

EIGHTY CLUB

The newsletter of the Eighty Club Melbourne Inc

P.O. Box 2645 Rowville Vic 3178



1st Quarter March 2002 Newsletter No: 84

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Conrad/Rita Hatch

(9761 7717)

Dear Members, Friends and Well-wishers

Bouquets & Brickbats

You will recall that some time ago, we invited our readers to send us 'Bouquets and Brickbats'. The immediate result was minimal, but our fourth quarter 2001 Newsletter appeared to have caused a furore, and we received some letters and a number of telephone calls. With the permission of the authors and recipients, these letters are published below, in date order, and we leave it to you to distinguish the Bouquets from the Brickbats.

27 December 2001

Let me begin by wishing You and the rest of the hard working persons at the Eighty Club a happy and prosperous New Year.

The main purpose of this letter to you is to highlight my dismay at the 'New Trend' this association appears to be condoning.

I thought we were joined together here in Australia to assist the BURGHERS unfortunate enough to be left in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). It appears to me, as indicated by the content of the REPRODUCED article and others in the current newsletter, that the Eighty Club is condoning political opinions on the current 'Queue Jumping Asylum Seekers.'

This appals me as I cannot understand why these Bleeding Heart Do Gooders cannot understand that the Governments of this great country, that they now hopefully

call HOME, do obviously have security concerns on the calibre of these, 'Queue Jumping Asylum Seekers'.

What I say is, The majority of Australians elected this government. Let the government do their job as they see fit and appropriate.

The Eighty Club and it's members in Australia are here to help the needy BURGHERS in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), not to blatantly condone a divisive medium within the ranks of their very members, by carrying what to many must surely be, offensive opinions and motives of select individuals.

Please feel free to publish the above in the next news letter.

*David Varney
Victoria*

THE SUBSCRIPTION DATA ON THE ADDRESS LABEL IS FOR MONIES RECEIVED AND BANKED UP TO 20 MARCH 2002

22 January 2002

My wife and I are members of the Eighty Club and have enjoyed our association with the Club immensely, that is, until we received the Club's Quarterly letter - No.83.

It was our understanding that the Eighty Club was a non-political organisation, only interested in fostering the welfare and improving the conditions of those less fortunate Burghers left behind in Sri Lanka. Regrettably, the editorial written by the Hon. Secretary, Richard Young, appeared to contradict that viewpoint.

*The editorial was so biased and so full of inaccuracies that it makes me wonder how much damage has already been done to the cause of the Club. I recommend that Mr Young reads the enclosed copy of an article, which appeared in the Sunday Age of 13th Jan 2002**. Hopefully it should relieve the feelings of confusion and perplexity, which appear to have beset him.*

In any case we believe it inappropriate and not in the best interest of the Club that its Office Bearers indulge in political commentary using the Club's magazine. Please convey these thoughts to your Committee.

***Philip Ruddock's response to articles in the L.A. Times.*

Dudley Ludekens
Victoria

26 January 2002

Herewith please find enclosed a contribution of \$200 towards the work you do in Sri Lanka.

Congratulations on a very moving article on Ahmed Alzalimi and his family. Please pass on my heartfelt agreement to Henry Brohier and Edgar Jansz on their articles also.

Charmaine Solomon
New South Wales

28 January 2002

On a recent visit to Melbourne, a relative of mine told me about the wonderful work of the Eighty Club and showed me the latest newsletter that he had received.

Congratulations on the work you do and especially the courage to highlight the plight of

asylum seekers to our supposedly enlightened and "Christian" country. This has been a topic close to my heart and the policies of our "leaders" in this regard have made me ashamed to call myself an Australian citizen. It is gratifying to see organisations such as yours showing the moral gumption that our leaders cannot seem to muster in order to educate people about the real facts which have been conveniently hidden behind emotive language. I firmly believe that the majority of people have not been told the facts behind the whole issue of asylum seekers and have fallen for the Government line of "queue jumpers", "illegals" and "people smugglers" swamping this land of the "fair go"!

Having been born in Sri Lanka it is also wonderful to hear that your members help the less privileged Burghers in our birthplace and have been doing so for quite some time.

Keep up the good work!

Frederick Prins
New South Wales

28 January 2002

I write to you on Australia Day - a day which commemorates the landing in this country of the first white settlers, but which I hope now makes all here pause and think of the many who have come here from so many countries and the many benefits which we all enjoy.

The Eighty Club was founded and continues to exist on an ideal - the ideal of compassion for those in our native country who so desperately need help and sustenance. But there are others in this world who need such compassion even more. So I welcome the view so thoughtfully expressed in the Fourth Quarter Newsletter - in the Editorial, in the message from our President, Mr Henry Brohier, and in the letter from our immediate past President, Mr Edgar Jansz. Can I, who counts myself as a Christian, think otherwise than with compassion for those who so desperately need help - the refugees and asylum seekers?

But there is another aspect, which influences my thinking. If I am honest with myself, I have to say that I am also a refugee in this Country. I came

here to seek refuge from the future in Sri Lanka, which seemed destined to diminish the living and prospects of my family. I am but one in a country of refugees, from Sri Lanka and from many other countries. Can this country which has welcomed refugees in the past deny comfort, support and compassion to those whose plight has been so movingly revealed in recent events?

Ivor Ferdinands

Victoria

28 January 2002

In these days of topsy turvy political actions and very selfish personal reactions, it is very refreshing to find someone who has the courage of his convictions - to stand up and be counted. I refer to the "outpouring" in your newsletter for the 4th quarter of 2001.

Edgar has been tormented by what happened to the Tampa and the repercussions therefrom - and this is not something new. Refer to his contribution twelve months earlier when he was tormented by the pomp and circumstances of our Christmas celebrations and the simple message of our Saviour - and the word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us.

I think - although Edgar did not specify in so many words - that we, and that includes every single member of the Eighty Club, and all Sri Lankans who came to Australia, came for the same reasons that the Tampa boat people were attempting to reach Australia - to escape from the oppressions at "home".

Having been active in my Rotary Club with ethnic groups here, it is a truism that those who are here do not want those in their own countries to come here.

Dr J.B. Chapman

New South Wales

Sunday Feb 17 2002

To my dear Friends in the EIGHTY CLUB

Greetings to you all.

And I do hope that 2002 is bringing you many blessings from the Lord, not only as a good group of thoughtful people, but as also individuals. It is

a lovely thing to pause a moment and give thanks for the blessings we receive.

Perhaps the important thing however is to remember that we are blessed - that we might in turn bless others! And the challenge is to always practice compassion no matter how difficult that may be.

I write in such a way because news has come to me that my dear friend Richard Young - your Honorary Secretary - has been criticised owing to the article he wrote quoting newspaper articles in reference to the "Asylum seekers" who have come to Australia. His was a moving call for Compassionate care and action, endeavouring to inspire us to consider the matter, rather than use political expediency as an excuse for indifference and apathy. Perhaps Richard was wanting to challenge us all to "get involved" in the issue and not walk idly by, justifying an uncompassionate response or concern - because these people are simply illegal and should not try to come here: calling us out of our comfortable lives to care - and indeed to really care. The temptation is to let the Media play games with this news item (until we get bored with it); or to let Politicians point score off each other; meanwhile people are crying out for help.

I for one was deeply moved by Richard's bravery to challenge us from our complacency, into action. Though it does not surprise me that there are those who can only read politics where Compassion is really the subject.

There is always a danger when we allow politics to measure or dictate Compassion. Especially for the Christian. For we follow one who poured out himself in utmost love and compassion for all. And in that Jesus himself challenges all who would follow him to emulate his compassion by not crossing the road and abdicating our spiritual and human responsibility to the needs of others.

I would hope that many of you would offer your encouragement to any of your members who is willing to speak out and challenge us to simply care with a whole heart.

May the Lord Bless you all with his peace and his unconditional love.

*Reverend Lawrence Turnbull - St. Davids,
Moorabbin
Victoria*

(Note: Rev. Turnbull initiated a Healing Service for the Eighty Club after the Food Fair calamity)

March 5, 2002.

I take up my pen to reply to our esteemed past President.

While I share his dismay over the Government's policy on asylum seekers, I do not understand his reaction to the (supposed) indifference of mainstream Christian leaders/churches.

Is he not aware that the secular press does not positively report the activities of Christians and their many organisations? He would do well to acquaint himself of the positions taken by many of these - I cite these - Caritas Australia, the Jesuit Refugee Service and TEAR Australia.

As one septuagenarian to another, may I say to Mr Jansz, count yourself IN, not out. Shake up your Church and give it the benefit of your God given insights. Remember the Power of One, and I'm not referring to Bryce Courtenay's hero. You cannot help further the Kingdom of God by standing on the sidelines and wringing your hands in despair!.

The peace of the risen Christ be with us all.

*Rae Cramer
Victoria*

The President's Reply :

First let me thank you for your letter. It shows that our members do read the Club's newsletter. Secondly let me allay your fears by saying that your letter and the articles mentioned have been read and re-read. These articles were never intended to infer or imply political criticism of the stand taken by the Government, in fact - rather they were statements of personal concern by the writers for a group of would be emigrants in need of compassion - the same compassion we as members feel for our community in Ceylon, whose lives were without hope until people like

you and me and the five hundred members together, joined the Eighty Club, to give them Hope which was missing from their lives. In these articles, the writers were conveying their very personal conflicts of conscience in their own minds - conflicts of what is a Christian stand on this issue. By contrast, politicians in power, determine the "asylum seekers" only in terms of security of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Club permits freedom of expression and these members have had their say as they viewed these issues from a very Christian perspective of pity, and care for those locked away in detention centres and unable to care for themselves in a foreign land.

Let me assure you that the intent of these articles was to make readers aware that there is another aspect (a compassionate one) with respect to the asylum seekers, and never was the intent to produce a political slant or to introduce division within the Club. Incidentally, the head of the Catholic Church in Sydney recently spoke along the same lines that we should be showing "compassion" to the asylum seekers, and no one can accuse him of being politically minded with respect to these thoughts.

The Club stands committed and united in its objective of showing "compassion" in the form of relief of poverty in Australia and in the Burgher Community in Sri Lanka.

The Eighty Club is, and will always continue to be a Non-Political Organisation and the Eighty Club does Not endorse the views of any contributor to the Newsletter.

*Henry Brohier
President*



The purpose for the existence of our Club as enunciated in our Constitution is "The Eighty Club Melbourne Inc. is a non-sectarian, non-profit organisation established solely for charitable community service purposes."

It has as its main object the relief of poverty in Australia and in the Burgher community in Sri Lanka

Having the above in mind, we the authors of the two articles in the December 2001 Newsletter (that has brought about the above Bouquets and Brickbats) were of the opinion that the driving force behind the existence of our Club was COMPASSION and LOVE FOR OUR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. We are aware of the compassion and love we all have for our less fortunate folk in the Burgher community in Sri Lanka and the material help we are sending them to overcome their hardships. In fact, we assist 150 families by the generous donations, subscriptions and the support we receive for our fund raising efforts, from our members. All this is achieved because we are all attempting to live up to our Club's motto -

CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

Compassion and Love for one's fellow human beings CANNOT be confined to a small square, but is all embracing, and hence the extension to the larger screen, the wider picture of the recent Asylum Seekers in Australia. Compassion has no limits, no boundaries. It is as deep as the deepest ocean, wide as the widest sea. It is all encompassing. The Philosopher and writer, Raymond Gaita wrote -

"Why merely, because we are fortunate to be born in a particular location on this earth, should we enjoy wealth, health and security and be able in the name of sovereignty, to deny it to others who, merely because they are born elsewhere, suffer the humiliations of the damned."

At NO time did we attempt to introduce a political slant into the workings of the Eighty Club, rather we were attempting to highlight the need for greater Compassion for our fellow human beings - be they illegal migrants or refugees seeking asylum in our land of "Milk and Honey".

Incidentally, there was a telephone call (and we are sure the remarks were made tongue in cheek), that the caller had heard that the Eighty Club was sending Club monies to help the Asylum Seekers, and if so, the caller intended to stop all assistance to the Club. Let us assure all Members of our Club that we do NOT assist Asylum Seekers in any monetary form.

Once again, we wish to reinforce the fact that the sole purpose in writing the articles was to arouse Compassion and Love for our fellow human beings in distress and NOT, we repeat NOT, to introduce any political slant (be it subtle or explicit) into our Club.

Incidentally, after these articles were written, it was noted that the **Head of the Catholic Church in Sydney** had expressed similar remarks of showing Compassion to the Asylum Seekers. **Archbishop Watson of the Anglican Church** said "I speak not only as an

Archbishop but as an Australian when I say that it concerns me deeply that things are happening in Australia that I thought could never happen."

Surely, one does not associate these remarks as being politically motivated.

We trust and hope that if we have offended anyone, the above explanation is sufficient to allay the fears that may have emanated from our two articles. You can rest assured that our Club is, and always will be a Non-Political, Non-Sectarian and Non-Profit organisation, established solely for charitable services purposes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the letter writers for the trouble taken to put pen to paper. Please continue to send us more Bouquets and Brickbats.

Richard Young and Edgar Jansz



*It isn't the size of your house as such
That matters so much at all.
It's the gentle hand and its loving touch,
That make it great or small.*

*The friends who come and the hour they
Who out of your house depart,
Will judge it not by the style you show,
But rather by the size of your heart.*

*It isn't the size of your head so much,
It isn't the wealth you found.
That will make you happy -- it's how you touch
The lives that are all around.*

*For making money is not hard --
To live life well is an art:
How people love you, how they regard,
Is all in the size of your heart.*

Message from the President

MOUNT TABOR

Christ had known considerable success whilst working in his native Galilee. He also had mounting opposition from the religious leaders. As he was heading for Jerusalem, he feared the worst. He sensed that the same fate awaited him as befell all the true prophets – a violent death. In his humanity, he recoiled from it. He saw no meaning to it. So he took himself apart, and with three of the disciples, climbed Mount Tabor. He needed to pray for strength and enlightenment. Up on the mountain he poured out his soul to his father. It was while he prayed that he had a marvellous experience. Suddenly he heard the father's voice: "You are my Beloved Son, in you I am well pleased". In a moment the darkness lifted and life was transformed with meaning. His face shone with joy. The disciples saw this joy and were enthralled by it. When he came down from the mountain he was able to face the bleak future with faith, hope and love. His Father wanted this, and his Father Loved Him.

At times life can become very dark for all of us. It is those moments that we need our own "Tabors". We need to experience our own worth and the meaning of our pain and sacrifices. Without meaning, sacrifices can destroy us. With meaning they can transform us. It is love that gives them meaning. But where are our "Tabors" to come from? From the love and support of our friends. Sometimes all they can do is stay by our side, as the disciples stayed by Christ's side. Then the only thing that upholds us is prayer and faith in Christ. He gave us a glimpse of our own glory when he revealed to us that we too are the Father's beloved sons and daughters. In the Life, death and resurrection of Christ, we see the ultimate meaning of our own lives and deaths. Once again my sincere thanks to each and every one of you for your help, generosity and continuing membership to the Eighty Club.

Henry Brohier
President

Contributed by Maurice Forster - Coordinator Sponsorship Program

Having recently had more requests for children to sponsor than applications for sponsorship, I have with deepening discomfort been 'hedging': keeping the prospective sponsors on line as I w...a...i...t...e...d on applications from Colombo. Well, this morning I switched on my modem to the good news that interviews have finally been held and the application forms are being posted. Our agents in Colombo, the DBU, were overhauling their selection processes. Overhauls take time. Patience may soon be rewarded.



A few years ago, Pam my hamine (boss lady in Sinhalese) and I were introduced to an impoverished Burgher family in Colombo. The man, a casual mechanic, gaunt, crumpled, thonged and dispirited. Son, a bright, "whats all this about, I'd rather be playing cricket" – teenager, and daughter, happy to tag along - 4 ish. When we got back to Melbourne the two children were amongst our first batch of "sponsees", aka "adoptees" In due course the lad finished his schooling and found employment. As usually happens we lost touch with him. The girl continues to be sponsored by a caring couple from Brisbane and is a student of The Holy Family Convent - Dehiwela. A few months ago I had a call from her sponsors expressing concern that the family seemed to be moving further and further from the girl's school. The sponsors, very keen that the girl completes her education at the HFC, asked me to make some enquiries in Colombo about the current circumstances of this family, as they were concerned that all the shifting would spoil the girl's education.

Many weeks after the phone call, a report on this family reached me. I was at the time, for one reason or another, feeling quite low, but the contents of this report set me right; I'll share parts of this tonic with you:

The report - Parents Income - DBU -

Rs 2000 (sponsorship money from the Eighty

Club) once in three months, also Rs 1,200 approx. per month earned by doing odd jobs.

Son - Warren. 19 years – Working as a trainee wharf clerk for a German firm: Income Rs 8000 (Approx \$180) per month. Deductions from salary per month by the firm for the motor bike provided by the company - Rs2,500, (he will own the bike at the end of the repayment) and Rs. 2,500 on the loan taken to purchase 10 perches of land at G....., to build their home. He also hopes to build a house for his sister someday on the land.. Daughter Rozanne, 7 years old goes to Holy Family Convent Dehiwela. They have built a 'shack' on two layers of cement bricks using planks from crates they bought. They have built their well (there is no pipe borne water in that area) and they have got connected to mains electricity (cost Rs 10,000 approx.) They need to build a solid house as when it rains the water comes down the slope into their house and as there is no foundation, it will collapse one day. They have not built their home as a firm foundation would cost around Rs 150,000 (Approx \$ 3,300) for the foundation alone. The report goes on in the form of an appeal for the mother, who poor thing, has a congenital problem with her leg which has been aggravated by a recent accident and the long distances she has to walk.

The Eighty Club has been with this family for some years helping in the development of their children and on behalf of all our members and sponsors, I felt proud of the efforts of the 19 year old Warren to give his family stability and direction. As for Rozanne, by a stroke of luck I spoke with a Sinhalese lady who was on a brief visit to Melbourne, and well acquainted with the sorry plight of Burgher youth. This lady was so impressed and relieved to learn that something was being done for these children of the community that she phoned me with an offer to speak to 'sponsors' and their teachers at two schools in Dehiwela. Rozanne goes to one of these schools and will get educational and vocational guidance from someone "in the know".

And now for some house keeping. In the next few weeks we will be sending sponsorship money for the 2nd quarter of the year. If you are in doubt

about the status of your account please look at your last receipt or phone me on (03) 9841 8749 around 8.30 – 9.00 am or 9.00 to 10.00 pm.
Thanks.

IN COLOMBO TO SEE YOUR MONEY AT WORK.

My wife and I sensed a change in the hot air when we arrived in Colombo on the 5th of February, this year, for a three week stay. It took us only a day or two to realise that the people seemed happier, more cheerful and very optimistic about the future under the new Government. Unprecedented heat, drought and daily power cuts notwithstanding, the man in the street trusted "Ranil Mahathaya" implicitly and was euphoric about his turning things around and bringing peace and prosperity to Sri Lanka. Of course, we wished, very fervently indeed, that their dreams came true.

To our amazement, VALENTINE'S DAY was celebrated in a very big way in Sri Lanka. The florists, the greeting card sellers and jewellers saw to that. Newspapers, radio and TV were saturated with advertisements telling one and all that the day just had to be celebrated with a gift of flowers, a card or jewellery - or all three - to their loved one or perhaps loved ones. Ridiculously, there were even Valentine cards for fathers and mothers ! Every big hotel in Colombo had organised a huge dance that weekend and we were the guests of genial and popular compere, Neville Overlande, and his lovely wife Christine at the Galadari. What grandeur ! What opulence ! What food ! The heads of the Buddhist clergy have now demanded that Valentine's Day be cancelled from next year as it was entirely alien to the Sri Lankan and Buddhist culture while unscrupulous traders brainwashed young boys and girls into even stealing money to buy their sweethearts flowers, cards or jewellery. Indeed, all the benches round the Kandy lake were covered with black oil the night before Valentine's Day to prevent couples from sitting on them and having a bit of a canoodle!

Sadly, if one was to divide Sri Lanka's population into various layers such as the Upper Classes, the Middle Classes etc there would still be one layer

beneath them all which most of the populace are unaware of and, for the most part, don't seem to care about even if they were. These are the destitute and mostly aged Burghers. Too proud to beg, they live out their lives in their little rooms wondering where their next meal and their next batch of medications were coming from. Picture a scenario where a husband and wife need daily medication for High Blood Pressure, High Cholesterol levels, Diabetes etc. don't have an income or financial help of a regular nature and with no benevolent Government to help out with cheap medications and an aged pension! Luckily, organisations such as the DUTCH BURGHER UNION OF CEYLON, THE EIGHTY CLUB and generous members such as you, dear reader, see to it that a few of these unfortunates get a little help at regular intervals.

Let me tell you about one family of battlers. Mr N, his wife and two sons who live at Pita Kotte. Mrs N has Ischaemic Heart Disease and needs daily medication. One son is a chronic schizophrenic and has to be kept medicated or else turns violent. He frightened me even when he looked at me. The mainstay of the family is the second son. In addition to the meagre quarterly allowance they receive from the EIGHTY CLUB this son grows various vegetables in their little garden and sells the excess. He had a cow and used to sell the milk. Then, he contrived to get the cow artificially inseminated so that he could add to his herd of one. However, the calf was born in a breech position and did not survive. Two weeks later the cow died as a result of the difficult birth. The son was left with some poultry bought with funds personally gifted by a member of our Club. However, the N...family battle on, their faith in the Almighty unshaken and very grateful to the EIGHTY CLUB and its members. While chatting with them I noticed that the son seemed to have an infection in his eye. When I asked what was wrong he told me that he was developing a growth in his right eye which his doctor was unable to treat. If this hard working young man lost the sight of his eye it would be a tragedy indeed. I suggested to Mr Neville Overlande of the DBU, who accompanied me, that the DBU arrange for him to be examined by a specialist with a view to treating the eye. I have no doubt that we can find the funds to pay for this

treatment. When I left them, the son had enough funds to buy twenty more chickens.

Such stories are legion. I met individuals and families in pitiful circumstances. I was literally moved to tears at times. However, we can only do our best but cannot help them all. Only God can.

Darryl Isaaks

Honorary Assistant Treasurer

Members' News by Ivor de Kretser

Travellers. The exodus to Sri Lanka at Christmas time seem to have changed as we observe the timing of members visits. Darryl and June Isaaks have just returned home after spending three weeks in Sri Lanka followed by ten days in that super clean country of Singapore. Darryl, as Assistant Treasurer, visited some of our beneficiaries who receive that monthly allowance called a "pension". This is a misnomer for the reason that the word attracts an inference



of "Old Age" which does not apply to all recipients. We await his views on a picture of want and hardship, seen at the coal face. Our President, Henry Brohier fulfilled a duty call to London in early February and

is in harness once again having just returned to Melbourne. Other members visiting Sri Lanka were Ian de Zilwa and Cecil de Kretser. Touring the land of the big white cloud (New Zealand) were Buddy and Clarine Hesse, Vivian and Hyacinth de Kretser and Elvira Paternott. Word has it that our former Fund Raising Chairman, Errol Orchard, is shortly bound for a holiday in the "old country". Errol is enjoying his retirement and why not?

Our Assistant Secretary, Suzanne and Robert Armel will be jetting to the States on 27 March for a holiday.

Birthdays. Birthday blessings to Derrick Juriansz of London who celebrated his 70th coming of age amongst family and friends. Likewise blessings to Budgie Metzeling who



celebrated his 80th birthday and also to Reggie Driberg, Felsie Felsing, Dr Clifford Misso, Miss Lorna Vanden Driesen, Sheila Robertson and George Baptist.

Anniversaries. Our very best wishes go out to Reginald and Phyllis Driberg on their 63rd wedding anniversary on 26 December 2001 and also to Tony and Arlene Scarnivel on their 40th anniversary on 10 February 2002.

Births. On 31 January 2002, Jacob Crosbie to Jan & Yvonne de Kretser fourth grandchild to Rev and Mrs Yvonne de Kretser and fifteenth great grandchild to Girlie de Kretser; to Christine and Malcolm Henricus their sixth grandchild, Olivia born on 27 September, daughter to Keith and Karen Henricus and congratulations to Bertie and Dorothy Claessen on the birth of their first great grand child. Joyous days ahead to each of you.



Get Well Soon. To Daphne Muller who has not been keeping too well for the last few months - hoping you will soon be well.

Condolences. It is with sadness we report the passing of these loved ones and our sympathies are with the families, grieving in their loss. To Marcia Fernando, children Natalie and Gavin and sister Hyacinth de



Kretser on the sudden death on 14 January 2002 of Douglas Fernando (NSW). In Sri Lanka, the death of Desmond de Niese, a badly handicapped beneficiary of the Club, also assisted by several club members to meet the extraordinary high cost of medical aid to maintain life support - a merciful end to a young life. Our condolences also go to Vernon and Maureen Kelly and Mrs Monica Andrado on the death of their brother, Malcolm Kelly in Sydney after a prolonged illness; to Elmo and Beulah Vollenhoven on the death of their brother, Neilson.

Change of Address. Staunch supporters and a welcome presence at our fund raising events, Herbert and Carmen Roberts are now settled in seaside Inverloch. Their new address is - 11 Leicester Square, Inverloch 3996.

Mail from Sri Lanka

"May all of you be blessed forever.

All my expenses for my medicine is covered by your caring payments.

Thank you for sharing and caring for us.

Mrs Anne Bastiansz



and from Melbourne

We just returned after a 2 week holiday in Sydney and whilst there we came across a book entitled "Proud and Prejudiced" - the story of the Burghers of Sri Lanka by Rodney Ferdinands. During our stay there and on our return we have made inquiries from quite a few book shops but have not been able to get the book. Would you or any other member of the club have a copy of the book or know where it is available.

We wish you and the club all success now and in the coming years. Thank you and everyone responsible for the marvelous jobs done during the past year.

Carl de Hoedt.

Drink Driving

Please take a deep breath before reading this!

"I went to a party, Mum"

I went to a party,
And remembered what you said.

You told me not to
drink, Mum

So I had a sprite
instead.

I felt proud of myself,
The way you said I
would,

That I didn't drink and
drive,

Though some friends said I should.

I made a healthy choice,

And your advice to me was right

As the party finally ended,

And the kids drove out of sight.

I got into my car,

Sure to get home in one piece,

I never knew what was coming, Mum



Something I expected least.
Now I'm lying on the pavement,
And I hear the policeman say,
The kid that caused this wreck was drunk,
Mum, His voice seems far away.
My own blood all around me,
As I try hard not to cry.
I can hear the paramedic say,
"This girl is going to die."
I'm sure the guy had no idea,
While he was flying high,
Because he chose to drink and drive,
Now I would have to die.
So why do people do it, Mum
Knowing that it ruins lives?
And now the pain is cutting me,
Like a hundred stabbing knives.
Tell sister not to be afraid, Mum
Tell daddy to be brave,
And when I go to heaven,
Put "Daddy's Girl" on my grave.
Someone should have taught him,
That it's wrong to drink and drive.
Maybe if his parents had,
I'd still be alive.
My breath is getting shorter, Mum
I'm getting really scared.
These are my final moments,
And I'm so unprepared.
I wish that you could hold me Mum,
As I lie here and die.
I wish that I could say I love you, Mum
So I love you and good-bye.

Contributed by *Conraad Hatch*

New Members

A warm welcome to those who have joined the Club since December 2001. Please join us in our get togethers. :

Mr & Mrs Celeste and Pam Christian; Mrs Jayacinte Jansz; Mr & Mrs Reynold and Lydia Vandort; Miss Vanessa Walles; Mr Ricardo Herft; Mr & Mrs Michael and Joan Coppins, Mr & Mrs Errol and Deanna La Brooy and Mr Frederick Prins.

Upcoming Events

Eighty Club Calendar

Sunday, 7 April - Roti Luncheon - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Saturday, 4 May - Trip to Casino

Saturday, 11 May - Country & Western Night - Sacred Heart Hall, Oakleigh

Sunday, 28 July - Hopper Luncheon - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Saturday, 10 August - Trip to Casino

Sunday, 8 September - Luncheon and A.G.M. - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Saturday, 19 October - Trip to Casino

Sunday, 3 November - Suzie & Jan Harris Luncheon - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Saturday, 7 December - Christmas Party - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Subscription Status as at 20 March 2002

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 Melbourne Inc**" to

The Secretary
P.O. Box 2645
Rowville Vic.3178

Please do not draw cheques in names of individuals

Donations etc. received up to 20 March 2002

17.12.01	Noel & Iola Pereira	20.00	12.2.02	Clifford Da Silva	20.00
	Glenroy & Romayne Stewart	20.00		Neville & Myrtle Jansz	50.00
	John & Forrest Woodbury	30.00		Anonymous	50.00
	Anonymous	500.00	19.2.02	Henry Brohier	
	Marion de Kretser	50.00		<i>In memory of the late</i>	
4.1.02'	Dunstan & Barbara Caspersz	20.00		<i>Pamela Brohier</i>	100.00
	Braebourne Edema	50.00		Maree Pereira <i>in</i>	
8.1.02	Anonymous (for child			<i>memory of her family</i>	20.00
	Sponsorship)	50.00	27.2.02	P.C. Ludekens for	
14.1.02	Marcella Andrado	20.00		Mr B.Metzeling's	
	Jim & Denny De Zilwa	20.00		Birthday	10.00
	Ralph & Christine Jansz	20.00		Shelton Willenberg	25.00
	Charmaine Solomon	200.00			
	Leonard Maloney	25.00			
22.1.02	Trevor & Ruth Angie	20.00	18.3.02	Anonymous	45.00
	Laurian & Pam Metzeling	60.00		William & Maureen de Saram	15.00
	Eileen Schumacher (Sale of Bonbons)	100.00		Derek & Bernadette Gray	20.00
	Donations received from the following on the occasion of the 80 th Birthday of Mr Budgie Metzeling	420.00		Beryl Patterson (<i>in memory of her late husband and her late son</i>)	25.00
	Dr & Mrs A. Anderson			Anonymous	50.00
	Mr & Mrs G. Angus			<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>2320.00</u>
	Mr & Mrs J.B. Misso				
	Mr & Mrs B. Hesse				
	Mr & Mrs O. Martinus				
	Mr & Mrs R. O'Hara				
	Mr & Mrs A. Metzeling				
	Mr Adrian Metzeling				
	Mr B. de Visser				
	Mrs A. Bartels				
	Mr & Mrs M. Schokman			<u>Coin Collections</u>	
	Mr & Mrs G. Wright		17.12.01	Ishbelle Ohlmus	64.00
	Dr & Mrs R. Misso and Family			Pat & Cordelia Bastiaensz	25.00
	Mr J. Wright		10.2.02	Douglas & Peggy Mack	25.00
	Mr Ralph Metzeling			Ralph & Phil Gerryn	41.35
28.1.02	Audrey Fernando	20.00		Esme Abeykoon	17.30
	<i>Donations in memory of the Late Mr Douglas Fernando of New South Wales</i>			Anonymous	14.85
				Darrell Willenberg	<u>15.00</u>
28.1.02	Joan Schumacher	10.00		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>202.50</u>
	Conraad & Rita Hatch	40.00			
12.2.02	Anonymous	15.00			
	Vernon & Maureen Kelly	30.00			
	Maurice & Joyce Matthysz	100.00			
19.2.02	Henry Brohier	50.00			

EIGHTY CLUB MELBOURNE 2002 EVENTS CALENDAR

Caring for the less fortunate

January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Roast Luncheon (Jan 10)

February						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2
						9
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	

Roast Luncheon (Feb 10)

March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						8
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22
	24	25	26	27	28	29
						30
						31

April						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
						13
						20
						27
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31		

Rotti Luncheon (Apr 7)

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
						10
						17
						24
						31
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20
	22	23	24	25	26	27

C&W Night (May 11)

June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
						8
						15
						22
						29
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	9	10	11	12	13	14
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	23	24	25	26	27	28
						30

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						6
						13
						20
						27
						3
						10
						17
						24
						31

Hopper Luncheon (Jul 28)

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						3
						10
						17
						24
						31
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30

Casino (Aug 10)

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						7
						14
						21
						28
						5
						12
						19
						26
						3
						10
						17
						24
						31

Luncheon & AGM (Sep 8)

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						5
						12
						19
						26
						2
						9
						16
						23
						30

Casino (Oct 19)

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2
						9
						16
						23
						30
						6
						13
						20
						27

Suzie & Jan Luncheon (Nov 3)

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						14
						21
						28
						4
						11
						18
						25
						1
						8
						15
						22
						29

Christmas Party (Dec 7)

Casino

Luncheon & AGM

Christmas Party

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