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**Assistant Treasurer**

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Harmon, Ingrid 0419381566

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Harmon, Eric 0419381566

**Student Sponsorship Coordinator**

Collette, Trevor 9706 1084

**Asst. Student Sponsorship Coordinator**

Drieberg, Dal 0411249340

**Welfare Beneficiary Coordinator**

Ferdinand, Shireen 9512 7265

**Asst. Welfare Beneficiary Coordinator**

De Vos, Yvonne 9795 0009

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De Vos, George 9795 0009

**Fund Raising Committee**

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Collette. Trevor 9706 1084

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De Vos George /Yvonne 9795 0009

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Ferdinand. Earle/Shireen 9512 7265

Hatch. Rita 9725 5553

Harmon, Ingrid & Eric 0419381566

Herft, Angelo & Melinda

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Muller. Laraine 8759 4324

Pinder, Allan & Marie 9700 6178

Scarnivel. Tony & Arlene 9763 0085

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ROWVILLE, VIC 3178

*The Dawn of Easter brings  
Hope to All of us.  
Please join us in bringing  
Joy and Hope by  
Supporting the  
'Less Fortunate' in  
Sri Lanka*

*The President  
together with  
The Committee,  
Welfare Beneficiaries  
And  
Sponsored Students  
Wish You All  
A Peaceful & Blessed  
EASTER in 2025*



**BANK DETAILS ON LAST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER**

Ensure Ref: ID with either Name/Invoice No./Membership No.

## **PRESIDENT's MESSAGE**

*Dear Members, Student Sponsors & Well-wishers,*

*I trust that those of you in Melbourne enjoyed the lovely warm summer weather. A bit of rain would have been great, maybe it all went to Queensland!!*

*The Club has had a good start to the year. Our first luncheon was quite a success. It was the perfect day for a good Sri Lankan 'tuck in' and the turnout was great. The venue as usual was outstanding, the food delicious and the music superb. Many thanks to our hardworking Co-ordinators and Committee and to all our guests, without whom it would not have been the same.*



*As we approach the Easter holidays, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and blessed Easter, and may we also reflect on the true meaning of Easter, besides the Easter Eggs & Hot Cross Buns – the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*Have a very happy & blessed Easter and a safe one.*

*With very best wishes to all of you from my husband Melville and myself.*

*Esther Knowler*

**PRESIDENT**



## **Sincere Thanks**

*Our Sincere thanks to Ms. Kim Senior, who is the grand-daughter of the late Aileen Bartels. Aileen was a strong supporter of the Club and was also fortunate to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, which was recognized in a past Newsletter.*

*Going through the personal effects of the late Aileen, Kim came across a veritable treasure trove of old hard copies of Eighty Club newsletters. Kim was gracious in contacting me and handing over these newsletters. Reading through them, it was interesting to note the many changes over the years. Undoubtedly, from small beginnings and the vision of a few generous Sri Lankan's, the Club has evolved and extended its core and fundamental vision to 'Care for the Less Fortunate' in Sri Lanka.*

*I hope in the near future to scan, many pages of these Newsletters and upload them to the Club website. I am sure many of you would be interested to look back to the past, be proud of our present commitments in increasing the number of WB's, help the educational needs of poor students through sponsorship, increasing funding for the poor, providing benefits like cataract operations and helping with medical aid.*

*Your generosity will help us continue into the future.*

*Thank you Kim, we are indebted to you.*

*Earle*

*Editor*

**"You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late." Ralph Waldo Emerson**



*Once again we are into a New Year and already It is time to celebrate Easter. The months seem to fly away so fast or as someone once told me, 'you are undoubtedly getting slower'.*

*I guess that as time goes by, age may slow you down and the days go by faster. You simply cannot fit in a day, all the things we did in a bygone era, when we were much younger.*

*There have been many changes in Sri Lanka. A nation hoping that change will bring economic relief. This is the common cry of so many people all over the world, lower prices and food on the table. The luxuries in life, taken for granted by the rich are not missed by the poor. They do not know what luxury and their day to day thoughts revolve around survival. To them, the staple meal of rice, perhaps with a chicken or beef curry is all they want. Dessert is a luxury. Far more important is saving money for medical fees and the ability to buy medication, to ease their aches and pain*



*As we celebrate Easter, let us reflect on those 'Less Fortunate' in Sri Lanka. Even though the single quarterly payments have been increased to Rs 15,000 and family payments to Rs18,000, our Welfare Beneficiaries are living through tough times. This year, thanks to a generous bequest from the late Heather Holsinger a sum of A\$5000 was allocated as a bonus, to be divided amongst all WB's.*

*Thankfully, generous donations have enabled the Club to continue helping them.*

*As WB coordinator, once again this Easter, I am reaching out to each and everyone of you, appealing for support. We are currently facing an unprecedented increase in applications seeking help and I hope we are able to increase funds to extend our aid. Many individuals and families in our community are struggling to make ends meet and they are relying on us for essential support. In truth, our allowances to the WB's funds basic and essential support.*

*This is why, I have to turn to you, our valued members and donors, to ask for your help. Your contributions can make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. Every donation, no matter how big or small, brings us closer to our goal of providing vital assistance to those who need it most.*

*Your support will provide :*

- 1. Food and groceries for families struggling to make ends meet.*
- 2. Pay for shelter and accommodation for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.*
- 3. Pay for essential medical care and medication for those who cannot afford it.*

*By making a donation this Easter, your generosity will be a lifeline to those who are struggling and most importantly bring Hope and dignity to those who need it most.*

*Thank You for your Kindness and Generosity over the years and my wish for you is:*

*Every Blessing that Easter brings, be yours.*

*Thank You*



*"Help others without any reason and give without the expectation of receiving anything in return. Roy T. Bennett*

*"If you're in the luckiest one percent of humanity, you owe it to the rest of humanity to think about the other 99 percent. Warren Buffett*

**"THOSE WHO  
ARE  
HAPPIEST  
ARE THOSE  
WHO DO THE  
MOST FOR  
OTHERS."**  
-Booker T. Washington

*"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something".*

*Mother Teresa*



## STUDENT SPONSORSHIP NEWS - Trevor Collette

120 students in Colombo currently receive assistance. 11 are studying at "A" level.

39 students in Batticaloa receive sponsorship. 6 students are at "A" level and 6 are in University.

Each "A" level student receives Rs. 15,000 a quarter and the other students receive Rs. 12,000 a quarter. These allowances are paid by individual sponsors.

10 students are in the PSET Scheme. They are all studying in tertiary institutes and provide quarterly reports on their progress. The PSET payments are made from ECM funds in the scheme established by the late Mr. Ivor de Kretser. The PSET allowance is Rs. 20,000 per student.

The student numbers have decreased from 189 at the end of 2022 to 159 at present.

Though we are able to get more deserving applicants from both Colombo and Batticaloa we need to increase the number of sponsors to take on the new students. Most of the "older" sponsors are not willing to take on a new sponsorship as they are now in different circumstances (physically and /or financially).

**I appeal to our members to take on a sponsorship if you currently do not have one. Do encourage friends and relatives to support the educational needs of a poor student, by contributing as a student sponsor.**

**Contact: Trevor Collette.PH: 03 9706 1084 or email:**[sponsor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au](mailto:sponsor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au) – [trevorcollette43@bigpond.com](mailto:trevorcollette43@bigpond.com)



### Letters from our students

One of the students in Batticaloa, **Francis Terrell Jonathan** reports on his academic success.

*"I am writing to provide an update on my current academic progress and professional status. I have successfully completed my BSc Honours degree in Botany and have been working as a Temporary Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, at Eastern University, Sri Lanka, for the past five months. This position is expected to last for 1-2 years. Looking ahead, I plan to pursue an MPhil in Mycology/Plant Pathology to further advance my academic career and contribute to research in the field. I am committed to continuing my studies and developing my expertise to make a meaningful impact on both the academic community and the field of botany."*

Francis was sponsored by Mr. Larry Melder.

Dear Sir Trevor Collette,

I hope you are doing well. My name is Melissa Ann Passe, and I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for selecting me as a recipient of your sponsorship. Mrs. Jayathunge from DBU kindly provided me with your email, and I wanted to personally thank you for your generosity and kindness.

I am currently in my third year at the University of Kelaniya, studying Sports Science. Your support is a true blessing in my life, and I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity. It will greatly help me in my academic journey, and I promise to make the best use of it.

May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and for the wonderful work you do in helping students like me. I truly appreciate this gift, and I pray that you continue to be blessed with good health, happiness, and success in all that you do. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Warm regards,

Melissa Ann Passe

### Travelling to Sri Lanka

*Over the years the Club has been helping deserving students, (especially those continuing higher studies), by sending refurbished laptops donated by our well-wishers. Unfortunately, high customs duties on all electrical items has been a major hurdle in sending over these laptops/notebooks.*

*If you are travelling to Sri Lanka and can help us with carrying a laptop to the DBU in Colombo, you will be helping a poor student with their studies, who cannot afford the luxury of purchasing one.*

*Please contact Earle: [editor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au](mailto:editor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au)  
MOB: 0402458992*



A laptop sent by the Club being presented to Nichola Hamer- a Uni student in Batticaloa



## Lives Shattered – A True Life Story of a Family's Struggle with Tragedy and Loss

Etienne Jayatunga DBU Colombo



The family of five were happy and content. The father was doing a business of buying and selling clothes and the mother helped him while taking care of the 3 young school going children. They didn't live a luxurious life but were happy always hoping for a better tomorrow.

Then tragedy struck. The young father was run over by a lorry while returning home and died on the spot! The young mother was devastated not knowing how to cope with the situation and how to find the money for their day to day expenses. All three children were attending international schools where the school fees were high but the parents wanted the best for their children and an education in the English language. Even the house they occupied was on rent.

She was desperate. Then someone told her about the DBU and she visited us. She was given the Child Sponsorship applications as well as a WB application for herself. These applications were sent to the **Eighty Club Melbourne** and all three children were sponsored. Their sponsor, obviously a very caring person, would send them gifts on a regular basis and this helped the family to get through the difficult times. The Mother was also sponsored by the ECM as a WB. She also opened a small shop outside her house and with the little money she earned and with the help she received from the Club and her husband's family, she brought up these three children. The Landlord was a kind person and permitted them to continue to stay in the same house.



The mother, Champika, and her eldest daughter, Aimy followed a Professional course in Health-care (clinical caregiver), CPR & AED training at the Red Cross Society, Rehabilitation in Elderly care, first Aid and on the job training at the King's Hospital with the hope of obtaining a job in Australia. Unfortunately the relative who had promised to help them passed away suddenly and all their hopes were dashed. Today the eldest daughter is working at the DBU,Colombo, the second boy is following a Hotel Course and the youngest is still going to school. Sadly, Champika the mother has been diagnosed with cancer and will be going for chemotherapy shortly. She is worried and sad and praying that things will go well and she will be blessed with a new lease of life and we share that same hope. Only time will tell.

*"The friend in my adversity I shall always cherish most. I can better trust those who helped to relieve the gloom of my dark hours than those who are so ready to enjoy with me the sunshine of my prosperity"* . Ulysses S. Grant

## IN GOD'S CARE



**de VOS – Carmen**, Loving wife of Hugh de Vos (Dec'd), Daughter of Fredrick & Irene Ambrose (Dec'd), Loving Mother of Ralph, George, Faye & Anne, Mother-in-law of Romaine (Dec'd), Yvonne, Cedric & Trevine. Adored grandmother of Shane, Jason, Karen, Andrew, Sharon, Darren & Janine. Loved Great Grandmother of Triy, Ava, Tyler, Blake, Dylan, Zac, Chelsea, Isabella, Devon, Chloe, Austin & Jacob. Sister of Daphne (dec'd), Mel (dec'd), Doreen (dec'd), Lydia (dec'd), Wilton (dec'd), Sheila, & Gwen.

Forever treasured in our hearts and memories.

**FERDINANDS - Rupert William**, 23rd April 1936 - 30th January 2025

With heavy hearts we share the passing of Rupert William Ferdinands, an absolute gem of a human. A cherished husband to Tammy. Loving father to Tracy, Natasha and Andre. Adored grandfather of Jessica, Andrew, Angela and Jack. Great grandfather to be of Petrov. Treasured brother of Rosemary and Adrian. Our heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional care provided to Rupert by ISOMER Nursing home, Haematology Department, Hospital in the Home and the Day Infusion Centre, Monash.

**KELLY – Marie**, The funeral service for Marie Kelly was held at Le Pine Funerals Burwood on Friday 3rd January at 10.00am. (Publication: Herald Sun :Date Listed: 29/12/2024)

**WRIGHT - Irma Maude Treherne**, Passed away peacefully on December 1st at Mercy Care, Montrose, aged 96. She was surrounded with the love and warmth of her family. Beloved widow to the late Oswin Raine Wright. Much loved and treasured mother and mother-in-law to Peter, Karen, David, Sally and Sean. Gran and Great Granny to Andre, Renee, Beth, Jason, Mabel, Eli, Gretel, Araylia and Asher. A loving, gentle mum and "big granny" to us all. Mum, you will always be in our hearts and memories. We will always remember our gentle, gracious mum with deep love and warmth. Her impish humour and firm, loving support gave us great joy and comfort all these years. Mum always saw the best of everyone and steadfastly set a positive example for us. Her dignity and courage over the course of a long life is our inspiration.

*The Eighty Club Melbourne sincerely thank family, relatives and friends for their generous contributions/bequests made to the Club, in memory of loved ones. Your contributions make a world of difference, and having your support helps us in our mission to 'Care for the Less Fortunate'.*



### Welcome to our new members

Sharon Baines  
Tania Schokman  
David & Angeline Deva

Melinda Buttery  
Deanna Boucher  
Rosanne Jansz

Bernard & Angela Pristel  
Ronald & Antoinette Thomasz.  
Roger & Jan Van Langenberg

## **YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

A big thank you to everyone who supported our membership drive. We need your help to recruit more members which will help the club to maintain welfare services to the less fortunate of our community in Sri Lanka.

If you need an application form to invite a friend or relative to join our Club, please contact our:  
Membership Secretary: Allan Pinder on 9700 6178/0410 863716. email: [apinder8@hotmail.com](mailto:apinder8@hotmail.com)  
You may also download an application from our website at: [www.eightyclubmelbourne.org.au](http://www.eightyclubmelbourne.org.au).

### Project report as at 1st April 2025

As previously mentioned, despite the Sightfirst hospital in Sri Lanka being operational, we have not had any new requests for cataract surgeries for almost two years. This is possibly due to the fact that most WB's prefer to attend the annual eye camp organised by the DBU where they are able to get their eyes checked for free and if necessary have any follow up cataract surgery, which is done free by Helpage at their eye hospital in Wellawatte. Hopefully, we will be able to use this facility to help WB's in need of cataract surgery in the future. The next eye camp at the DBU is to be held in October 2025.

Allan Pinder  
Project Coordinator  
Project Coordinator





## OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS DONORS

Donations received from 30th October 2024 to 30th March 2025



Agius Albert & Lynette	\$300	Mack Bernice	\$100
Anonymous Donations	\$2,300	Maloney Bryan	\$15
Dabrera, Cheryl	\$100	Martinus Maeve	\$100
De Kauwe, Millon & Sandra	\$200	Misso Mario - For R Violet (burns victim)	\$62
De La Harpe David & Jenny - In memory of Godfrey & Loretta De La Harpe	\$1,000	Moldrich Elmo & Dianne	\$100
Devendran Joe & Sandra	\$30	Moldrich Elmo & Dianne	\$100
Dixon Gerry & Cheryl	\$50	Noller Trevor & Aloma	\$25
Fernand Esmond	\$150	Oorloff Errol & Elaine	\$100
Fernando Audrey	\$100	Oorloff Howard & Trish	\$50
Forster, Doreen	\$25	Pears Adrian Dawn	\$100
Gill Sharon	\$100	Prentice Pierre & Kym	\$300
Gill Sharon	\$100	Riley Heather & John	\$80
Gill Sharon	\$100	Robertson Jack & Emily	\$50
Gill Sharon	\$100	Robertson Jack & Emily	\$50
Gill Sharon	\$100	Robertson Jack & Emily	\$50
Harris Dimitri & Sarah	\$100	Robertson Jack & Emily	\$50
Joseph Doreen	\$170	Smith Dallas & Yvonne	\$50
Joseph Doreen	\$200	White Jan	\$10
Lemm Kevin & Vicki	\$20	Young Rita	\$50

### Donations in Memory of Rupert Ferdinands

Anonymous	\$20	Knower Melville & Esther	\$50
Blackham Natasha	\$150	Kreltszheim Jeremy & Rosemarie	\$50
De Ley Randal & Yvonne	\$100	La Brooy Vilma	\$50
Duggan Sandlyn	\$20	Peiris Tharindranath	\$30
Durdin Eilee	\$20	Peiris Tharindranath	\$100
Emerson Greg & Amanda	\$50	Roberts Richard	\$100
Emerson Janine	\$100	Scarnivel Tony & Arlene	\$50
Ferdinands Family	\$300	Smythe Kathy & Justin	\$50
Ferdinands Rosemary & Lindsay	\$250	Tan Johnny	\$20
Kelly Derrick & Rosemarie	\$100	Williamsz Denis	\$100
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,710</b>



Date	Name	Amount	Details
10/5/2024	Noel Felsianes	1,000.00	Came from Kandy and has no money to go back, nor does he have a place to stay. He seems mentally disturbed.
4/6/2024	Bernadine D'Silva	2,000.00	Came looking for a job. She has no income and no money to pay the house rent. Her children help when they can. 64 yrs.
6/6/2024	Milicent Perera	1,000.00	Came from Kelaniya. She met with an accident 4 years ago and has still not recovered completely. Lives with her mother who is an ECM WB.
6/6/2024	Leonie Vanderwall	1,000.00	Came from Makawita to see about her application. 71 yrs.
18/09/2024	Ruth Ramchan	1,000.00	Has no income. Needs money for medicine.
5/11/2024	R A Violet	1,000.00	ECOM-WB. Came from hospital after plastic surgery.
18/11/2024	Adrian Pereira	1,000.00	Has no money for his medicines.
19/11/2024	Audrey Craggs	1,000.00	She has no money for her food.
		9,000.00	



Thank you for donating.



EIGHTY CLUB OF MELBOURNE  
PRESENTS

# Country & Western NIGHT



**Col  
Perkins**

with  
Australia's Country Stars

**Sandra  
Dodd**

**A NIGHT OF  
COUNTRY and ROCK & ROLL MUSIC**

**Saturday 3rd May 2025 - 7pm to 12 midnight**

Dinner:

Smorgasbord

Dessert

Tea / Coffee

Drinks: - BYO

Donation: \$55 per head

**Grand on Princes**

**2251 Princes Highway  
Mulgrave 3170**

**TICKET PAYMENTS IN FULL BY**

**FRIDAY -25 APRIL 2025**

**TICKETS &  
RESERVATIONS:**

Earle & Shireen

9512 7265

George & Yvonne

9795 0009

All Committee

Members





# The Eighty Club Melbourne

presents

## *Hot n' Spicy Extravaganza* Lunch Dance

at the *Grand on Princes*

2251 Princes Hwy Service Rd, Mulgrave VIC 3170

**Sunday - 6th July, 2025 - 12 pm to 4 pm**

Trip the light fantastic  
to the music of

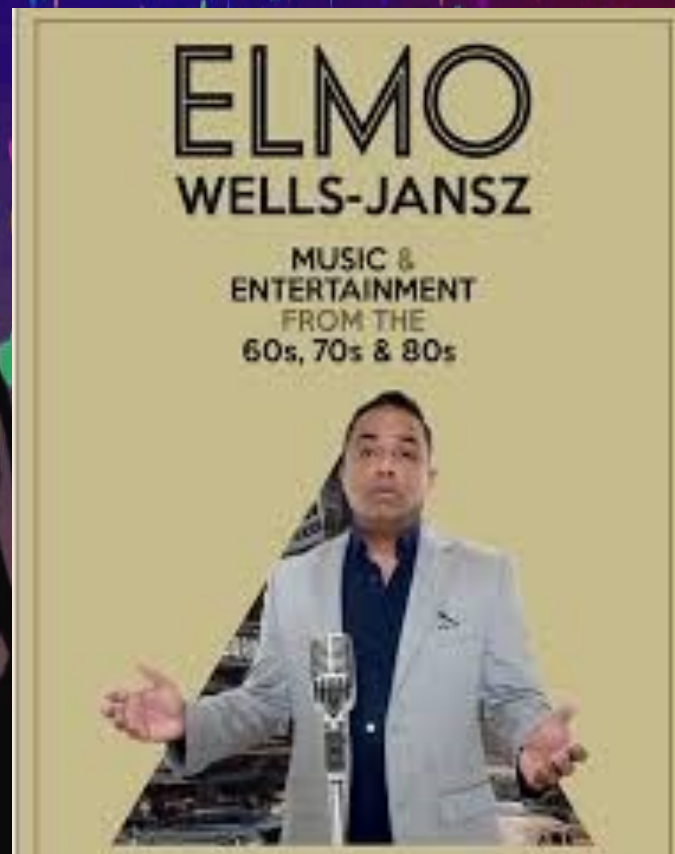
*Sumptuous Sri Lankan Smorgasbord*

**Donation: \$45**

**BYO**

Dress Code

Smart Casual



**For table reservations, please contact the co-ordinators**

**Marie de Kretser - Ph: 9848 4623 MOB: 0474 497 353 Trevor & Jill Collette - Ph: 9706 1084**

**All Committee Members or Table hosts**

**events@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au**

**Table preferences are for 10-12 pax.**

**PLEASE BOOK EARLY FOR AVAILABILITY**

**BANKING DETAILS**

**ANZ BANK:**

**Eighty Club Melbourne Inc.**

**BSB: 013479 Ac.No: 300355583**

**Please ensure ID for BANK deposit /EFT**

**your name or phone no:**

**Mailing address :**

**P O Box 2645, ROWVILLE VIC 3178.**

**Please note that all bookings must be confirmed  
and paid for in full by Wednesday, 25 June 2025**

## **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](mailto:editor@eightyclubmelbourne.org.au). and submitting your Name and Email address



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