

President

Pam Forster (9841 8749)

Snr Vice President

Darryl Isaaks (9562 3612)

Jnr Vice President

Errol Jacotine (9894 0341)

Secretary

Richard Young (9557 2364)

Assistant Secretary

Suzanne Michaux-Armel
(03 5996 8672)

Treasurer

Tony Scarnivel (9763 0085)

Assistant Treasurer

Earle Ferdinand (9512 7265)

Membership Secretary

Mervyn Schoorman
(9584 2319)

Committee of Management

Maurice Forster, JP (9841 8749)

Ivor Ferdinands (9889 5725)

Vernon Kelly (9848 9649)

Ivor de Kretser (9802 5174)

Noel Werkmeister (9798 8170)

Betty Chapman (9481 0819)

Earle Ferdinand

Past President

Fund Raising Committee

Henry Brohier (9758 4674)

Leonie Martenstyn (9873 1879)

Laraine Muller (9799 4662)

George/Yvonne De Vos
(9795 0009)

Conrad/Rita Hatch (9761 7717)

Earle/Shireen Ferdinand

Betty Chapman

Ivor/Pat de Kretser

Maurice/Pamela Forster

Vernon/Maureen Kelly

Tony/Arlene Scarnivel

Mervyn Schoorman

Richard/Rita Young

Ivor/Audrey Ferdinands

Robert/Suzanne Armel

Darryl/June Isaaks

Noel/Yvonne Werkmeister

Errol/Violet Jacotine

EIGHTY CLUB

The newsletter of the Eighty Club Melbourne Inc

P.O. Box 2645 Rowville Vic 3178



2nd Quarter June 2003

Newsletter No: 89

Dear Members, Friends and Well-wishers

Altruism is a permanent attribute in the animal kingdom. With humans it is the opposite. We are complex creatures. We have our fears, jealousies, insecurities. We love, we hate. Thus we find those who praise, and others who scoff at philanthropy because some benefit and others do not. But a well known philanthropist has told the media "the more good I do the more I receive". Edgar Jansz in one of his articles observed 'Karmayata behethak naha'.



There is a good behethe Good Karma. Surround yourself with good 'karma' - acts of charity, and you will have fewer emotional scars. Deeds shape our lives.

We have had a rewarding period - our fund raising have had positive responses and donations have been constant. As a result we have been able to increase our number of dependents by ten. We now have 160 Welfare Beneficiaries. They are -

1. LNB - 71 years old - Married

Lives in own house with youngest daughter. The son-in-law is unemployed. Children give some financial help but very little. Has no income at all.

(Application submitted by Mrs R.E.B wife of the above named. She is diabetic and needs money for medications)

2. L.G.K. - 72 years old - Married

Applicant lives with his wife, daughter and granddaughter in the same house. Pays rent of Rs.1500 monthly. The daughter has some income by giving tuition. Wife (65) teaches and earns about Rs.2000 monthly. Granddaughter, D. is a privately sponsored child. They live in poor conditions.

3. M.E.A. - 59 years old - Widow

Lives with and is supported by her daughter who is married and has two children. Has an income of about Rs.1200 by selling home-made sweets from house to house. Two other children who are also married but not in a position to assist financially other than by an occasional handout. Walks miles selling her sweets and is considered an example that other younger applicants for welfare benefits should follow.

**THE SUBSCRIPTION DATA ON THE ADDRESS LABEL IS
For Monies received and banked up to the 30 June 2003**

4. F.C.G (nee V.G) - 49 years old - Separated Abandoned by husband and is alone. Cannot work due to a spinal problem. One daughter who has also cast her adrift. Pays a rent of Rs.60 per month for a Housing Department flat. Sister supplies meals and friends give occasional help. Hand to mouth existence and needs money for medications.

5. N.F. - 49 years old - Unmarried Applicant is retarded and application has been submitted by her mother who is a current Welfare Beneficiary. Lives with a married sister.

6. M.P. V. G. - 68 years old - Unmarried No income whatsoever and depends on a brother for meals and medication. Brother's income is small and has a wife and children to support. She is desperate for funds to buy her own medication, clothes, etc. which the brother cannot provide.

7. I.H. - 51 years old - Bachelor No income at all and lives with his sister. Had an attack of polio in 1959 which caused serious medical problems. Gets about Rs.500 per month for his medication but this income is not regular. He needs about Rs.1500 per month as, according to him, one tablet costs Rs.19.80 and

he takes 1 1/2 tablets daily. Another tablet costs Rs.11,50 daily. Has heart problems. Walks on crutches.

8. C.M.V. - 79 years old - Unmarried Lives in a single room in which he cooks his food. Outdoor toilet. Sister pays his room rent of Rs.500 per month. Has an enlarged heart and needs funds for medication and travelling to hospital for treatment. No income. Received Rs.48,000 lump sum when he retired in 1999. Obviously, nothing is left from that.

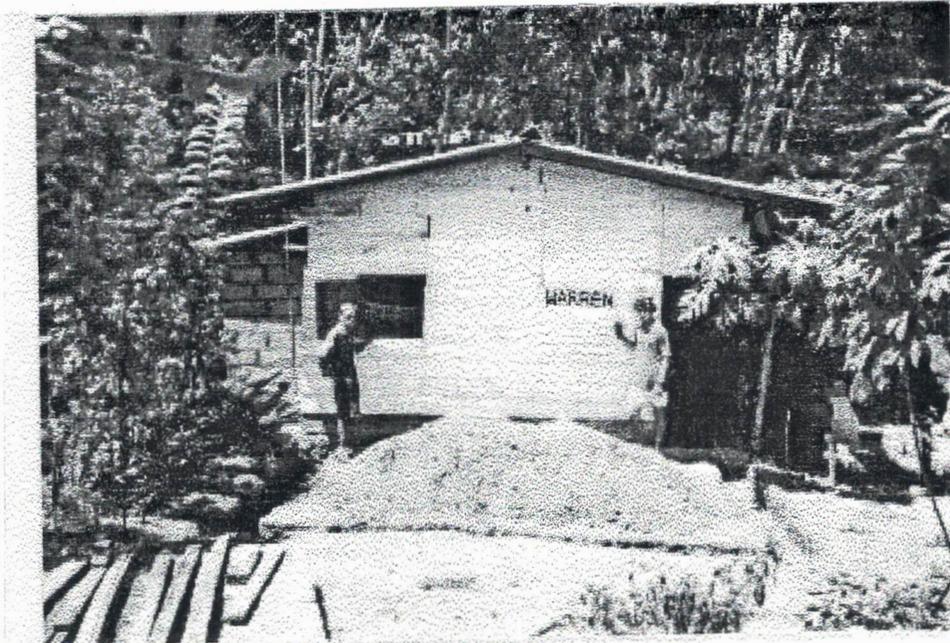
9. J.A.A.V.J - 76 years old - Widower Lives with and is totally dependent on his daughter. Cannot move around freely and has to be helped from place to place. Very feeble and sickly. Has heart, blood and kidney problems. Needs money for medication, vitamins and general extra's.

10. L.J.P. - 73 years old - Married Husband and wife live in a room in their married daughter's home. Meals are provided and nothing else. No financial assistance from other children or siblings. Live in a remote area and bus fares cost a lot. The couple needs some money of their own to provide them with a few extras that they now cannot afford.

Last year we referred to a sponsored student who completed his studies, found employment as an apprentice, bought a block of land in the backwoods to build a home from planks for his near-blind father, mother and school going sister. Caring members donated funds. Today we show you what bricks, mortar and love have achieved.

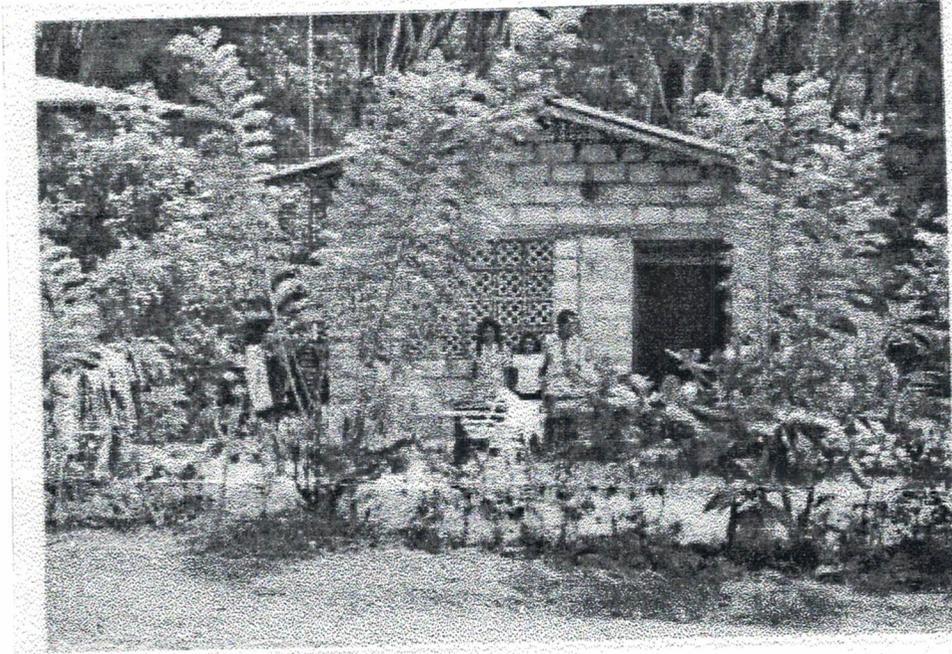
THEN

Original House with trenches dug in front of it prior to commencement of building



NOW

Front view of completed house and front garden



"I write to thank the Eighty Club and donors for the two donations of Rs.25,000 and Rs.36,000 respectively in order that the W....could have a secure weather proof home.

The building/securing of the W....home was made possible with this amount of money (Rs.61,000), considering that the toilet, part of the roofing (asbestos sheets and beams), electricity and water (the well) already existed.

Although the mason/carpenter built the house, the W...assisted him. W...dug the trenches for the foundation and the family carried the rocks, cement bricks etc. from the lorries to avoid payment of 'tips' to the labourers. W.....also did the re-wiring of the house as he had learnt this from the electrician who had wired their original 'plant house'. In this way they saved money thereby stretching the available resources. The present house now stands slightly larger than the original and is more comfortable."

Further, due to a generous donation from Ivor and Pat de Kretser and a matching contribution from Club Funds, we have -

- (a) decided to pay a mid-year bonus of Rs.1,500 per unit, and
- (b) set up a Fund for students to acquire work skills through a recognised Skill providing Source

More on this later.

Nominations 2003/2004

Every year we ask, nay implore, for nominations. We continue to draw a blank. The same old hacks are flogged. Will some of you, this year, put up your hands and agree to serve?



Thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely
Richard Young
 Hony.Secretary

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The winter chills and gloomy days are with us again, but I've had good news to report. The Eighty Club of Melbourne (ECM) has had two very generous donations - firstly, \$ 2,100 with specified requests that \$1,100 be used to supplement the mid-year bonus to Welfare Beneficiaries in SL and \$1,000 to be used to fund Vocational Training Courses for motivated youngsters who have completed 'O' or 'A' levels, to help them acquire job skills and to enhance their employment prospects. Within a matter of days, the Student Sponsorship Program received a generous donation of Rs55,000 in Sri Lanka, for post secondary courses preferably. The management committee (MC) of the ECM has decided to put in an additional \$2,000 to Vocational Training.

We are looking to the DBU to advertise the course and recommend prospective candidates who have completed 'O' or 'A' levels. A sub-committee in Melbourne will make the final selection. Hopefully motivated youngsters who wish to improve their employment prospects will respond.

In the recent past the Student Sponsorship Scheme has made similar offers, of funding post secondary vocational courses. But there have not been many requests, so we are asking you as members to use your contacts in SL to inform likely candidates of this offer. They should contact the DBU, our Agent.

With regard to Welfare Beneficiaries, the DBU had sent the ECM a list of 17 applicants for consideration. The M C had approved 10, raising the total of WBs from 150 to 160. One of the unsuccessful candidates was awarded a payment of Rs 3,000 to cover arrears of rent and another had medical expenses paid from the EC Medical emergency Fund in SL. All Welfare Beneficiaries will receive a Mid-Year bonus of Rs1500.00 each.

The Country and Western Dance proved to be very enjoyable. We were indeed fortunate to have a wonderful meal donated by **Victor and Lorraine de Silva of Zodiac Catering**, and the Committee joins me in thanking them for their

generosity. The music by Ashley was in full swing early and went on till past 1am. Two prizes were offered for 'The best Women's and Men's Country and Western Costume' they were won by Christine and Andy respectively. The MC Conraad suggested the prize winners dance for us. They obliged us with a fabulous floorshow and continued to delight everyone with a couple of numbers including a baila. The dancing continued till after 1am.

The Hopper Lunch was also a success with many complimentary remarks been made to committee members.

A Roti Lunch has been organized for the 13th of July. Coordinators Noel and Yvonne Werkmeister and Betty Chapman are busy organizing this event which was very popular last year.

If you think I have been preoccupied with food, read this -

Methuselah

*Methuselah ate what he found on his plate, and never, as people do now,
Did he note the amount of the calorie count – he ate it because it was chow.*

*He was never disturbed, as at Dinner he sat,
destroying a pie,
To think it was lacking in glandular fat, or a couple of vitamins shy.*

*He cheerfully chewed every morsel of food,
untroubled, by worries and fears
Lest his health be hurt by some fancy desert –
and he lived over 900 years!*

Maurice and I will be taking off North on our annual visit to our son and family in mid June. We wish you 'all the best' till next time.

Pamela Forster
President

ADVERTISEMENT

FUNDS FOR VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING

WHERE ??? IN SRI LANKA

**COST NIL TO STUDENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY WITH PASSES AT G.C.E.,
O/A LEVELS, SECONDARY OR OTHER LEVELS**

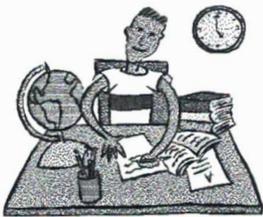
\$3,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED BY THE EIGHTY CLUB

YOUR HELP IS REQUIRED -

- 1) **TO FIND DESERVING MOTIVATED YOUTH**
- 2) **REQUEST THEM TO CONTACT THE DBU WITH
QUALIFICATIONS AND COURSE INFORMATION**
- 3) **INFORM SECRETARY OF NAME OF STUDENT
(T'phone 9557 2364)**
- 4) **APPLICATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE DBU OFFICE,
114 REID AVENUE, COLOMBO 4.
Telephone No. 58 4511**

STUDENT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM -

June 2003 Report *by Maurice Forster*



Weeks ago young friends of the Eighty Club - **Glen & Fiona** who sponsor a student in Colombo, left Melbourne for a short holiday in Sri Lanka. They volunteered assistance to the program

while in S.L and kindly agreed to bring me information about a family of four children; so utterly abandoned that I was having difficulty even learning of the extent of their plight.

The story of this family is that the father, died some years ago, and the mother left the three boys in homes for destitute children and moved with the daughter to a hut on the beach, South of Colombo. Initially the board for the boys was paid by two paternal uncles. This support dried when one uncle left S.L. and the other's income faltered. The Eighty Club saved the oldest boy from eviction from the school he was boarded at, by paying his arrears of board and, arranging a sponsorship for his continuing upkeep. Glen and Fiona were asked to meet the surviving

uncle in S.L. and get more information on the family.

Their report is that:

- The uncle is poorly employed, lives in a single room above his work place and, has not seen the children in a long while.
- The boy 'S'. who is 16 yrs old is sponsored by us, finishes his secondary schooling next year and then, will have no home and little chance of employment.
- Two boys 13 & 11 are at the Paynter home in Nuwara Eliya.
- The girl 'C'. is 9 yrs old; a ward of the state who was taken from the mother and placed by the courts in the care of the Good Shepherd Convent, Nayakakande.

The schools they attend are the only homes the children know. They never leave their schools on holiday and have not been together as a family for years.

All their lives are shrouded in misery, but darkest of all is that of the little girl 'C'. The mother, a Burgher, has in poverty, desperation and possibly some compulsion from the man she lives with, become a

member of the oldest profession. The little girl described by Fiona, as an attractive child with 'the bluest of blue eyes' was both sexually and physically abused until rescued by the law and sent to the convent.



The Nun there was perplexed when visitors from Australia wanted to see this girl who never in her three years at the convent had a visitor. 'C' speaks shyly only in Sinhalese. Fiona did manage to talk to her despite her extreme nervousness and shyness and found her aware of her three brothers. The Nun in charge of the girl said she is quite traumatised and in need of counseling.

Fiona and Glen were shattered by the experience as I was on listening to them, but all of us members of this caring community called the Eighty Club, can share a pinch of joy from the outcome of Glen & Fiona's visit:

- Payment is being made for professional counseling of little C at the convent.
- Nayakakande is mosquito infested; has 120 + children residing there, but only some have mosquito nets. **Glen and Fiona** donated 10 while in S.L., and now in the name of **Victor & Lorraine de Silva**, we are donating Rs 42,000 so that all the children can have nets. **This donation is made from the proceeds of a very successful dance, the catering for which was donated by Victor & Lorraine.** This way of saying 'thank you' to benefactors by doing some special act of charity in their name is a thoughtful new initiative which we hope to pursue in future.
- As for 'S' the lad at Magonna, I have been able to arrange visits by people who will try to have him engaged in a trade course/apprenticeship and I am trying to reach agreement with the school hostel to allow him to live there while he trains.

Thank you very much all you sponsors. Your sacrifice will in time lift the employability of the youth of one of the poorest communities in Sri Lanka. As your coordinator for several years, I see it happening gradually, very, very gradually.

In a few days Pam & I, like thousands of other greying Southerners, will tow our caravan into the warmth of Northern Australia. Tony Scarnivel your hard working treasurer, will be at your service till I return early in September. Please send him your sponsorship payments if you have not paid up to and including the third quarter. Letters to Tony should please be addressed to the P.O. Box number on the front of this Newsletter. *A've a cool winter!!*

THE TRAVAILS OF SOCIAL AND WELFARE WORK.

Straight from the horse's mouth by Neville Overlunde, Chairman Welfare, DBU of Ceylon.

To those who do not see, hearsay is difficult to believe! But those who see may still not believe!

Come join me in a little rendezvous, on this twenty-first anniversary, with the old Burgher folk you support here in Sri Lanka !

It is quite easy to visualize money being collected by the 80COM, and then remitted to Sri Lanka for the support of the lesser fortunate members of the Burgher community encompassing the children of Burgher parents who find it difficult to attend school for want of basics, and the old and feeble Burgher ladies and gents; left to one's imagination as to how they survive!

During my recent visit to Australia, I was privileged to sit among a band of enthusiastic fund raisers. I saw for myself the pains taken so meticulously to chart out the part each of those present had to play. From the arrangement of chairs and tables, to the collection of table cloths, to the washing of plates, among scores of other tasks, is something I saw being planned, which undoubtedly convinced me of being a tremendous team effort.

I never imagined it took so much of effort to raise funds for the old Burgher folk left back in the land of their birth, and a land which they, for some reason, have preferred to live and die in. If collecting funds for these folk is sad, and nostalgic, then, take it from me my dear folks, the distributing of such funds is more than heartbreaking.

There are a few on the Committee of the Eighty

Club of Melbourne who have been 'unfortunate' to have met some Welfare Beneficiaries surviving here in Sri Lanka. They could not believe it, i.e. what they saw. That's just seeing a few; I see and deal with 160 of them, when each of them arrives at the DBU gleaming with smiles, hardly any teeth to be seen, and reach out for the monies allocated to them each quarter.



The Eighty Club of Melbourne, has, during my period of office (since October 1999) gone on from strength to strength in fulfilling its objectives to help the Burgher folk at this end. It is difficult to single out particular cases of Welfare Beneficiaries here, because one cause is no more or less deserving than the other. Hardly any food, shelter not so strong nor certain, and existence left to the generosity of donors. And don't forget, these are folk who have, in their salad days, enjoyed gifts at Christmas time, fresh green lighted Christmas trees in their houses, with Santa Claus coming down that chimney stacked with toys, Christmas carols, fire crackers, a new dress or shirt for Sunday mass, a new pair of shoes which dad or mum would hide and present on their birthdays; they who knew the Breudhers, the Christmas cake, Yule Log, a little turkey perhaps; and the finer spirits of 'coconut arrack', are all now fond memories of the past years. In contrast, hardly a meal a day can they guarantee themselves in the twilight of their lives. Sad indeed.

You might ask "what about their children; cannot the children help them?". The reply I have often received "Ah, they are of no use now. They are married and gone, and can hardly help their families". And in most cases some pitifully lament "my husband left me years ago, and I have to struggle to bring up the children".

"I get my meals from here and there". Arriving at the DBU to collect her money, one old lady told me just the other day, "I am in a hurry to leave, because today my lunch is guaranteed... I am going to an almsgiving".

Said another, "I sleep on the church steps on some old clothes that I spread out".

A member of the 80COM Management Committee, when on holiday in Sri Lanka, was asked the question by an old Welfare

Beneficiary, "Can you please assure me before I close my eyes, that my pension money will be passed on to my dear unmarried daughter who is looking after me?", pleaded the 82 year old lady.

Came another case, most recently, "I live on the beach in a hut for which I pay Rs.300 rent. In the nights when its cold I piddle into a bag and throw it out the next morning said this old man who has his left leg amputated from the knee downward, and who was once a crane operator in Dubai. His favourite drink he admitted is "kasippu".

Screaming into the DBU office came this old lady, "don't give me any money, buy me some food, you won't believe me, I haven't eaten for almost three days". Another had done well. In her old age, and a good Burgher, she had managed to get a cleaning job around her home town. "I need a pair of specs and they will give me the job of cleaning. "I don't mind, Mr. Neville", she said "I will get Rs.200 per day, and so I won't have to starve, or even come here for help. I can take some food for the family." Brave and honourable lady, she was given the Rs.2500 she needed for a very ordinary pair of specs.

Lets move to the children.

I am often of the opinion that children will survive. Parents, however poor, will find ways and means of providing the goods, but here again, the 80COM has been magnanimous in its support towards children who now have the means to go to school, buy school books, uniforms, shoes, travel by van to and from school as bus rides can mean nightmares, enjoy a mid day drink or maybe the bonus of an ice cream once in a way, and so on. And will these children ever know the Christmas that you and I can well remember? Not a chance in hell! But at least you and I have the consolation that with your magnanimous support the children are on their way to school, they are on their way in life, and who knows, some day a doctor, a lawyer, a Philosopher may come up. Strange things happen in this world. You must believe in that!

To find such deserving children is easy. The word goes round, and they come, like a moth to a flame. To see them is heart rending; and to

verify the truth of their applications is the challenging part. To visit the children at their homes, I travel on my Honda 100 cc scooter, because it's easier to cross culverts than a car would; it's easier to "rev" the bike when going up an impossible pathway, and cheaper too when it comes to finding children somewhere in the wilderness. It is understandable if there's no seat they have to offer in their warm homes, but then, it's nice to be aware of the poorness of life, because it certainly helps to understand their situation better.

There is also the occasion when parents have to be kind of questioned closely, to bring out the truth of their children's position. At the moment I am in pursuit of a sponsored child, with little success on four occasions. The last two occasions, even the heavens cried over my vain efforts. I went home drenched; on a bike I ride in pursuit of this child.

One such occasion was a fight between man and dog.....should I proceed on my bike or should I coax the dog to move. "Oh it's a small dog", I said to myself, but then the inner voice reminded me "it's not the size of the dog that matters, it's the fight in the dog"! I turned away and surely was chased from the area. I came home safely, and tried to understand the deceit of the father who has given me three different addresses where the child is located, none of which seem to exist according to his description.

My greatest achievement was entering a young girl into school. My wife and I visited her home to assess the situation of her father who applied for a pension. We discovered this girl seated on a bench in the house, no school to go to. The school she attended did not provide for students past the O/L stage which she had successfully completed; Distinctions and Credits included in her O/L results, but she had to leave. No school had room for her to read for her A/Ls. The girl was stagnated at home. With great gusto I approached a Girl's school and pleaded with no less than five Teachers to put this girl in. Finally after pleading with the Principal, I was given the good news that there had been a student who could not fill the place given to her, and that this young student I brought could join in two weeks time. I flipped. But the school's policy, as in most schools, is for the student to

bring her own desk and chair. Believe me. No argument. My wife and I were on our way to find this student a table and a chair. Good ole Moratuwa is carpentry country. Rs.50 for a cuppa tea to a bystander who helped me locate the shed which makes such school desk and chairs. And for good measure, when the Principal learned that the girl's education would be through a sponsor in Australia, the Principal's plea was for me to provide a Teacher's standard Desk and Chair. Believe me. It's from the horse's mouth!

And guess what? A member of the 80COM was on holiday in Sri Lanka at the time. A classmate of mine, phoned me at home and asked my wife and me to join him for lunch at the Colombo Hilton. We did. After lunch I drove him to a far off place to see his sponsored child. We then went to St. Joseph's College at Maradana, and reminisced in the past, looking at our classroom etc. At the end of the lovely afternoon, I happened to mention the case of this girl who had just entered into school. He reached for his purse and stretched out A\$ 200 to my wife, and said "provide the girl with what she wants". Woo, I could not believe it! This generous guy is over there with all of you, as part of the generous band of donors.

Be that as it may, the social and welfare work is a challenge. It's not enough to sit back and visualize the flow of aid, but to deliver is the challenge. I have travelled many a long and winding road to locate the older Burgher folk, to many of whom I have become their source for existence, perhaps an inspiration to 'hold on', so to say. The battle goes on. The battle is at your end where you wonderful folk in the 80COM battle those aches and pains, to raise money through various social engagements, one of which my wife and I delightfully attended in February this year. To accept what we see, what we hear, is not too bad, but what we find very hard to do, is to win the war - the war against poverty, the poverty of not just anybody, but the poverty of our dear old Burgher folk who, I can surely say, are able to survive - thanks to the generosity of you folk over there, folk whom I had the wonderful experience of wining and dining with, early 2003. Praise the Lord for that experience.

I know the 160 plus Welfare Beneficiaries and the 100 plus children will join me in sending the 80COM, on this your twenty-first anniversary, our sincere thanks and appreciation for the wonderful generosity so readily rendered to us. Thank you to all the Office Bearers for the time you spend, unselfishly, for the amicable manner in distributing and accepting the arduous tasks assigned when raising funds. May the Lord give you strength and happiness to go on, to achieve your objectives, all for the sake of helping the cause of the needy Burgher folk out here in sunny, poor, but yet happy, lovely, Sri Lanka.

With best wishes

Neville Overlunde

'I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME'

1. AN EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT - They are Grateful

April 27, 2003, will long be remembered - it was the day I spent with my good friend Neville Overlunde, the Welfare Officer of the DBU, meeting the beneficiaries of the Eighty Club as they came to collect their quarterly remittances made possible by you, our Members. In most cases this was their only source of income and consequently they are totally dependent on it. How they manage on it for the period it covers is incomprehensible. However, it has made me realise that the work carried out by us must continue and improve as these poor unfortunate folk of our community are crying for help and we cannot let them down; they need to be looked after, they have come to be dependent on us for too long - the old, the frail, the sick, the homeless, the hungry - they cover all categories.

"Tis not enough to help the feeble up, but to support him after"

The ideals and vision of the Eighty Club are to the fore here - the funds we raise is helping to ease the pain and hardship of all these

individuals and they are so very grateful.

There were perhaps 50 to 60 mostly elderly ladies and gentlemen (of the 160 we assist), many single and some married couples who came in. Sitting next to Neville I listened to some stories of hardship, anguish and misery being endured on a daily basis - their situations of not knowing in most cases where their next meal was coming from and the verbal abuse meted out in instances where rents or market bills are not settled. It was traumatic to witness some of these poor folk simply burst into tears the moment they took their seat in front of Neville trying to explain the hardships they experience - their inability to obtain medication, failing eyesight, sick family, lack of proper living conditions, unpaid bills, - they just plead for help. There were others who were quite composed and friendly and some told me they had family in Melbourne and Sydney, unfortunately without contact.

Another sad experience for me was to realise that one of the beneficiaries was a good friend and workmate of mine in Colombo - fresh out of school it was my first job and he helped me a great deal to settle in; we worked together for nearly seven years, played cricket and enjoyed a drink together. I had not met him in nearly 15 years and it came as a shock and was quite upsetting to meet him under such circumstances. The very disturbing thought suddenly did cross my mind - it could have been me making quarterly visits to the DBU for a hand out, had not fate intervened. Another lady was brought in by her daughter, very sick and afflicted with Parkinsons disease and desperate to do the right thing and present herself even in her state of ill-health; a few days of my return to Melbourne it was very sad to read her obituary.

On a brighter note, I was also present a few days later and met parents and most of the sponsored students. Parents who would normally come in to collect the sponsorship monies were on this occasion instructed to bring the kids along as it was their Easter school holidays. It was a great feeling seeing all these kids, cheerful, happy and bright eyed, some more talkative than others, Neville has an awareness of each student's progress and was clear in his conversations with them and the parents as to the expectations of



the sponsors and the sponsorship scheme. A few of the students who were due to complete final exams this year were asked to contact him so that they could be enrolled in some short term courses during the intervening period between completion of their exams and receiving their results – how long I am not sure. Not too expensive courses are available in various fields and can be taken advantage of and will keep the children occupied during this period.

The Student Sponsorship Scheme is giving these children the opportunities and the confidence to become successful which they otherwise may not have enjoyed; their parents are forever grateful to the sponsors for looking after the welfare of their kids.

As one parent put it “my daughter is very happy because of her sponsors” and I think that statement speaks volumes insofar as what our scheme is all about. Success in terms of academic qualifications will come, it is just a matter of time.

Finally, spare a thought for the man who has the job of keeping the flow chart in motion – the volume of work involved in handling all Eighty Club’s business keeps Neville and his wife Christine busy a lot of the time. In addition, of course, the business commitments of other organizations connected with the DBU come under his wing.

We at the Eighty Club must consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have someone so dedicated and hardworking looking after our affairs in Colombo – yes, we are indeed fortunate.

Noel Werkmeister
Committee Member

2. WORDS OF APPRECIATION - THEY ARE THANKFUL

Recently, the EIGHTY CLUB decided to extend its assistance to Welfare Beneficiaries by paying married Beneficiaries, living with their legal spouses, an extra SPOUSE ALLOWANCE of Rs.500 per month in addition to the usual payment of Rs.750. Twenty-two married couples benefited from this payment. Excerpts from letters received from two of these spouses

are shown below:

“We take great pleasure in writing this short letter just to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the extra payment given to me in April. This goes to all the members of the EIGHTY CLUB in Australia. This payment is a very welcome gesture and, once again, my husband and I thank you very much. We pray that God will shower His blessings upon all of you. Mr. Errol Sylvester G.”

“I am writing to thank you for the financial support my husband and I receive from the EIGHTY CLUB of Melbourne. Thank you very much for same. It is a most welcome help to us as we need a substantial amount of cash for medicines. My husband is a stroke patient and I am an asthmatic with high cholesterol and hypertension and are under daily medication. We look forward to your continued support in the future and thank you, once again, most sincerely. May God bless and reward you for same. Mrs. Ruby de L.”

Attached to Mrs. De L’s letter was the original of a receipt from a Chemist for medications purchased. Twelve items cost Rs.2,284.50 !

Darryl Isaaks,
Coordinator, Welfare Beneficiaries.

Members News by Ivor de Kretser

Here is very good news for the youth of our community who have passed their O/A level exams. The Club has set aside \$3,000 to be used by our young folk to access these funds at no cost to themselves which will further their employability. Various reputable providers offer training in skills that give successful students a better chance in job interviews. Other youngsters with lesser educational levels are also eligible to apply to use the funds in their chosen vocational field. The DBU Welfare Officer, Mr Neville Overlunde, is the contact person in Colombo for inquiries and application forms. What can you as a member do?? Should you be aware of someone with this background, motivated to improve his or her chances of



gaining a job by undergoing work skills training, please nominate that person and give the details to the Secretary. A sub-committee has been formed to give effect to this Club project and maximise the enrolment of these youngsters - there is a future for them through skills training. Your nomination will hasten the process. A separate advertisement on this Club's initiative appears elsewhere.

Bereavements. Since our last Newsletter we bade farewell to a longtime member of the Eighty Club (and co-Founder of the Ceylon Burgher Association with the late Lorenz de Kretser) **Noel Loos Jansz** who passed away on 17 April 2003 and our condolences go to his sons Noel, Johaan and daughter Maeve. Other members lost close members of their families and to them too we extend our sympathies. To Glenroy and Romaine Stewart and Mari and Burdette de Kretser on the death of their sister **Romaine Peiris** on 8 May; to Clairmont and Jean de la Zilwa whose brother **Gerald de la Zilwa** died on 4 May in Sri Lanka, to Ivor and Anne Vanderwert and June and Rev. Bryan Ernest whose brother **Percy Vanderwert** died in London on 25 May, and to Irene and Lyn Isaaks and Winston and Clara de Hoedt (in England) on the death of their mother, **Rosalyn de Hoedt** on 25 June 2003. They are now in God's care"

Travel News. A small number of members ventured out of this land - was it SARS? Oh well, let that be the unanswered question. Adventuring to Sri Lanka were **Victor & Lorraine de Silva, Noel & Yvonne Werkmeister** and more recently **Mr & Mrs Dimitri Harris** were bound for the U.K. and then Sri Lanka.



News from Sri Lanka from Neville

Overlunde, Welfare Officer, DBU. On Sunday, 15 June a wonderful six-a-side softball cricket tournament was arranged and took place at the famous Burgher Recreation Club grounds, in Havelock Park. The location I am sure may yet be familiar to you. It was a sea of



Burghers, tall, short, thin, fat and broad, dark and light, well dressed, half-dressed, all having a real good time. There were many food stalls, DJ music and all the fun of the fair. The ladies too had their own teams battling it out. Good sales of Beers. This tournament was organised by the **Burgher Association of Sri Lanka** whose President is Maxie Rosairo. An invitation was extended to the DBU of Ceylon to send in a team to participate, as was done to the Burgher Recreation Club (BRC). The Chief Guest at the event was the President of the DBU of Ceylon, Mrs Deloraine Brohier.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following new members who have joined the Club since our last Newsletter in March 2003. Please join us in our get-togethers.

Nigel & Jennifer Wells-Jansz; Desmond & Pauline Kelaart; Roland & Rosanna Kelaart; Pam Van Twest; Anthony & Christine Bertus; Shirley Jayatunga; Trevor & Jill Collette; Trevor & Audrey Gomes; Terese Cramer; Barbara de Kretser; Sylvia Ephramus; Ivo & Mary Kelaart; Anton & Jeanne Vanderwert; Chester & Pax Crowe; Patrick & Rochelle Serpanchy; Robert & Cheryl Challis; Ron & Maureen Sincock; Aubrey & Nirmala Stainwall; Gordon & Beverley Hayman and Fairley & Alice Wijesinghe.

Births. Our congratulations go out to members Herbert & Carmen Roberts on the birth of their first grandchild, a boy, Luke Charles, to Rosanne and Stuart Atkins on 26 May, 2003.



Calender of Events for 2003

Sunday, 13 July

Roti Luncheon, Good Shepherd Hall Mulgrave

Saturday 9 August - Casino

Trip (Bus has seating for 57) First come, first seated. Contact Arlene

Scarnival on 9763 0085, by 1 August to book your seat.



Sunday, 14 September

Chinese/Malaysian Luncheon and **Annual General Meeting** - Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Sunday, 9 November *(Please note new date)*

Suzie & Jan Harris' Luncheon, Good Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Saturday, 6 December

Christmas Party, Gppd Shepherd Hall, Mulgrave

Subscription Status as at 30 June, 2003

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.

GENEALOGY COMPUTER FUND
PERISHING GENEALOGIES - DBU

The President of the Dutch Burgher Union in Colombo has asked for financial assistance to purchase a Computer - CPU, Monitor, Keyboard, Mouse, UPS & Printer, a computer table and chair - estimated to cost Rs.60 - 75,000. The purpose is to establish a Genealogy Computer Fund which will identify finances connected with genealogies - these genealogies are in past Journals of the DBU going back to 1908 - some 200 genealogies are in these Journals. Most of these genealogies continue up to the late 1950s - later generational material is being received and facilities are not there to include this data, nor publish updated genealogies. In addition, copies of past Journals which also contained genealogical information (some go as far back as the very first issue in 1908) are perishing and will soon be lost. If the DBU is to keep up with the times, a Computer is no longer a LUXURY. Now is the time to assist in the preservation of these records - "expatriates" or their children may one day seek this material too. As humans there is a strong urge to discover ones "roots". A SEPARATE "DBU GENEALOGY COMPUTER FUND" HAS BEEN SET UP BY THE CLUB TO RECEIVE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

Donations etc. received up to 30 June 2003

Donations received in memory of Budge Metzeling			General Donations		
27.3.03	Sheila Aldons	20.00	14.4.03	William & Maureen	
	Aileen Bartels	20.00		De Saram	15.00
	Maurice & Pam Forster	30.00		Ed & Rita Kerner	20.00
	Ralph & Joan Gauder	20.00	16.4.03	Bellbirds Club Inc.	90.00
	Buddy & Clarene Hesse	50.00	22.4.03	Vernon Achilles	20.00
	Verna Hubert	10.00		Pansy Abayekoon (in	
	Rex & Barbara			loving memory of	
	Ludowyke	10.00		Clansy Abayekoon)	50.00
	Oswald & Cynthia			Derek & Bernadette Gray	20.00
	Martinus	10.00		Ian & Carol Koch	80.00
	Laurian & Pam		24.4.03	Neville & Myrtle Jansz	50.00
	Metzeling	25.00		Chris & Ann Moldrich	
	Brooke, Gerardene & Ella			(in memory of	
	Roberts	20.00		Constance & Ben	
	Leslie & Hughie Tate	20.00		Moldrich)	10.00
	Michael & Margot		29.4.03	Jim & Denise de Zilwa	20.00
	Schokman	10.00		Dimitri Harris	20.00
3.4.03	Stan & Christobelle			Homi & Marjorie Jilla	50.00
	Livera	150.00		Percy & Barbara Madawela	100.00
	Anonymous	25.00		Adrian Metzeling (in	
	Georgie & Claudia Wright	50.00		memory of Therese &	
4.4.03	Alan & Kate Caldera	20.00		Budge Metzeling)	100.00
	Errol & Violet Jacotine	25.00		June Siebel	20.00
9.4.03	Elmar & Leonie		15.5.03	Braebourne Edema	50.00
	Martenstyn	25.00		Clifford & Barbara Jansz	20.00
	M & T, Senior P & J			Werkus A. Brian Siebel	40.00
	Metzeling	60.00		Elliston & Fleur Scovell	25.00
14.4.03	Ron & Merlyn Schrader	25.00		Clive & Bluebell Vandort	20.00
16.4.03	Esme Metzeling	200.00	22.5.03	Aileen Bartels (in memory	
	Taffy Keyt	20.00		of Jim Watson)	20.00
22.4.03	Lucien & Felsie Felsinger	20.00		Doreen de Bruin (in mem-	
29.4.03	Blair & Sheila LaBrooy	20.00		ory of Ernie de Bruin)	150.00
22.5.03	Conraad & Rita Hatch	25.00		Marion de Kretser	20.00
10.6.03	Tessa Livera & Terry Lee	50.00		Anonymous	50.00
	TOTAL	960.00		Anita Young	20.00
				Iyala Young	20.00

General Donations (Contd.)

3.4.03	Anonymous	50.00	30.6.03	Dollybelle Chapman	10.00
4.4.03	Russell Edema (in memory of Jack Van Sanden)	30.00		Dr C. Misso	25.00
14.4.03	Trevor & Ruth Anghie	20.00		Ivor & Ann Vanderwert and Mrs Abeykoon (in memory of Percy Vanderwert)	65.00
	Rae & Melrene Cramer	20.00		Noel & Charmaine	
29.5.03	Matthew & Eileen Hendrie	10.00		Leembruggen	20.00
	Graeme & Jean McIntyre	10.00			
	Trevor & Sandra Newman				
	(Ex Raffle Prize)	100.00			
	Anonymous	100.00			
10.6.03	Annesley Caspersz	20.00			
20.6.03	Darryl & June Isaaks (in memory of a grand old Lady, Rosalyn de Hoedt)	30.00			
				TOTAL	1610.00

Donations received for a special event			Coin Collections		
8.5.03	Ivor & Pat de Kretser for their 50 th wedding anniversary	2100.00	26.5.03	Malcolm & Christine Henricus	21.00
			27.5.03	Anonymous	22.00
			30.5.03	Errol & Violet Jacotine	13.50
				Tony & Yvonne Elders	3.40
				Esme Abeykoon	21.40
				Homi & Marjorie Jilla	26.20
	TOTAL	2100.00		TOTAL	107.50

GRAND TOTAL - \$ 4777.50

EIGHTY CLUB OF MELBOURNE INC.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

JULY 2002 TO JUNE 2003

INCOME				2002
MEMBERS	Subscriptions	14910		14930
	Donations	9419		9919
	Coin Collection	676	25005	745
FUNCTIONS	Lunches-			
	Hopper	1433		1167 (Roti)
	Stringhopper	1190		2001
	Susie & Jan	3829		3889
	Hopper	1956		
	Roast	1724	10132	1535
TRIPS	Casino			
	Aug	343		321
	Nov	179		291
	March	548	1070	529
DANCES	Christmas	2167		1474
	Country & Western	5519	7686	5776
CHILD SPONSORSHIP	Receipts		26950	23855
INTEREST	From Investments		3488	3687
				361 (Casino)
TOTAL INCOME			74331	70480

EXPENDITURE				
WELFARE	Quarterly Allowance	25299		29333
	Family Allowance	599		723
	Christmas Bonus	2925		4793
	Mid-Year Bonus	4383		0
	Allowance to A. Bartholomeusz	200		200
	Mosquito Nets to Convent	818		407 (Various)
	DBU Computer	198		
	Local Charity	250		50
	Child Sponsorship Payments	21547		20434
	Child Sponsorship Grant	1500		1500
	Medical Assistance	317	58036	
ADMINISTRATION	Bank Charges	606		570
	Govt. Duties	83		60
	Corporate Affairs	33		33
	Insurance Premium	1561		910
	Newsletter Printing	1229		1060
	Newsletter Postage	809		827
	Postage	454		353
	Stationary	143		448
	P.O. Box Rental	52	4970	50
				100 (Other Exp)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			63006	61851
INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE			11325	8629
	General Funds	5922		5208
	Child Sponsorship	5403		3421
		11325		8629

CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

16

EIGHTY CLUB OF MELBOURNE INC.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT

30TH JUNE 2003

ASSETS	<i>A N Z Bank - Cheque A/c</i>		13398	
	<i>Cash Management ANZ</i>		30000	
	<i>Term Deposit-Bank of Melbourne</i>		33024	
	<i>Term Deposit-Colonial/Commonwealth</i>		30000	
			0	
			0	
	<i>Conduit</i>		24	
	<i>Stocks</i>		305	
	<i>Security Deposits</i>		200	
	<i>Sundry Debtors</i>			
	<i>(Hall Hire Roti Lunch)</i>	150		
	<i>July-Sep Welfare Payment</i>	6261		
		6411	113362	
LIABILITIES	<i>Subscriptions paid inadvance-to 2004</i>		5397	
	<i>Subscriptions paid inadvance-to 2005</i>		82	
	<u><i>Child Sponsorship-Accumulated to June 2003</i></u>			
		<i>Balance 30th June 2002</i>	10259	
		<i>Payments</i>	-21547	
		<i>Receipts</i>	<u>26950</u>	
			15662	
		<i>Sundry Creditors (Children's Xmas Party)</i>	300	
		<i>Post Secondary Education & Vocational Training</i>	3000	
		<i>Provision for Future Benefits (Estimate for 2 years Payments)</i>	60000	
	<i>Working Capital</i>			
	<i>brought forward</i>	22999		
	<i>Income over Expenditure - July 2002 To July 2003</i>	5922		
		28921	113362	

Auditor's Report

I have audited the books of accounts, the attached statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for the 12 months to 30th June 2003.

In my opinion, the said financial statements reflects a true and fair view of the affairs of the Eighty Club of Melbourne.

CARING FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE



"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again" Stephen Grellet (Authorship attributed much disputed)



NOMINATION FORM

EIGHTY CLUB INC. No.A0013333T

The Secretary
80 Club of Melbourne Inc
P.O. Box 2645
Rowville 3178

Nomination for 2003/2004 Office Bearers

We nominatefor the Office of
..... in the Club for the above period

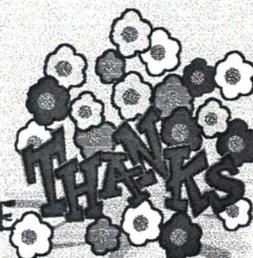
Proposer's Name and Signature

Seconder's Name and Signature

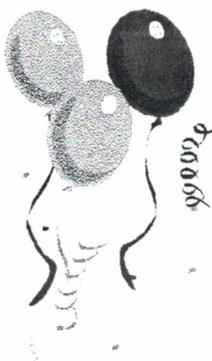
Nominee to sign indicating consent

NB. The form must reach the Secretary before 16 August 2003

THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
 EXTENDS THEIR SINCERE
 THANKS TO
VICTOR & LORRAINE
 OF
ZODIAC CATERING
 FOR THE DONATION
 OF A DINNER
 FOR OUR
 COUNTRY & WESTERN DANCE



ZODIAC CATERING SERVICES



12TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
 DINNER DANCE

FRIDAY 18th July 2003
 at the
 Clayton Hall, Clayton
 7.30 p.m.



Music by **Mustang**

Tickets: \$ 350.00 for table of ten
 Scotch, Beer & Wine included

Right of admission reserved

Dress: Gents - Lounge
 Ladies: After five

Table reservations:
 Victor de Silva on
 9792 3337 Or
 0419519234

If undelivered return to
PO Box 2645
Rowville 3178
Victoria Australia

SURFACE
MAIL

Postage
Paid
Australia

The Eighty Club Melbourne Inc.
Newsletter
INC NO: A0013333T

Print Post Approved
PP327687/00028

330 PAID TO: 31/12/03
Mrs A Bartels
583 Elgar Road
Box Hill North
VIC 3129