



# SACIM News

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Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius

**SACIM**  
(Australia) Inc.  
Volume 35  
Issue 2  
December 2008

## President's Message *Gilbert Clark*



As SACIM concludes its 35th year in Australia, there has been a change at the helm. With great trepidation I embrace this mission to steer SACIM through an ever changing environment.

It is not so much about the "financial crisis" currently enveloping the industrial world, as it is about the provision of medical intervention to children inoperable in Mauritius. Whereas 280 children from Mauritius were previously treated in the various states in Australia over 35 years, the future sees more patients being treated locally by their own doctors after having been suitably trained by the likes of Professor Paddy Dewan. *Doctor Nazeer Hosany* for example spent a year and a half at the Sunshine Hospital under the wings of Professor Dewan before returning to Mauritius where he now performs some of the delicate paediatric surgery not before attempted in Mauritius. There are now two such surgeons operating in Mauritius relieving Professor Dewan to attend to more complicated cases during his visits. Professor Dewan himself, with his team from the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation includes Mauritius in his annual overseas mission to countries less affluent than ours. The latest visit concluded only a few weeks ago. Professor Dewan has kindly submitted an article for this newsletter (see page 2).

So the delivery of our mission is changing. During this year, SACIM Australia contributed toward the treatment of *Emmeline Etienne* in Sydney as has been previously reported. The approach came not from SACIM Mauritius but from supporters in Sydney where the patient was already being treated. *Hervé* reported on *Emmeline* in the previous newsletter.

Options were looked at for the treatment of *Marina Dahoo* who first came to Melbourne in 1973 as a 4 year old subsequently, in 1985 and again in 1998. After the appropriate investigations and report from Australia and despite acceptability by SACIM Aust, this case was withdrawn by SACIM Mauritius.

The efforts of SACIM Australia must however continue. Even if we do not care for the children here, our basic mission does not change. It is more cost effective to sponsor teams such as the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation, headed by Professor Dewan, who trains the local paediatric surgeons on the ground and takes those beyond the local talent in his own care when he visits.

In Professor Dewan, we have found a very caring person and he has been a strong supporter of SACIM and its philosophy. He seldom misses an opportunity to praise what we do. You will read in *Pauline George's* article about *Liam*, that *Paddy* is currently defending a case taken to the medical board. In a display of solidarity, members of the SACIM committee joined with a large number of parents whose children have been treated by *Paddy* to demonstrate our support for him and his work. It was like Father Christmas had entered the room when *Paddy* walked in. Some of the children ran to and latched on to him. *Paddy* was successful in defending a similar case before and SACIM will again put its money where its mouth is and will make a substantial contribution to the Kind Cuts for Kids foundation this year again.

In Melbourne we had two successful major fundraisers during the year. The night at *Freccia Azzura* attracted some 390 guests. Our last dance in *Hampton Park* attracted some 220 guests. I must thank all of SACIM's supporters for consistently attending our dinner dances and often bringing in new guests. Keep on encouraging your friends and relatives to sign up as members and to participate in SACIM's activities.

Ours is a beautiful philanthropy. It is right that as expatriates we contribute to the well-being of children of our native land. There will always be a need for our call to arms.

Accordingly, we acknowledge the contribution made by our supporters in Brisbane who raised in excess of \$2,600 at their fundraiser dance on October 4 last. We hope that *Elizabeth Mamet* and her team will continue this annual event for the cause of the "petits malades" of Mauritius as she so sweetly put it. We trust we shall get Sydney onboard and before much longer have regular functions there as well.

I succeed a very energetic and competent now ex-president. Congratulations to *Hervé* for his immense contribution to a cause his own father championed with others some 35 years ago. It is appropriate also to recognise the dedicated service given by the immediate past secretary, *Monique Cavalot*. I have not known any other SACIM's secretary, *Monique* having been there forever. Members of the team have not changed. Only a couple of deck chairs re-arranged. Thank you to all committee members for your dedication to the cause.

I commend to you the other articles in this newsletter. *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and supporters.*

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**35 Years in Australia**

### 2009 Calendar

- Dinner Dance Function Melbourne  
28 March 2009
- Annual Function Brisbane  
August 2009
- AGM 2009 Melbourne  
29 August 2009
- Charity Dance Melbourne  
31 October 2009

**Paediatric Surgery Report - 2008** *Professor Paddy Dewan*

I returned from Mauritius mid November this year, after yet another successful trip there with a team of specialists from Melbourne. This is the ninth visit of the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation to Mauritius and the second to Flaq Hospital. All the Mauritius visits over the past seven years have been supported by SACIM.

On this occasion, 154 consultations were conducted for a total of 138 patients, starting with a clinic over 85 patients on the day of arrival. Forty operations were performed during 26 Anaesthetics, with two taking more than 8 hours each; bringing the total number of operations conducted since 2001 to 452, during 319 Anaesthetics on 222 operative patients. A total of 403 patients have been treated. More than 80 patients with an abnormality of their lower bowel, including Hirschsprung's disease and imperforate anus.

**Clinic cases**

The cases seen in the clinics and in the ward included:

16 children with an anorectal anomaly Hirschsprung's: 6; Megarectum: 3; Constipation: 2; Hypospadias: 45; COPUM: 12; UDT's: 14; Hydronephrosis: 1; Cloacal anomaly: 1; Nephrotic Syndrome: 1; PUJ obstruction: 6; Intersex: 2; Duplex Ureterocele: 1; Epispadias: 1; Branchial fistula: 2; Bladder exstrophy: 2; Prune Belly Syndrome: 2; Renal dysplasia: 2; & Neuropathic bladder: 7.

**Operations**

Hypospadias repair: 8 cases; Pena type procedure : 4 cases; Swenson – Hirschsprung's: 3 cases; Orchi-dopexies: 2 cases; Laparoscopy: 1 case; Branchial fistula excision : 2 cases; Cystoscopy: 2 cases.

Dr Naresh Burton and Dr Nazeer Hosany were well supported by the anaesthetic and junior medical staff, with great assistance from the Ministry and their team. Caron Oakley again worked tirelessly and Dr Colin Gordon, in his first visit provided great support to Professor Dewan and his surgical team, while assisting with teaching of the local anaesthetic staff.



Professor Dewan and Dr Gordon oversee Dr Hosany Nazeer completing an operation.

The Health Minister kindly sponsored a dinner for the team and the Australian High Commission also provided a night of entertainment and an opportunity to thank SACIM for their contribution.

Paediatric Surgery now needs to develop infrastructure to support those who have trained in the specialty, negotiation about which the team provided input. Options are being explored, but should include the considerations of convenience, but also the need for back of intensive care, laboratories, radiology, Paediatricians, Anaesthesia and nursing staff.

\*\*\*\*\*

Quite a few SACIM supporters had the opportunity to attend the launch of Paddy's poetry book in November. Yes! Paddy has now put his artistic hat on and has produced a small book of poetry to share his experiences of travelling around the world to perform surgery on children. The book "Walking Through A Real Fantasy" is published by **Papyrus Publishing** and is available for \$19.80 from [www.papyrus.com.au](http://www.papyrus.com.au) or by contacting them on 03-5342-2263.

The following poem, read on the 3ZZZ program on Saturday 22 November, is about the junior doctors in the picture below, and is reproduced in this letter by authorisation from Papyrus Publishing.

**Daring Young Dodos**

*Caned for miles  
Dined till bursting  
Necessity producing silence  
Legs with static swelling  
Mothers filled with love  
Pain and suffering relieved.*

*A wheel chair causes laughter  
Bags are carried  
Cars are waved away  
Daring to care.*

*Thank you  
And in return  
Smiles  
Photos  
Memories  
Young people daring to care,  
Not extinct.*



"Daring Young Dodos" is a poem about the junior doctors in this photo.





## Liam *Pauline George*

SACIM supporters have no doubt read in recent Melbourne papers that Professor Paddy Dewan is once more facing a medical board hearing, and the completion of his 3 month contract at Western Health. Paddy has been through similar processes before and was successful in defending his case. Supporters of Paddy as well as members of the media were invited to come and listen to patients and parents who need him to stay in the Public Health System. The SACIM committee and some supporters attended a solidarity gathering organized by *Pauline and Wes George* on Wednesday 3rd December at the Harbour Town Hotel at the Docklands. Several speakers voiced their support for Paddy by talking about his work for their children or in their communities. The SACIM President *Gilbert Clark* talked about the good work that Paddy and his teams had done in Mauritius over the past 7 years, during which time about 400 children had benefited from critical surgery. We also heard solidarity speeches from the Palestinian Community, and *Maggie Hamerton* from the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation.

We have reproduced below the transcript of the speech by Pauline George sharing with us the first few weeks of her baby's life—*Liam*.



Gilbert delivers his speech as Liam (nearly 4 now) supervises

\*\*\*\*\*



In January 2005 my husband and I were ecstatic to find out that we were expecting our second child.

At my 20-week scan our joy turned to uncertainty when we were told that there might be something wrong with our child's kidneys. Over the next two weeks scans confirmed there was a problem. At 22 weeks we met a wonderful, compassionate sonographer who told us not to worry, go home and try to just enjoy the pregnancy. An appointment was made for a month later and we left the hospital. I'm not sure if Wes and I were brave or ignorant but we remained positive and arrived smiling at 26 weeks to Simon's clinic. This wonderful man's face turned white as he ran the ultrasound over my belly. His voice broke as he told Wes and I that this was more severe than 1st expected, that serious intervention needed to take place and that we may need to deliver the baby as

soon as possible. Such an array of emotions began to surface. The next day I went along to school as usual. I had a beautiful, intelligent and funny class of spirited year 5/6 students. A few times during the day I caught myself staring at these children wondering if my unborn child was going to be as fortunate as these children one day. Twice I had to leave the class to pull myself together.

Over the next nine weeks we were under the care and constant supervision of the Mercy Hospital. They sent us along to a surgeon who told us that once the baby was born we had 24 hours to get the baby to the Royal Children's hospital and if it went into renal failure during that time – not to bother. Every emotion we had previously owned was now overshadowed by complete and utter fear.

Our beautiful Liam was born by emergency caesarean at 35 weeks and rushed, without his mother, to the neonatal unit of the Royal Children's hospital. I followed a couple of days later and we spent the first 4 weeks of Liam's life there, then returned to the Mercy for another week or so. Over the next ten weeks we went back and forth to the Children's. Each Tuesday we had an outpatient's appointment and on three occasions we were admitted directly after these appointments. We also entered through emergency twice. During this time it was very difficult to form any sort of attachment with my baby. At that stage of my life I could have walked out of that hospital with any child and felt the same way.

Although the days quickly turned into weeks I can vividly remember crying myself to sleep one night, ashamedly, I begged God to take my baby from this world and end his suffering. Thankfully for us, He doesn't always answer our prayers with a resolving "Yes". Instead he gave Wes and I the courage and strength to source a second opinion. This second opinion came from Professor Paddy Dewan.

After hours of phone consultations – some from Marishes, Wes and I agreed that we felt more comfortable with the course of action that Paddy suggested. Paddy met our precious little boy when he was 15 weeks old. For the first time, all of Liam's test results were placed out on the table. We were asked questions about him and became involved in a discussion about Liam's health. We went through what had happened to him and what our understandings and expectations were. This had never happened before.

Paddy operated on Liam's right kidney on the Monday night and the left Kidney on the Tuesday night. Both times coming out and explaining in detail how the operations had gone, even using digital images to further our understanding. Paddy checked on Liam so many times during the days that followed, if not in person, by phone, and by Friday we were ready to go home.

The following Sunday Liam laughed out loud for the 1st time. He also slept through the night for the first time and we noticed that the constant groan that came with Liam was no longer there.

Instead of these being simply baby's advancement or a developmental stage, Paddy used these as vital indicators in Liam's progress and all of a sudden we felt that we too were getting to know our son. We were taught that by simply observing our child and following our gut instincts we were becoming more in tune with how he was going.

Since this time we have had a few minor hiccups, but Paddy has been there every step of the way, supporting and educating us about our son's condition. For a while there we actually thought Liam was his only patient. We couldn't believe the time and effort being put into him. We have since realised that Paddy is like that with every child, every family – he just mustn't sleep. . .

We have also come to realise that our story is not rare. That many families have experienced the same frustration of playing the waiting game, or having their child incorrectly diagnosed, or have been treated with such little respect whilst going through the most painful of times. I guess in some crazy way – we are the lucky ones. If you have to have a sick child, I can't imagine anyone disagreeing with me here – ***Paddy Dewan - is the man you want in your corner.***

## SACIM October 2008 Dinner Dance *Marlène Tesmann SACIM (Aust) Inc. Functions Coordinator*

On the 18th October 2008 SACIM celebrated its last fundraising dinner dance for the year at the Arthur Wren Community Centre. The newly revamped hall interior provided an excellent venue for our function. As usual our supporters came in great numbers.

*Hervé Rochecouste* compèred the night and welcomed the guests and introduced the new president, Gilbert Clark. Gilbert thanked the previous president Hervé for his dedication to the organization for the last 6 years. He also congratulated *Monique Cavalot*, the previous secretary, for years of valuable and incessant service behind the scene. Both Hervé and Monique will continue to be on the committee and provide us with their invaluable expertise. *Gilbert* introduced his new team for 2008-2009. Gilbert also mentioned that *Professor Paddy Dewan* sent his apology for not attending the function this time as he had just returned from another prolonged surgery session overseas.



After the formalities "**Jean-Claude and his Coco Band**" lured dancers to the floor with their impressive reinvigorating variety of music. Dancers reminisce as they danced to some well known tunes; the band also engaged the young guests with some of their hottest tracks. We cannot of course exclude the participation of the new president turned into bongo player who surprised us all with his well hidden talent.

The service of **Jacques La Catering** was impeccable as usual; waiters were focused on each guest to enable smooth flow as they chose their favourite dish. *Henrico Gontran*, committee member, ensured the tables were well replenished with the "gajacks" and the hot spicy vegetable "achar" was in good supply.

The 2008 Air Mauritius Grand Raffle was drawn at 10:30 p.m. *Charles Jean* from Harvey Bay in Queensland was the lucky winner of our first prize which was a return ticket to Mauritius for two donated by **Air Mauritius** and 6 nights accommodation at **Seapoint Bungalows** at Pointe aux Canonnières donated by *Mrs Akaloo*.

The second prize of 3 nights Gold Coast Holiday for 2 at the Crown Towers Resort donated by **a1 gold coast holiday** was won by *Gina Quenette* from Melbourne.

The 3rd prize of "An Oil Painting, framed" donated by artist *Joseph Drich* was won by *Dennis & Terry Granger* from Melbourne.

The 4th prize of One Dinner Voucher (\$150.) for two at the "The Point Steak House", Albert Park donated by *Amy & Sydney Cabral* was won by *Madison Hem* from Melbourne.

The 5th prize: A Shopping Voucher donated by SACIM (Aust) Inc. (value \$100.) was won by *Coralie Bateman* from Perth.

Our sincere thanks to all our sponsors and supporters for their donations to the raffle. We also thank the supporters from Sydney, Brisbane and Perth for their tireless efforts in the ticket sale and the fundraising dance. This combined solidarity continues to ensure that we provide the necessary aid to the needy patients of Mauritius.

We hope to see you again at our next function on the **28th of March 2009** at the **Freccia Azzura Club** in Keysborough – based on the good positive feedback of April 2008, this will be an excellent function! Please see the details of this coming function on Page 8 of this newsletter and book your tickets early, as last year the function was booked out and very successful. Come and have a great night out in friendly company with plenty of dancing and a talented band playing your favourite music. Enjoy a scrumptious dinner in a lively atmosphere of fun and laughter. Based on the extremely good positive feedback from our members and supporters after the dinner dance at Freccia Azzura earlier this year, the committee has decided to hold a similar event there next March—we are sure that it will be as enjoyable as the last one. We will also once again have our minor raffle as usual for this fundraising function, i.e., from our great sponsor a1 gold coast holiday (see the bottom of this page). Not only you will have an enjoyable evening on the 28th of March 2009, but you will also have a chance of winning a 3-day holiday for 2 at the Crown Towers resort on the Gold Coast. **Book your table now!**

Contact details: [stephan@a1goldcoastholiday.com.au](mailto:stephan@a1goldcoastholiday.com.au) Phone: 0438-216-195. [www.a1goldcoastholiday.com.au](http://www.a1goldcoastholiday.com.au)  
Support a1 gold coast holiday and you will be supporting SACIM. Call now!







SACIM October 2008 Dinner Dance Photos





**SACIM 2008 AGM Report and Financial Summary** *Jimmy Walter—Treasurer*



Financial members attended the 35th Annual General Meeting of SACIM Australia Inc on Saturday the 23rd of August this year at the St. John Vianney parish Hall. After the reading and approval of the 2007 AGM minutes, the president *Hervé Rochecouste* addressed the members and presented a summary operational report for the Financial year 2007-2008. Hervé mentioned that there had been no patient referred from SACIM

Mauritius over the past 12 months year; however, in line with its constitution, SACIM (Aust) donated \$10,000 to support *Professor Dewan's* missions in Mauritius. We also provided \$20,000 in support of *Emmeline Etienne*, a 5 years old child who underwent neurological surgery in Sydney. Again, in accordance with our constitution this money was paid directly to the hospital in settlement of a medical bill incurred by the Etienne family.

The fundraising functions comprised a dance in Brisbane, the Air Mauritius Raffle, a Charity dance and the 35th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance.

Hervé commented that operations at SACIM Mauritius had a slow "re-start" over the past months after the decision not to close down in 2007.

Hervé confirmed that the Special Resolutions passed at the 2007 AGM had been implemented but necessitated some further adjustments to be addressed later in the meeting.

The summary financial report was attached to the document circulated to all members attending the AGM. An operating deficit of \$1,866 was mainly due to the fact that interest from investments were lower as we had transferred money to the current account to be ready for the planned treatment of *Marina Dahoo* (who eventually was not sent to Mel-

bourne for treatment). Also, the last quarter interest from ESANDA was credited after the end of the financial year and will be included in the FY2008-2009 accounts.

The covering letter provided by Honorary Auditor Stenio Ross was attached to the reports circulated to members attending the AGM. The total revenue received by SACIM (Aust) was under \$250,000, and as such an external audit was not mandated. However, and as usual, an external audit of the bookkeeping and finances has been conducted and the report was tabled for the members to analyse. The audit confirmed that the SACIM (Aust) accounts and reports complied the Corporations Act 2001, the Accounting Standards in Australia and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

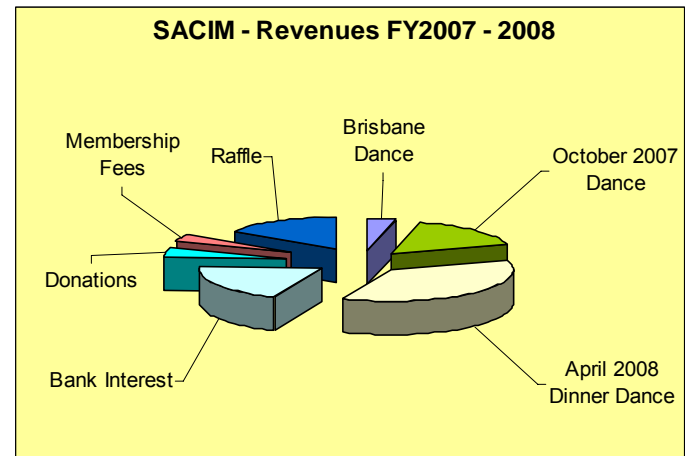
Hervé advised that he was not re-nominating as President. He thanked all those who had supported him during his 3 years in the Chair and all those who preceded him as Presidents. *Monique Cavalot* also stepped down from the Secretary position after having served in that office continuously since 1999. Hervé thanked *Monique* for her great contribution over the past 9 years.

Nominations had been received for the committee positions and voting was not necessary as there were no contests. The new committee was declared as follows:

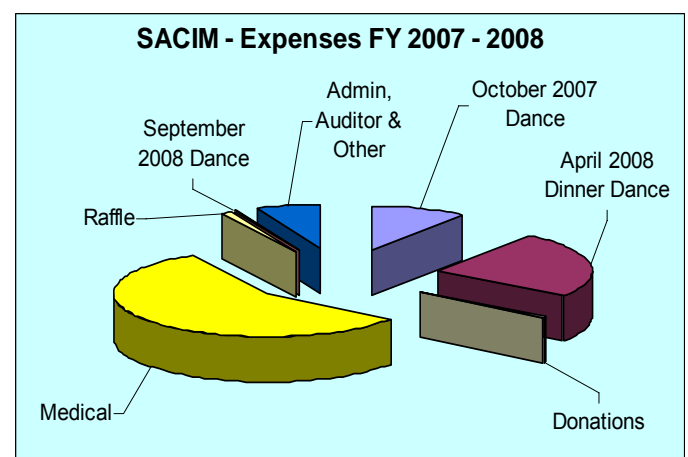
President: *Gilbert Clark*; Vice President: *Hervé Rochecouste*; Secretary: *Marlène Tesmann*; Treasurer: *Jimmy Walter*. Ordinary Members : *Fritz Herry, May Herry, Monique Cavalot, Chantal Félix, Henrico Gontran, Cynthia Moirt and Guy (Cyril) Tuyau.*

As incoming new president *Gilbert Clark* took the floor and thanked Hervé for the excellent work done over the past six years as treasurer then president. *Gilbert* advised that he will do his best to continue the long tradition of good work at SACIM.

Revenues Summary	
Brisbane Dance	\$ 2,002
October 2007 Dance	\$ 8,340
April 2008 Dinner Dance	\$ 18,848
Bank Interest	\$ 10,023
Donations	\$ 2,385
Membership Fees	\$ 2,025
Raffle	\$ 8,040
	<b>\$51,663</b>



Expenses Summary	
October 2007 Dance	\$ 5,355
April 2008 Dinner Dance	\$ 13,360
Donations	\$ 200
Medical	\$ 30,348
Raffle	\$ 502
September 2008 Dance	\$ 250
Admin, Auditor & Other	\$ 3,514
	<b>\$53,529</b>





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SACIM Acknowledges the valuable support provided by Air Mauritius: Two Return Tickets Melbourne-Mauritius as the First Prize for our Major Raffle drawn at our end of the year Charity Ball each year.

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

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E-Mail: [sacim@rochecouste.com](mailto:sacim@rochecouste.com)

SACIM is kindly hosted by Clancy Philippe on  
his Web Site at:  
[Http://www.users.bigpond.com/clancy/sacim.htm](http://www.users.bigpond.com/clancy/sacim.htm)

**About SACIM (Australia) Inc.** SACIM (Aust) Inc. is a volunteer charitable organization which started in Australia in 1973 to provide critical operations in Australian Hospitals to children inoperable in Mauritius. The organization is affiliated to SACIM in Mauritius who identifies the cases and prepares the children to be sent to several countries. In Australia the role of SACIM is to establish contact with hospitals and professional medical personnel, welcome the children, provide foster parenting during their stays, admit them to hospital, visit and comfort them during their stressful time here and care for them until they can go back home. This assistance is all provided by volunteers.

Some of the medical and professional services are voluntarily provided but there are some costs that cannot be waived. Depending on the case, the costs can vary between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Those costs are paid by funds raised by SACIM supporters throughout Australia. Over the past 34 years SACIM has cared for about 300 children from Mauritius in Australia.

More recently SACIM in Australia has been able to sponsor Specialist Doctors from Australia to travel to Mauritius to perform operations. In some cases this has proved a more effective way of treating the children.

To find more about SACIM, to join the organization or to become a volunteer call the Secretary on **03-9561-1953** or discuss with any Committee Member.

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

**SACIM (Australia) Inc.**  
**Fundraising Dinner Dance Function on Saturday 28th March 2009**  
**At the Freccia Azzurra Club (Free On-Site Parking)**  
 784 – 796 Springvale Road  
 Keysborough VIC 3173, *Melway Map 88-H11*  
 Time: 7:00pm to 00:30am—Dinner served at 7:45pm sharp!!!  
 Fully Catered Dinner Dance with Resident Band Entertainment

**3 Course Meal:**  
 Entrée, Main Course, Desserts;  
 Followed by Coffee, Tea & Mints;  
**Wine, Beer & Soft Drinks Included.**  
*Spirits @ Bar Prices on the night \$5.50 to \$6.50 average*  
**\$45 Per Person** – Tables of 10 preferred

Please book your tickets for this SACIM Special Function from your usual SACIM contact or:  
*Gilbert Clark: 03-5996-2919, Marlène Tesmann: 03-9561-1953, Hervé Rochecouste: 03-9561-7078, Jimmy Walter: 03-9758-6812,  
 Monique Cavalot: 03-9799-0895, Fritz Herry: 03-9560-2914, Cyril (Guy) Tuyau: 03-9390-1838, Henrico Gontran: 03-8787-5719,  
 Chantal Félix: 03-9561-5716, Cynthia Moirt: 03-9794-5316.*

**All payments before Friday 13th of March 2009!!! (or tickets will not be confirmed).**  
**Thank you, see you there!**

**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 \$\_\_\_\_\_

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 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Signature (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June financial year. GST is included in the membership fees.**  
**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.*