



SACIMNews

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Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius
Redacteur en chef: Gilbert

SACIM(Australia) Inc.

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President's Message



Dear members and supporters of Sacim. Once more it is with great pleasure that we bring to you the 2016 edition of our newsletter.

It is however with great sadness that I bring to you the passing of Dr Georges Domainque, our founder who left us a few weeks ago. Dr Domainque emigrated to Australia with his family in 1966. A few years later, after a visit to Mauritius him and his wife saw a need to help bring sick children to Australia for major surgeries that was not possible to be performed in Mauritius.

In 1971, Georges and wife Betty, though at the time had a young family to look after, started the process of bringing children across to Melbourne. Betty worked extremely hard to visit the children in hospital and cared for their recovery at her home.

As the number of children increased, the task became too much for the one family. In 1973, with the help of Serge Guillemain and Raymond Rochecouste, SACIM Victoria was officially launched. At the time little did they know that what they started would survive over 40 years and has given many children a second chance at life. (Please see article by Herve Rochecouste).

Medical:-

Again we have had some encouraging news on the medical front. Last October we funded hospitalisation and surgery costs at the Nara-



yana Hospital in Bangalore for 7 months old baby Matthis Dindoyal who needed urgent surgery prior to him turning 9 months old. It was really a case of touch and go but at the end the operation was a success and I am pleased to advise that now baby Matthis is doing very well and living a normal life.

Last December Eleanor Calychurn was in Melbourne for follow ups accompanied by her parents. Eleanor is the 8 yo girl that we helped with heart surgery at the Epworth hospital last July. Eleanor's results were very encouraging, she is now enjoying life like any young girl of her age should.

Last May Liza Sebastien's parents advised us that Liza has won an award, finishing 2nd at the VCE exams for the whole of Mauritius. The Francois Sockalingum award rewards children in Liza's situation who excel at the VCE exams. You



will remember that on two occasions Liza attended the Royal Children Hospital in Melbourne for surgery and on both occasions we funded all her medical expenses. Our congratulations to this hard working, very determined young lady.

Fund Raising:-

Our annual dinner dance was held at the Malvern Town Hall on 2nd of July. By all accounts the night was a great success. We were honoured by the presence of his Excellency Mr Patrick Cavalot, the Mauritian

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High Commissioner in Canberra. Our 372 guests



were once again entertained by Ben Sandapa and his group and were spoiled with delicious Mauritian food from Jacques

La Catering. We were very encouraged by the many new faces in attendance, especially the young ones. We did receive some complaints about the food being served too late. Our sincere apologies to those who's dinner was served late in the night. We have taken this on board and next year we will stick to our time table. We will not wait for those running late before we start serving dinner.

Our raffle sales were also a big success. We sold more raffle tickets than ever before thanks mainly to those who volunteered to sell raffle books on the night of the dinner dance, and of course those who purchased raffle tickets prior to the dance. A special thank you to Monique Malie from Perth for a tremendous effort in selling so many raffle books.

Of course our fund raising would not have been a success without the hard work of the committee and our army of volunteers. A big thank you to our sponsors, namely Air Mauritius who once again donated the first prize, Seapoint Boutique Hotel in Pointe Aux Cannoniers, JER Company Ltd, The One Stop Shot Photo, Sam Crisci of CDC Homes, Clency Coutet from DIUS Computing, La Caze Mama, Andre from World Network Travel, Paradigm Wealth Advisors, AEServices Electrical and to all those who donated items for our auctions and door prizes. Finally, congratulation to our winners, we hope that you will buy more tickets next year.

Something to think about for next year. Instead of us mailing out the raffle books, you buy the tickets or sell them, fill them out and then return them back to us, what about you tell us how many tickets you want, we fill them out for you, you deposit the money in our accounts and we mail the tickets

to you? You will save on postage and the likelihood of lost raffle books will be eliminated. But we do need your email address or phone number to make this process possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the substantial donations made by a couple of our members. They know who they are and I will simply say a big thank you to them. We sincerely appreciate the effort of everyone who helped us raise much needed funds so that we can help the many unfortunate sick children that so desperately rely on us. Some of our members have already renewed their membership for 2016/2017. If you have not done so yet, please renew your membership as soon as you can. Try to invite a relative or a friend of yours to join us as well.

We consistently try to update our membership database, so if you have changed address, phone number or email address please advise our secretary. With the cost of postal mail it would be far more economical for us to correspond with you via email or by text. Also, please keep in touch with us by joining our facebook page and visiting our website.

Finally, our AGM will be held on Saturday 27th August starting at 2.00 pm at the newly opened Pere Laval Centre, Malibu Circuit, Carrum Downs. Please make a special effort to attend our AGM as we would like to see as many of our members there. As all committee positions will be made vacant, if you or anyone you know would like to join the committee please contact our secretary at least one week before the AGM. We are in desperate need of new committee members. If you cannot attend the AGM please appoint a proxy to have a say on your behalf. See attached form.

Until next time, all the very best to you and your loved ones. Keep safe and well.



Dr Georges Domaingue 27th February 1920 – 9th July 2016

Hervé Rochecouste, SACIM President 2005 to 2008

On the 9th of July 2016 at the funeral of his father Dr Charles Domaingue opened his eulogy by saying *"My father was no ordinary man . . ."* Indeed, those of us who had known Georges over many years concluded that a long time ago. At SACIM we well know that Dr Georges Domaingue left us with a solid legacy of good work – not an ordinary organization, as every year and 43 years later the important mission is still being carried out by volunteers.

The SACIM members, supporters and committee join with me to express their sincere condolences to the Domaingue family on the passing away of Dr Georges Domaingue. I also wish to thank Georges' children Charles, Diana, Irene and Margaret for having kindly contributed information and anecdotes that enabled the compilation of this newsletter article.

Georges was the youngest of six sons Samuel and Marie Domaingue. He also had three sisters and is survived by his younger sister Laurence Hébrard. Georges completed primary school at Rose Hill in Mauritius and started his secondary schooling at the Royal College in Curepipe. In those days the Mauritius Government was offering scholarships to study overseas to the two top students of the island, and in 1938 Georges was a Laureate of the Royal College and was awarded one of those scholarships. Consequently Georges studied medicine in Cambridge and later worked in London where he met Betty who was working as a nurse at the same hospital. After returning to Mauritius Georges worked at the Port Louis hospital for two years. Georges and Betty returned to England in 1949 with their first two children, and Georges undertook further studies to specialise in the field of anaesthesia, and qualify for a Fellowship of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FRCA).

On their return to Mauritius Georges worked as an unattached (solo) General Practitioner, and was also the lead anaesthetist at the Clinique du Bon Pasteur in Rose Hill.



Georges also had other keen interests. According to Margaret' Georges had an entrepreneurial spirit outside his medical work. His love of sailing drove him to build two yachts (Marzine and Meg), and a dinghy (Gem) in the late 1950's. Many weekends were spent at the seaside; at first the family rented a bungalow (*campement*) at Pointe D'Esny near Mahebourg, and by the 1960's Georges has a family bungalow built at Choisy. As for his wife Betty, there was nothing that would overwhelm her. While Georges was overseeing the boat building, Betty would oversee the sewing of all the sails, some of them over 10 metres high. And when Georges decided to sail around the island of Mauritius, Betty would be his First Mate. Georges' other loves were classical music and playing bridge, and of course Betty was not one to be left behind. Margaret remembers many of his friends coming home to play bridge almost every evening, and Georges eventually led to the foundation and establishment of the Alpha Bridge Club in Quatre-Bornes.

After his successful medical career in Mauritius Georges, and the Domaingue family, moved to Melbourne in 1966. In Australia Georges continued his medical career as Director of Anaesthesia at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital where he worked for several years. During those years Georges developed the contacts with other specialists and hospitals, in particular the St. Vincent's Hospital in Fitzroy, and it is there that George had organized for the first SACIM children to have surgery in the early 70s.

Georges is well known to us in Melbourne and elsewhere in Australia for having been the main motivator behind the formation of SACIM in 1973. In fact, Georges and his wife Betty had been involved with SACIM Mauritius and assisting children for a few years before SACIM was formally set up in Melbourne, and then later in Sydney and Perth. In 1970 Georges and Betty visited Mauritius on a holiday and they caught up with colleague Dr Julia Maigrot who had founded SACIM in Mauritius in 1968. In those days the children who could not be operated locally were sent by SACIM Mauritius to France, Switzerland or South Africa. Georges and Dr Maigrot discussed options for sending a few children to Australia as well and the agreement for a trial sowed the seeds for a long history of SACIM children and Australia. Since then we have successfully cared for over 300 children from Mauritius in Australia, and also more than 400 by Australian surgeons going to Mauritius, in particular Professor Paddy Dewan and his *"Kind Cuts For Kids"* team.

To complement his busy medical career and for relaxation, Georges developed several hobbies including classical music appreciation, reading, computer skills, photography amongst others. Georges and Betty purchased a caravan and the pair travelled across the whole of Australia. He also became an expert in wine bottling with his friend Raymond Rochecoste, and a keen grower of tropical vegetables such as chokos.



Georges had already lived up to his *"no ordinary man"* qualities many years before SACIM was founded, as together with Betty they cared for about 15 children from Mauritius in 1971 and 72 on their own. Those of us who have been SACIM Foster Parents will understand that that was

not a small task. The work involved doing all the medical liaison for admission to a Melbourne hospital, picking up and taking to the airport, the numerous hospital visits, and more importantly all the caring at home before and after the surgery. Some of the critical cases involved two or three months stays in Australia. To have successfully cared for 15 children on their own even before SACIM had developed the supporting infrastructure was not at all an ordinary achievement from Georges and Betty. They have set a very high target for volunteer achievement and helping the less fortunate that has subsequently never been reached during the following 43 years of SACIM operation in Australia. Margaret followed the leadership of her parents in the role of the SACIM second president in 1977/1978, and did a great job when she succeeded Serge Guillemain who was the SACIM first and founding president in 1973 to 1976. Georges Domaingue, Serge Guillemain and Raymond Rochecoste worked together in 1973 to formalise SACIM as an incorporated charity organization, developed the first constitution and established the first committee".

Georges' volunteer work never stopped. After retirement from hospital work in the late 80s he joined a medical clinic in Dandenong as a part time GP where he was well known for his support the older members of the Mauritian community of non-English speaking backgrounds, and sometimes less fortunate.

The SACIM children and organization are very grateful to Georges and Betty for having set the vision, and motivated us to follow the lead their work.

[An in-depth interview of Georges and Betty about their SACIM work was published in the August 2003 SACIM Newsletter, Volume 30, Issue 2].



De Maurice à Melbourne.

Après avoir lu le bel et excellent article de Monsieur Rochecouste en hommage au Dr Domaingue, je me suis retrouvée dans la dernière partie de ces écrits et me voici :

D'abord, je suis fière de faire partie d'une association ayant eu comme père fondateur un homme d'un gabarit aussi exceptionnel que le Dr Domaingue. R.i.p.

Partie de Maurice en 1969 à l'âge de 18 ans après avoir côtoyé la misère au quotidien depuis ma plus tendre enfance, l'entraide et la défense de l'enfance malheureuse m'ont toujours collé à la peau sans que je sache ou me demande pourquoi.

Je me suis retrouvée à La Réunion à enseigner dans un établissement religieux pour enfants autrement capables, où sévissait la maltraitance. J'ai dénoncé cet établissement en haut-lieu très naturellement et ai dû évidemment démissionner. Mais Justice a été faite. Une grande première !

Arrivée en France en 1975, avec en moi la culpabilité d'avoir abandonné ma patrie ... alors en récession économique, la volonté d'aider les enfants mauriciens était de plus en plus grande et les demandes d'aide de toutes sortes pleuvaient.

En 1976, la rencontre avec Jacques Bouloux, médecin mauricien à Toulouse a été le point de départ d'une grande aventure humanitaire franco-mauricienne, entre autres.

Enfance et Partage naissait à peine à Paris de la scission de Terre des Hommes Suisse (qui aidait déjà Maurice à travers la SACIM).

La plupart des membres d'Enfance et Partage faisaient alors partie du personnel navigant d'Air France et de ce fait nous étions sur tous les fronts à travers le monde. Le slogan était : « l'Efficacité au service des enfants du Monde »

Les enfants du Vietnam brûlés au napalm, les boat

people, les orphelins du Biafra, les enfants de l'Erythrée dans les hôpitaux souterrains, les enfants de Bolivie, ceux de Haïti, ceux de l'Inde, du Mali, de Madagascar, du Burkina Faso etc etc et bien sûr les Mauriciens faisaient partie de notre liste entre autres. Nous avons également une Action France pour l'enfance maltraitée en France.

Nous voulions aider Maurice. Enfance et Partage a donc pris son essor et, à Toulouse, Bernard Lespine, en était le moteur principal et veillait au grain.

Nous avons, parmi d'autres actions, bien sûr travaillé avec le Dr Julia Maigrot présidente de la SACIM et fait opérer à cœur ouvert et hébergé beaucoup d'enfants mauriciens que nous suivions par la suite. C'était onéreux et nous commençons à nous essouffler.

De Djeddah à Toulouse.

Durant un séjour à Maurice, j'ai appris que le professeur Saoudien, Hassen Raffa chirurgien cardio vasculaire y avait opéré bénévolement et avait laissé tout son matériel de chirurgie qui « rouillait » dans un entrepôt à Cassis.

Nous avons sauté sur l'occasion et pris sa suite en faisant venir depuis le CHU de Toulouse le chirurgien cardio vasculaire Alain Cérène et son équipe à Maurice... régulièrement et ce, pendant 10 ans au moins. C'était un grand défi pour cette époque.

Les enfants et les adultes furent soignés à tour de bras tout en demeurant dans leur contexte mauricien.

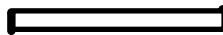
En 1986 Enfance et partage a fait signer un protocole d'accord entre le Ministère de la Santé de Maurice et les hôpitaux de Toulouse pour la formation de chirurgiens cardiaques Mauriciens à Toulouse. Le Dr Gunness en a été le principal bénéficiaire.

Ces écrits situent la relation qu'avait Enfance et Partage et la SACIM Maurice car SACIM Maurice a toujours été l'interface entre le patient et l'association.

Je ne vais pas vous assommer ici avec toute mon aventure humanitaire.



AGM 27th August 2016 14:00



SACIM'S next dinner dance

Stonnington City Centre (Malvern Town Hall)

Saturday 8th July 2017



Enfance et Partage a évolué avec les besoins de l'Enfant à travers les années.

En 1977, pour la 1^{ère} fois en France, Enfance et Partage s'est portée partie civile dans le cas du viol de la petite Leila , 13 ans.

Nous avons créé le premier numéro Vert, ou numéro de téléphone gratuit, en France pour L'Enfance en détresse.

Nous avons un numéro vert Allo Parents Bébé pour aider les parents ... en détresse..

Nous faisons de la Prévention à la Maltraitance dans les écoles de France.

Notre projet de scolarisation à Madagascar existe depuis plus de 30 ans avec 1000 enfants scolarisés, nourris et soignés en permanence.

Nous avons créé une école pour enfants autrement capables à Rodrigues. Et encore...

Arrivée à Melbourne depuis bientôt 2 ans, ayant entendu que la SACIM y était très active, je me suis rattachée au wagon... naturellement.

Président Guy Cyril Tuyau et son équipe sont d'un dynamisme extraordinaire et je les remercie ici de m'avoir acceptée au sein de la SACIM AUSTRALIA.

Irlande Lespine

Le 01 août 2016

J'ai écrit.



Sacim Committee 2013 – 2014

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Vice President & Major events co-ordinator

Gilbert Clark (0414 935 454)

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Treasurer

Christiane Quenette (0401 144 719)

Ass Secretary & membership Co-ordinator

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Medical Advisers

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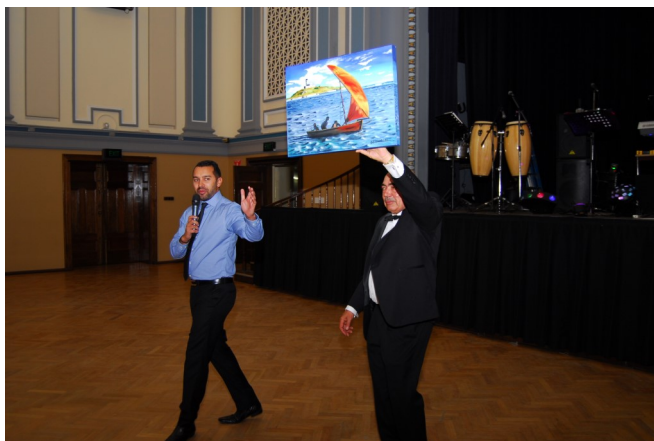
Sophie Rochecouste

The SACIM ball at the Malvern Town Hall was once again a massive hit (please don't ever change the venue). Cyril Tuyau talked about the role of SACIM and its work, three children had received life saving treatment. One was operated in India and two in Australia. Cyril noted those children had recovered well thanks to the generosity and supporters of SACIM. Cyril re-emphasized the need that they have for supporters due the ongoing demand for children requiring lifesaving surgery and treatment.



The dinner was attended by over 365 people which really reflects the endearing work of SACIM. The raffle was a success, guests couldn't have enough of them and the first prize was won by one of the guests present which created a lot of excitement from the winner's table.

Because the supporters of SACIM were so generous in their donations this year that the organisers introduced a silent auction which was very successful. We of course also had the live auction where Nick Tuyau excels in this field. He manages to incite an excitement in the bidders who therefore generously part with their hard earned cash.



Waiting for your table number to be called for dinner is always a waiting game and there is always a roaring cheer when each table is called. The delicious Mauritian fare is definitely worth the wait and there



always some who go back for sneaky seconds.

I was very impressed by the sega moves on the night, those moves are hard to come by. The music with its



mix of young and old definitely got everyone on the dance floor.

Can't wait for the next SACIM event in July next year and I will definitely need to work on my sega moves beforehand!

By Sarah Hirschi



Grand raffle first prize winner with Cyril and P. Cavalot, High Commissioner for Mauritius in Australia



For Newsletter queries, please contact
 The SACIM (Aust) Secretary
 At
222 Brandon Park Drive
Wheelers Hill, VIC 3150
AUSTRALIA

Tel: 03-9561-1953
 E-Mail: info@sacim.org.au

Web Site:
www.sacim.org.au

About SACIM (Australia) Inc. SACIM (Aust) Inc. is a volunteer charitable organisation that started in Australia in 1973 to provide critical operations in Australian Hospitals to children inoperable in Mauritius. The focus in Australia has shifted recently in that more parents from Mauritius are approaching SACIM directly to meet some of the funding shortfall in the provision of critical medical care to their infants overseas (from Mauritius)

Some of the medical and professional services may be voluntarily provided. Nevertheless, there are substantial costs that cannot be waived. Those costs have amounted into tens of thousands of dollars. SACIM's contributions have been sourced from supporters throughout Australia from dinner dances and raffles. Over the past 43 years SACIM has cared for hundreds children from Mauritius in Australia and overseas.

Also, SACIM in Australia has been able to sponsor Specialist Doctors from Australia to travel to Mauritius to perform operations locally there; an effective service delivery to more children when this has been appropriate.

To find more about SACIM, to join the organization or to become a volunteer, please call the Secretary on **03-9561-1953** or discuss with any Committee Member. A membership application form is included at the bottom of this page.

Your donation is welcome, please use the form at the bottom of this page . Thank you.



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SACIM Australia is the proud recipient of the 2005 Victoria Award for excellence in Multicultural Affairs.

SOCIETY FOR AID TO CHILDREN INOPERABLE IN MAURITIUS - Membership Application & Donation Form

I /We would like to renew my/our membership, or apply to become a member(s) of SACIM (Aust) Inc., ABN 23 058 026 816,

Or make a donation as indicated below.

Please find enclosed a Cheque/Money Order/Cash for \$_____ (Membership is \$15 per annum per member, \$25 for family)

Please find enclosed a Cheque/Money Order/Cash for \$_____ (being my/our **donation** in support of SACIM's work.)

TOTAL \$_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Signature (1) _____

Signature (2) _____

Membership runs from 1st July to 30th June financial year.

Please send completed form to: The SACIM Secretary, 222 Brandon Park Drive, Wheelers Hill, VIC 3150.

A receipt will be sent for all membership fees and donations. Thank You.