INCREASE OUR FUNDING, BY REDUCING THE COST OF MAILING

To all our members, who presently are not on our electronic mailing list, please consider receiving our Newsletter and all other correspondence, by EMAIL. This will also enable you to receive the newsletter in colour. Due to the escalating costs of postage and printing, an electronic mailing list will save the club approximately \$2000 this year. These savings will help increase our funding for the less fortunate in Sri Lanka Please indicate your preference for receiving the Newsletter by contacting us on email at: editor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au. and submitting your Name and Email address



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