

EIGHTY CLUB

The newsletter of the Eighty Club Melbourne Inc

P.O. Box 2645 Rowville Vic 3178



March 2001 Newsletter No: 80

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(9799 4662)

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George/Yvonne De Vos

(9795 0009)

Dear Members, Friends and Well-wishers

"Every now and then throughout the human odyssey, forces seem almost accidentally to come together producing men and women of startling wisdom, talent and insight, and the results are wondrous indeed. The arts and the sciences speak for themselves, for they are all around us, embellishing our lives. But there is another area of human endeavour, and it, too, is all around - either **enriching our lives** or destroying them"

Robert Ludlum

Our President copped some flack after his exposé in the December Newsletter "Count me out". One member told me he had missed/misinterpreted the very meaning of Christmas. Another accused him of throwing out the baby with the bath water. I am, personally, glad for his article: it stirred response from a quiet membership. It also provoked thought. How often do we disparage the hypocrite? We see a character, a consummate deceiver: his life is centred around his local church; he sweeps it, dusts the pews, polishes the silver, reads the lessons, dispenses communion, leads the choir - the devout Christian. And yet he flagrantly ignores his neighbour. That commandment enunciated every Sunday morning "Love thy neighbour" is not his to practice. His ego is bigger than his waistline.

I had this unpleasant experience. We rose in Church for the Greeting of Peace and was greeted. A half hour later, after service, when having coffee this individual looked through me. I had ceased to exist. This is Christianity in action. I empathize with our President's dilemma.

I have read with disquiet the article "Leaving the Priesthood" in the 'AGE' on Friday, December 15, 2000. It refers to Michael McGirr who is leaving the priesthood after 21 years because he sees God "not as an employer and a taskmaster but more as a friend. It is not a crisis, but a rediscovery of faith". It appears he became disturbed when his mother said on seeing the gold and marble around Michelangelo's dome - "To think that Jesus had nothing". He is said to have experienced an awakening at a pauper's funeral soon after the death of Princess Diana: there were millions mourning Diana and the pauper had only him and the undertaker. No wonder there are believers who wish to opt out.

Is it any wonder that numbers in Church are on the decline?

Remember the story of the Good Samaritan and compare it with the lives we live. To see someone lying in the street is not uncommon and to pass by, on the other side, like the priest and the Levite, is again not uncommon.

An American journalist once saw Mother Teresa washing a man covered with sores and exclaimed "I wouldn't do that for a million dollars". Mother Teresa responded immediately "Neither would I".

Sincerely

Richard Young

Hony. Secretary

REFLECTIONS by the President

The other day I came across a rather unusual Church Newsletter, which set my mind working at a tangent. The Church Newsletter referred to some historical events that occurred in the years 1739/1740 in a mining town near Bristol in the U.K. Very briefly, there was rioting in the streets around Bristol, sparked by high corn prices, low wages and the oppressive working conditions and abject poverty of the coal miners. In this atmosphere, a Rev. Whitefield had a laborious and a wonderfully successful preaching campaign amongst the colliers. On one Saturday, it was reported that he had preached to approximately 5000 to 6000 persons. In that same evening he went over to the "Commons" and to his surprise a multitude, it is estimated, of 20,000 people had gathered to hear his message. These are historical facts for it was in this period and this atmosphere that Methodism was born in the U.K. but what intrigued me most was the remainder of the Newsletter. It went on to say that a few days later, the following article written by a "Gentleman" appeared in a London Newspaper, and I quote,

" The industry of INFERIOR people in a society is a great source of its Prosperity. But if one man, like Rev. Whitefield should have it in his power, by his preaching, to detain 5 or 6 thousand of the VULGAR from their daily labour, what a loss, in a little time, may this bring to the Public!-- For my part, I shall expect to hear of a prodigious rise in the Price of Coal, about the City of Bristol, if this gentleman proceeds, as he has begun, with his charitable lectures to the Colliers near Bristol."

The mind BOGGLES to think that human beings can exercise their minds along these lines, I was literally horrified to read the article but I said to myself, this was in the 18th Century we have come a long way in the evolutionary process of our thinking. This type of writing will not happen to-day. What do you think, dear reader?

A few weeks later, in the Sunday's Age Newspaper, there appeared a coloured photograph of a bright young lad - about 7/ 8 years old, an elegant looking lady obviously the child's mother, and a handsome young man - this family was from the middle-east - they were boat people. The photograph clearly indicated the family being taken off the boat, under guard, and a second photograph was of them entering a "detention center" or was it a refugee camp?

There were various articles written about this event and the verdict could be summarised thus : (1) This is our country, why should we tolerate illegal migrants? (2) They are jumping the queue and should be sent back immediately. (3) We do not want the riff- raff of other countries in Australia. On another occasion I was present at a house party, and the question of "boat people" arose, and once again the consensus of opinion, amongst our community was along the same lines enumerated above.

To my mind we have not travelled a large distance from the era when that London reporter wrote about the preaching of Rev. Whitehead and the colliers around Bristol. What do you think?

Let us examine the reasons why this family left the land of their birth, made an extremely hazardous and dangerous journey to their "promised land". It was clearly explained by the head of the family that they had been persecuted in their homeland for political reasons. They made inquiries about emigrating to Australia and were informed that the process would be lengthy, costly and tedious. Then came "Jo" the fix it man of the town, who explained to them a simpler method-- sell all your possessions, and give me the money and I will see that you get across to the "promised land". The head of the family knowing that their son and heir was at a vulnerable and impressionable age, and had NO future in their homeland, decided that it would be in their son's best interest to migrate

immediately. Trusting "Jo" they carried out his instructions-- the nett result a "prisoner" in the "promised land".

The Age Editorial was more humane, than all the remarks I had heard and read. It clearly indicated the Scandinavian countries which too have a great influx of "boat people", treat these refugees as they ought to be treated - in adequately housed facilities, and attempt to teach the migrants a different life style, and at the same time a security check is made to ascertain the authenticity of the would be migrant. In about six months time the case is settled, genuine refugees are treated like human beings and welcomed into their new settlements, whilst the others are sent back.

As a result of these reflections, I ask my fellow humans (especially of our community) where is the "Milk of Human Kindness" what is the meaning of the words "Tolerance", "Compassion" with respect to our fellow Human Beings.

Now that I have relieved myself of these reflections may I request you to show some compassion to the members of our community, "less fortunate than ourselves" by continuing to support the Eighty Club by your Subscriptions, Donations and your Attendance at our Club's Fund Raising Functions.

Edgar Jansz

Report on CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM by Maurice Forster

More than 359,529 children between the ages of 15 – 17 years do not attend school mainly due to financial difficulties - Sunday Observer of S.L. 24.12.00.

When we commenced assisting in the cost of educating children in Sri Lanka, with the benefit of enquiries made there; it was considered, that Rs 400 per month; rising with age of child to Rs 800 per month; was adequate to buy some private tuition. On this basis the base contribution per sponsor was set at \$30 per quarter. The declining



value of the Australian \$ and the need to defray travel and postage costs incurred by our agents in Colombo resulted in the base contribution rate being raised to \$ 35 per quarter. Unfortunately to meet sharply rising costs in S.L. and, to cover the continuing fall in the exchange rate of our dollar I need once again; to make a call on your generosity. What I am hoping for is \$ 45 per quarter. Certainly that is the rate any new sponsors coming onto the scheme will be asked to contribute.

Gosh I feel bad about this, because I know that many of our sponsors are making a substantial sacrifice in meeting their present rates of contribution. If you feel unable to lift your rate please continue with what you currently pay, but please let me know; what rate you will pay so that I will not embarrass myself by asking you for more. A few of you may feel inclined, to raise your contribution from \$45 to \$60. If so, please do so.

The rates of benefits to sponsored children and youth in higher education will from the 2nd quarter of 2001 be:

- Up to the 15th year: Rs 500 per month up from Rs 400
- From the 15th year to GCE 'O' level: Rs 650 per month up from Rs 600
- GCE 'A' or Trade School Rs 850 per month up from Rs 800
- University or Tertiary College Rs 1,200 per month up from Rs 800

The rates of payment asked of sponsors are:

\$45 per quarter for children receiving up to Rs 700 per month

\$ 60 per quarter for children receiving Rs 800 per month and more
Present sponsors unable to pay the new rates are requested to please continue with their present rates.

The rate increases are requested with great diffidence. Fortunately I will not be asking you for

your vote like some characters who feature so prominently on our TV screens will do later this year!

Had a lovely letter sent to me by a girl who was helped by a couple - anonymous even to their beneficiary. This couple had sent Rs 2000 to the girl, by a friend in Sri Lanka. The money was given to the girl's grandma as no one else was at home at time of visit. When the girl came home and was given the money she promptly wrote to me and asked that I forward her letter to her anonymous sponsors. In a moving letter she said:

"Uncle and Aunty I came home and was told by my Granny that a man had delivered Rs 2000 for me. We do not know who sent it but it has to be from you; for who else in the world will be so kind to me"

And here are some excerpts from another letter:

"I am writing this letter to thank you for the monies sent to educate our children. My wife, children and myself are very grateful for the monies sent to the DBU. The Eighty Club has brought hope for our children's future"

Well dear reader, if you know of anyone else who would like to join us in bringing hope to children's futures put them in touch with me. The very hard working Neville Overlunde welfare officer of the DBU informs me that he has some worthy applicants, even from isolated Trincomalee. It is a big job and takes a lot of time and I thought until Neville's letter that I must not take any more but how to stop when the need is so great. Finally patient reader - if your sponsorship fees are in arrears please pay up without a personal reminder, it does make things easier.

Maurice Forster

A Revelation from the Assistant Treasurer

"Lanka increases taxes, tells people to tighten belts". (An excerpt from the latest Sri Lankan News)

The request for people to tighten their belts is laughable. Most of them have sold their belts long ago to help make ends meet, in fact their ends have not been meeting for quite some time. They only wave to each other from across the street.

Q. How long would a family of four (parents and two children) live off Rs.750?

A. A family of four would last a week on Rs.750.

Q. What is the average rent in Colombo and country area for a one or two bedroom house A. In Colombo Rs.3000 to Rs.5000 per month, with one year's rent in advance.

Whether the advance is returned is a moot point. In country areas, Rs.2000 to

Rs.3000 per month. Some advance may be required.

Cost of Living. Presently, these are the prices of the following :

1 kilo of rice - Rs.30 to Rs.35 depending on quality

1 Coconut - Rs.12 to Rs.14 depending on size

A dozen eggs - Rs.50 to Rs.60

400 gm pack of milk -

Rs.100

1 kilo of meat - Rs.145

1 kilo of fish - Rs.200 to

Rs.300 depending on

variety

A container of Gas - Rs.550 for 13 kg. (lasts for an average of 2-3 months)

Butter - Rs.68.50 for 227 grams

Jam - Rs.66 for 485 gm bottle (Marketing Department)



Coffee - Rs.35.50 for 110 gms.

A ready made shirt (Average quality like Hently) Rs.450

A ready made pair of slacks (Average quality) Rs.525

A ready made frock for daily wear - Rs.525. The bus fare

from Moratuwa to Fort

is Rs.12 one way, and

the train fare is Rs.5.50. The

War Tax is known as a

DEFENCE LEVY and consists of a 1% to 6%

charge on various goods and services. Telephone

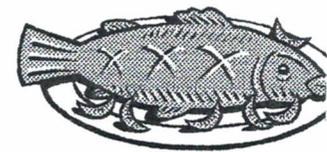
bills are charged at the rate of 6%. In theory

everyone pays as businesses pass this charge on to

the customer. The GST levy is 12.5% and is

charged on everything - even by pavement hawkers who do not issue receipts.

Darryl Isaacs



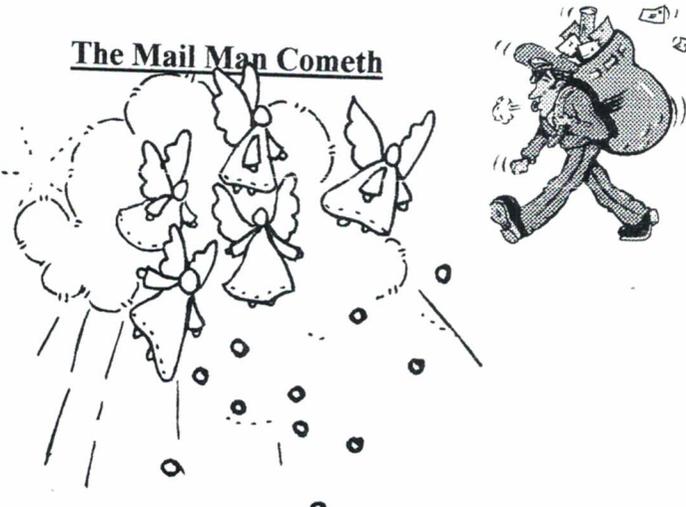
Subscription Status as at 15 March 2001

Your subscription status is shown on your address label. Please check it now. Your \$2.50 a month feeds a hungry family. Don't fail them. Renewal for a full year is \$30, half a year \$15, quarterly \$7.50. Please address all correspondence and **cheques made payable to "80 Club Melb.Inc"** to

The Secretary
P.O. Box 2645
Rowville Vic 3178

Please do not draw cheques in names of individuals.

The Mail Man Cometh



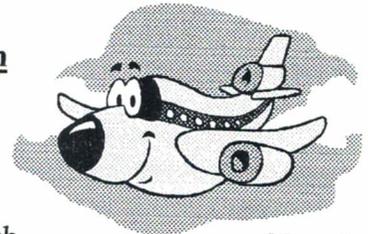
Blessings from Sri Lanka (like Manna from Heaven)

- 1 "To the People who give me a donation. I am a disabled person -Both my hands and toes are all bent. Unable to move. I am disabled for many years. Miss D.M.J. Negombo
2. "Dear kind Friends in the Lord
Yes, how do we say thank you for all the loving thoughts of you, dear friends, even not seen, but yet feel for us. Just can't express how much your help means to myself and my son. Not in very good health with a heart problem and hernia which puts me off - but life goes on as it has to. When I get my post card, oh how I thank my good Lord for these are his mercies towards us from you lovely folk so far out. Thank you and may the Lord bless you all and grant you peace, love and happiness."
Mrs L.J. Dehiwela.
3. "May God Bless you all who are helping me to exist with my children as I am a cancer patient, heart and pressure case too. My husband is

also a diabetic and heart patient. May God Bless all the members of the 80 Club. Mrs D.G. Dehiwela

4. "It gives me humble pleasure to know that people like us are being remembered by the 80 Club of Melbourne and appreciate it very much for all the assistance that we receive. May God Bless you all". Mrs P.M.A. Raddolegama.
5. "I am a very poor lady with 5 children. I thank God always when I get payment. I feed my children with your money". Mrs K.H. Kaduwela.
6. "May Almighty God shower His blessings on all of you for the help you are giving me and my aged mother who is unable to walk or talk. I cannot find words to express my thanks."
Mrs R.H.F. Nedimala
7. "I am a mother with two retarded children. My husband died two years ago and I find it difficult to exist. I thank you for your goodness and ask God to shower on your families all his blessings". Mrs M.V.D. Nugegoda.

An appreciation from Canada



"We appreciate receiving the Club Newsletter and find it most interesting in conveying to us all your news and activities. Perhaps sometime we will have the opportunity to join you in your get-togethers. We will have to take another holiday in Australia in the future. We must send congratulations for all the successful work the Committee continues to do. No doubt there will be many blessings for you all.

Jeanne and Ralph Wijesinghe, Canada.

and from Melbourne

".....I have enclosed a cheque for \$100 which is a donation to the Club from a friend of ours



who wishes to remain anonymous, but is very impressed with the wonderful work done for the elderly Burghers in Sri Lanka"

I & C. K.

From our Members

Definition of a Burgher

"In my humble opinion any member of the Burgher community residing in Sri Lanka who marries into any other community still retains his or her heritage as a Burgher, but the children born thereafter rescinds their nationality and is thereby considered a Ceylonese. As the Management Committee of the 80 Club consists of members of the Burgher Community, I leave it to the good graces of the Committee to decide who is eligible to receive funds."

Douglas Stork. Box Hill.

"Heard in the 1930's. No Regrets. No discrimination or even insinuations. It is better to give one's daughter in marriage to a poor Burgher Boy rather The case of the Burgher lady in distress where she married a Muslim and had 3 children by him deserves sympathy. By virtue of the fact that she was a Burgher, she does qualify subject to Rules and Regulations set out by the Management Committee. Each case to be decided on its merits. "

Nowell Hanibalsz. Dromana

"I wish to support wholeheartedly the amended statement. I was very disturbed to learn that until now there has been deliberate discrimination against the children of female Burghers as only the father's racial classification was considered. Does the mother have no genetic involvement in the child's racial make up? I would have expected that the archaic cultural custom which deemed that males were considered superior and entitled to privileges not extended to their female counterparts, had long been discarded by our Club. The members listed below have discussed this matter with me and have given their consent to their names being added in support of the amendment."



Ione Aldons. Moorabbin.

Malcolm & Jeanette Willenberg

Yvonne Chamings

Eustace Willenberg

Denis & Myrna Williams

Althea Ondarchie

Peter & Rochelle Ondaatje

Arlene Nicholas

....."I fully support the amendment to the Constitution. In fact when the opportunity arises I would like the amendment extended to include anyone, irrespective of race or culture, that the committee considers is deserving of help. I never knew the constitution was that rigid to disallow the case mentioned of the Burgher mother who had married a Muslim. I would be very uncomfortable being a member of the 80 Club if I had known.

I have no objection to the publication of this letter and I will be interested to know the opinions of others".

Cedric Auwardt, Hawthorn

Editors note:-

Thank you Cedric for a well thought out letter and expressing your views in response to our Club's Policy of distributing our limited funds to our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Sri Lanka. The President has informed me that he has responded to your letter at a personal level.
Richard

COMING EVENTS

On the 2nd February 2001 the Eighty Club Fund Raising Committee met and for many reasons decided to revise the 2001 Calendar of events.

Please disregard the schedule published in our December Newsletter under the heading "Coming Events for your Diary" and insert/correct your diaries in accordance with the revised schedule shown below. Please remember we need your support for ALL our fund raising functions to enable us to help our "less fortunate" folk in Sri Lanka.

Subsequent to our Committee Meeting and our successful trip to the Casino on 17 February, 2001, by popular request, it has been suggested we should increase the number of trips to the Casino. This has been done, but it is subject to our Committee's final approval. Please check with a Committee Member, after 8 April 2001, as to the Committee's final decision on the Casino trip dates.

*Mark your
Calendar*



YEAR 2001 - Eighty Club Calendar

- Sunday, 29th April** ✓ - Buriyani Luncheon, Good Shepherd Hall
- Saturday, 19 May** ✓ - Trip to the Casino
- Sunday, 03 June** ✓ - Hopper Luncheon, Good Shepherd Hall. (To be limited to 200 guests). Please book early.
- Saturday, 7 July** - Trip to the Casino
- Saturday, 21st July** - Dinner dance (50's 60's Style, Good Shepherd Hall. To be confirmed at a later date.
- Saturday, 1 September** - Trip to the Casino
- Sunday, 23rd September** - Stringhopper Luncheon and AGM, Good Shepherd Hall
- Sunday, 4th November** - Suzie/Jaan Harris Lunch Good Sheperd Hall
- Saturday, 24 November** - Trip to the Casino
- Saturday, 1st December** - Annual Christmas Party. (Members night), Good Shepherd Hall

A Tribute to Victor and Lorraine de Silva

Recently, there was a healthy discussion as to the meaning of the words "Subscription" and "Donation". On the surface a subscription is defined as a fixed sum of money being contributed for a fund or object, whilst a donation is a voluntary gift given to a person or organisation. However where a Club is concerned the definition of a subscription takes on a slightly different meaning wherein a fixed sum of money is paid to the club by its members, for the mutual benefit of the Club and its members, but if the Clubs primary purpose is to donate gifts to alleviate poverty (and its members are aware of this primary purpose)

then the question of mutual benefit ceases to operate. The question then arises is a subscription in this case a donation where the amount being donated is fixed?

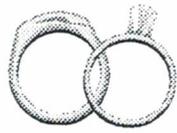
We need some 'legal eagles' to sort out this dilemma.

But where our friends Victor and Lorraine de Silva are concerned, the donation they give to our Club is transparent. It is a voluntary gift to the Eighty Club. For the past two years they have given an extremely generous donation in the form of a specially prepared meal to suit the occasion of our Country and Western Dinner/ Dance. In fact Victor and Lorraine de Silva's donation to our Club is blessed twice over. Firstly, we enjoy a sumptuous meal given to us at no cost. Secondly, the Club receives your donation of \$20.00 and uses this money to alleviate poverty amongst our brothers and sisters less fortunate than us in Sri Lanka.



Thank you Victor and Lorraine, for your generous donation to all our members attending the Country and Western dinner/dance and thanks for enabling the Club to live up to its motto of "Caring for the less fortunate"

Members' News by Ivor de Kretser



Engagement. We report with pleasure the news that wedding bells will be ringing in the Martenstyn household. **Leonie and Elmar** proudly announce the engagement of their daughter Sharon Lenore to Russell Collins on 31 December, 2000.
Wedding. Leanne, daughter of **Tony and Arlene Scarnivel** married Andrew Green at St. Francis Xavier Church, Box Hill on 18 March 2001. They

take with them our very best wishes for a happy future.

Anniversaries. Christopher and Lorraine de Kretser were married on 27 March 1976 at the Church of Holy Navity, Hughesdale, Melbourne. Silver anniversary celebrations are on hold for later in the year.



Errol and Elaine Orchard will be recalling that special day on 1 May 1961 at St Mary's Church, Bambalapitiya, forty years ago. Our congratulations

and best wishes to each of you as these happy days unfold, surrounded by families and friends, old and new.

Birthdays. Celebrating their 'Coming of Age' birthdays recently were **Yvonne de Zilwa** (65) and **Ishbelle Poppenbeck** (60). Congratulations to them and any others who celebrated 'Coming of Age' birthdays recently.



Not so well are members **Eric Pratt, Len Senaris, Oswin Van Buren, Lorenz Bartholomeusz,, Carl Van Middell Koope, Bob Bartels, Terrence Baptist, Maurice Forster** and **Ronald Mortimer**. Our wishes are that you will be better soon.



Bereavements. Since are last Newsletter, we have said farewell to loved ones of members, and to them we send our condolences - to

Roy de Niese on the death in Sydney of his brother, Dr. Carl de Niese, to **Barney (Ester) Vanderwert** on the death of her husband **Douglas** on 20 February 2001 after a long illness. To **Ann Vanderwert** on the death of her father, to Mignonne following the peaceful passing of her mother **Mavis de Witt** and to **Henry Brohier** on the death of his wife **Pam**.

Members on the Move. We welcome back home members who spent their time during the Christmas season in Sri Lanka - there were **Adrian, Ainsley and Therese Metzeling, Mrs**

Iris Kellar who travelled with a group of friends, **Primrose and Mervyn Werkmeister, Maureen Young and Johaan & Arlene Woutersz** who recently returned from the lovely isle of Bali. Footloose and devoted to further travels are **Jean and Clair de la Zilwa** who commence a two week holiday to both islands of New Zealand, accompanied by **Ryan and Evadne Roberts**. Also leaving shortly for Kiwi land are **Maryse and Lorenz Pereara**. **Anita Young** jets away for a week's holiday in Sri Lanka. **Cecil de Kretser** who is visiting Sri Lanka and we hope will have a loving time. **Derrick and Arlene Juriansz** from the UK broke journey in Melbourne to see the New Year in at a Sri Lankan Dance and catching up with cousins and friends. The grapevine tells me they plan to be in Colombo in March.



Obituaries

JOHN - Sylvia Louise passed away on February 12 2001 in Burnaby, B.C. Canada. She was predeceased by her first husband, Dunbar Forster and second husband Rex John. She is survived by her loving family, Joan and Neville Gomes, Jeanne and Ralph Wijesinghe and Michael, four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

BROHIER - Pamela Joan Ruth - Passed away peacefully after a short illness on March 13th 2001 at Warringal Private Hospital. Aged 70 years. Beloved wife of **Henry** (Chuta) and devoted mother of Karen and Darren (UK), Kevin and Lisa and Mark and Trista. Grandmother of Stuart, Jordan and Monique. Safe in the Arms of Jesus.



Pamela Brohier

November 2nd 1930 to March 13th 2001

A tribute to my Mum by her son Mark



Although this occasion mourns the passing of Pamela, there is joy for those left behind in having been part of her life and enriched by her spirit.

Mum was a dignified woman whose qualities defined her more than any single achievement. To all those that knew her, she radiated warmth and kindness. She was a genuine and unpretentious person and in her own consistently gentle manner, she went about her business without fuss or complaint.

Mum made her home on three continents at different stages of her life. Her childhood in Ceylon was most definitely a happy one, surrounded by a loving family of three sisters and two brothers who are to this day as close and supportive of each other no matter what distance keeps them apart.

Whilst in Ceylon, she sang in nightclubs and on radio with her sister Elise, and it was a touching and memorable moment recently to hear all the sisters including Mum, sing together once again when they were reunited for an all too brief time in Melbourne during the Christmas just passed.

Mum and Dad knew each other when they were teenagers – there is no doubt that she found and married the truest love of her life and they remained devoted to each other for almost 45 years.

Mum followed Dad to England in 1957 to establish a home and a family, the unity, comfort and caring for which became her enduring passion for the rest of her life.

Until she retired some five years ago, I can never remember Mum not working full time, and with Dad doing two and even three jobs at times in the UK, we can only imagine the sacrifices they made for my sister, Karen, brother Kevin, and myself. I say imagine because we were never aware of it at the time. Mum and Dad provided everything that was needed, and those material things that couldn't be afforded were more than made up for by an unselfish and unconditional love.

Having emigrated to Australia in 1982, Mum found herself surrounded by friends and relatives that she had known from her schooldays and close to her beloved sister June. Despite leaving Karen in England, Mum finally enjoyed some of the comforts that she and Dad had worked so hard for and so richly deserved. Once they had both retired, their social calendar would put many people one third their age to shame, and Mum's love of dancing and singing was once more given air – including being part of the choir at this very church.

I want to make particular mention of one companion that Mum had a special affinity with during the last few years. Bosley was a 70 kg Alaskan Malamute dog which would intimidate even the burliest labourer or most experienced animal handler. But Mum's gentleness seemed to be reflected back to her by Bosley and they were to become the best of friends. Mum wouldn't even go on holiday because she couldn't bear the thought of putting Bosley into a kennel. Recently, when asked by one of the doctors in hospital how she managed to overcome some of the trauma she was going through she replied that when she felt sad, she would think of Bosley and that would make her feel better.

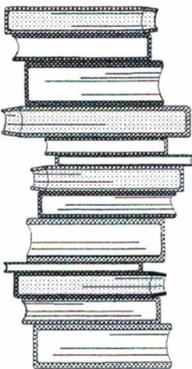
Mum's faith in God was absolute and unwavering throughout her life. It was this faith, combined with the tireless devotion of my Father that gave Mum the strength to face a cruel illness, and accept her ultimate fate with dignity, tranquillity and grace – the same way that she lived her life.

Smile and ponder awhile (taken from a Church Newsletter)

Dear God

So far today, I've done alright. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper, been greedy or grumpy, been nasty, selfish or over indulgent. I'm thankful for that.

BUT in a few moments GOD, I'm going to get out of bed. And from then on, I'm probably going to need a lot of help! Amen.



RARE BOOKS FOR SALE

The following books are listed for sale. These books were anonymously and generously donated to the Eighty Club. The proceeds of the sales will go to the Child Sponsorship Program. So have a good read, leave something for your grandchildren

and, help a good cause.

Enquiries: Richard Young Ph. 9557 2364

Vanished Trails by R.L. Spittle

*Printed: Western Printing Services Ltd., Bristol
First Published 1950*

In his preface Spittle states: " This work has been written as one continuous story depicting the lives of three generations of Veddas in their transition from the troglodyte, food-gathering stage to the crude beginnings of the hut dweller and food-producer. It is the true story (allowing something for the demands of the novel of the last remnant of Ceylon's most primitive aborigines – their swan-song."

I Copy Hard Cover? First Edition in Fair condition, unmarked: Price \$60

I copy Hard Cover? First Edition in not so Fair condition Price \$40

Where The White Sambur Roams by R.L. Spittle

*Printed by Jarrold & Sons Ltd Norwich.
First Published 1951*

The foreword states: " Richard Spittle has experienced every scene of the jungle incidents described in this book; that is why they are so real and vivid to the reader, and the reason why this is a story you will not easily forget."

*Hard Cover ? First edition, in Very Fair condition; with remnants of dust cover.
Price \$45*

Savage Sanctuary by R.L. Spittle: Illustrated by Jan Cooke

Printed by Ceylon Printers Ltd.

First Published 1941

This is the story of Tissahamy the last Vedda ' Chiefs'. It is said in the foreword that this novel is the result of years of investigation of the Veddas, the aboriginal race of Ceylon. While preserving a study, which must take a high place among works of anthropology, he has developed a story of vibrant human interest. Jan Cooke's scraper board illustrations are of high artistic merit.

*Hard Cover 1953 reprint in excellent condition.
Unmarked and with dust-cover intact Price \$40*

Green Aisles by D.J.G. Hennessey

*Printed 1949 in Great Britain by Unwin Brothers
This is a story of the Jungles of Ceylon written by an Irishman who served in The Ceylon Police for some years. Enchanted by the jungles and its wild life, he left a book for those with the longing but not the opportunity to penetrate the depths of the Ceylon jungle.*

This hard copy first edition is in very fair condition. Price \$25

Folk Stories of Sri Lanka by George Keyt

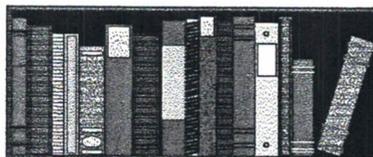
*Printed by Lakehouse Printers & Publishers
The author states: " The following selection of folk stories were from those related to me in Sinhala by some rural people, students of village schools and ladies of the gentry in the Kandy district.*

The 1st edition was printed in 1974, this is a 3rd edition printed in 1984, in soft cover. Price \$15

1879 –1979 A History of A hundred Years of The Royal – St Thomas' Cricket Match

This souvenir compiled for the centenary match has everything you'd want to know about one hundred annual encounters of cricket. Every encounter has a page devoted to it with scores and bowling analysis for each innings played and many, many photographs. It records every imaginable bit of cricketing history associated with player, including: best performances, lists of father and son players, names of team members who went on to represent Sri Lanka etc etc. And wait for it ... there is a foreword by the great Don himself!

This 202 page magazine is for 'Old Boys' who have yet to convince their grand children of the grandeur of School cricket in Sri Lanka
Price \$ 40



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Race to the White House by Free Lance Journalist, Nowell Hanibalsz

Those Sri Lankans now permanently settled in countries around the world and back home in good old Sri Lanka known as the "Pearl of the East" will remember how elections are conducted, fought and won. First it was the coloured ballot boxes, then the symbols both in local, municipal and general elections. They were fought with great might resulting in family feuds, assaults and even murder. The candidates from various parties travelled the country, stood on soap boxes, street corners, parks and playgrounds and finally at the

Galle Face Green shouting their throats out. They even took time to kiss babies. Reports of stolen ballot boxes, impersonations, road blocks, were rife. The supporters dressed in the colours of the respective candidates.

After the close of the polls, thousands gather at the counting locations, namely the Government Kacheries around the country. The Registrar General's Office next to the YMCA, Fort, Colombo, the main centre. Anxiously awaiting results, at times false alarms, causing mourns and groans and recounts. It was simple manual counts, no electronic devices, no TV coverage, only radio and bursts of sky rockets and crackers

giving signals of victory. The remote country folk burning midnight oil awaiting results. Things have changed and today we have live TV coverage and radio news flashing election results in a matter of seconds at home and abroad. To have had the rare privilege of covering the US Presidential elections in the years 1992 and 1996 and in the year 2000 was indeed a great stroke of luck and a wealth of experience. To be on the Campaign Trail State by State, attending the two Conventions and the Final Debates conducted by both the Republican and Democratic parties will be something to be remembered for many years to come. Thanks to my very good friend and neighbour in Boston, Mr Michael Dukkakis, presently the distinguished Professor in Political Science at the North Eastern University, Boston, who over the years helped me. Mr Dukkakis was the Democratic Presidential Candidate who contested Mr George Bush Snr in 1988. A master mind in election campaigns he always took time to brief me how to set about covering the Presidential elections.

The launching pads for both the Republican and Democratic candidates are the Conventions where they identify themselves to thousands of their supporters both in person and live TV coverage. The glamour and extravaganza, millions of dollars spent. flags, billboards, streamers, TV commercials, Cocktail parties, Banquet - every effort is made to reach out to the undecided voters and testing time for each candidate are the three live debates lasting two hours. They either make or break and adequate safeguards have to be taken against the press and political commentators who express their views openly.

The whole campaign is well orchestrated and the dollars pour in from all sources, personal donations and from large corporate bodies. Money talks in the millions and for each candidate to spend over hundred million in a three month period is considered just peanuts. There are individuals who pay as much as five thousand dollars for a full banquet party dinner. It is really hard for me to even think that 300 million would be modest. The whole world awaits the results of



a US Presidential election. The world stock market keeps a close watch and the face value of the green back determines the world economy. The people of America today are looking forward not to who will deliver the bacon, but who would be able to give them an apple a day to keep the doctor away. They are gasping for health care that would be affordable.

Arriving in Boston on the 31 August 2000, I personally felt that the task before both Candidates, Vice President Al Gore and Governor of Texas, George W. Bush was no easy task. President Bill Clinton over the past eight years in the White House set a very high standard. The people of America were looking forward for not a mere whitewash of White House but for a glowing gloss permanent finish to the seat of Government. Discussing at length with some of the world's greatest Political Analysts, TV Crews and Press men I felt that the USA was presently the land of milk and honey. Despite the Monica Lewensky scandal and also lingering accusations of financial fraud, there were remarkable aspect of Bill Clinton's legacy. Because of his popularity and charm he would have beaten any candidate in the year 2000. During the period 1992 to 2000 (for the first time in sixty years), USA was in the black. Unemployment at a 30 year high. Poverty at a 21 year low. The dollar the strongest, supported by a low crime rate. I was honoured by an invitation and press pass to attend the 5000

strong Al Gore's rally in Boston. With a TV and press crew of over 250, subject to Federal police, Secret Service Agents checks and even six sniffer dogs, I was there to obtain first hand information as to how the wind was blowing. The fight was really on and over the three month campaigning the candidates were daily facing up hill tasks. The day dawned - the whole of America went to the polls on 7 December. What was the outcome? Sad to say for the first time in the history of America, the Courts had to decide - The world awaiting the outcome. The people of America sick and tired: the dollar in suspense. More than 100 million people voted, and all were kept in a state of expectancy. First it was the Courts in Florida and then the Highest Court, the Supreme in Washington. There too the nine

Judges were unable to decide. Over the past months, various opinions were expressed by Political commentators.

The world at large surprised that a country like the USA just was unable to pick a President.

The nine Supreme Court Judges gave their verdict (a very narrow one) in which they 5 - 4 effectively blocked any further counting of Florida's disputed votes. Hence the door was closed and sealed for Vice President Al Gore. Although he won the popular vote of the Nation that did not give him the passport to the White House. The present system in American politics is determined by the States and through the Electoral College which is charged with selecting the President.

The majority of Florida's six million votes may have walked into the various booths on election day intending to vote for Al Gore, but they failed to make their vote count due to some 40 year old technology used to count the votes, or in another county votes disenfranchised because of confusion in the punch card ballots, and yet in one other, almost 9000 votes were left uncounted because the machines were not able to ascertain whether a hole had been properly punched in the card.

The election had been fought and won, but the Democratic connections intend using Freedom of Information laws likely to some day answer the question of who really won the Florida vote by conducting their own manual counts. The question will then be asked who defeated Al Gore, was it Governor George Bush or the five Judges of

the Supreme Court who owe their seats to the Republicans.

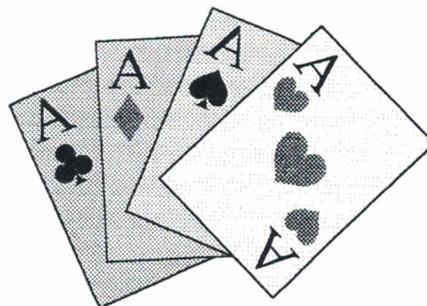
The President was sworn in on 20 January 2001 by the Chief Justice, one of the Judges who ruled that the Florida Supreme Court had erred by ordering a recount of more than 40,000 under votes in the State.

Will this Historical run to the White House be easily forgotten? Hopefully the American people, be it Republican or Democrats, and the rest of the world hope that business will be as usual.

Being the only Free Lance Journalist from down under, I wish you well Mr President, George W. Bush, and perhaps, I would be back after four years to cover another run to the White House.

The Dandenong Bridge Club Inc.

The Club starts a six week x 2 hour programme for beginners in March. Members who are interested are requested to contact the President - Telephone No.9791 5458. Learners very welcome.



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