



SACIM News

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Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius

SACIM(Australia)
Inc.

Volume 37 Issue 2

December 2010

President's Message *Gilbert Clark*



Happy New Year to one and all. I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and are still enjoying some holiday time.

How to feel about this past year at SACIM? It has had

its disappointments and its pleasantries; its joys and its sadness.

The Bhavna we talked about at the May dance was removed from our case file before the October dance after substantial assessments had been completed for her anticipated admission at the Epworth hospital in Richmond. We thank Dr Michael A Johnson and his colleagues for all the time they have donated analysing this case.

The AGM was held in August. No newcomers were elected and instead Hervé retired from the committee. The list of all current office bearers can be found on our website at www.sacim.org.au

Our second dinner dance for the year was held in October. Again, the Malvern Town Hall did not fail to impress and bar some suggestions for further improvement which, we have taken onboard it a was a darn good entertaining night having had each other's company for some serious socialising, Les Flamboyants to entertain us and Jacques La Catering to feed us. Carmel on page 4 has once again been volunteered to put pen to paper to expertly inform you all about that evening. Next, we will consider conscripting her for her ability with accurate and complimentary reporting.

Professor Paddy Dewan spent the best part of two weeks in sunny Mauritius in early October attending to some 140 patients and performed some 43 operations on 26 patients. Prof Dewan has kindly provided us with a comprehensive report for inclusion in this newsletter. We can view the last picture in his report not only as a source of information about a patient's treatment but also an anchor point to appreciate the quality of care and medical expertise SACIM

should be justly proud to be associated with. Facilitating this level of health care with our commitment and support, moral and financial has to be emotionally rewarding. I would expect that in 2011 we will still strive to provide the care we have charged ourselves to provide for the wellbeing of children inoperable in Mauritius.

This year has finished very sadly for all of us on the committee and much, much more so for his family of course. In July SACIM lost Pierre Rochecouste of Sydney. On December 12, we lost Jimmy to an illness which has plagued him for some three years. Both those men have been great friends of and contributors to SACIM. SACIM's demise in Sydney did not stop Pierre from his ongoing contribution. Amongst other things, Pierre took charge of the distribution and management of dozens of raffle books for our major raffle every year. I first met Pierre through the boy scout movement in my early teens.

And then there was Jimmy. I am sure those who knew Jimmy held him in the same high esteem I did. His demeanour commanded a certain respect. Some years ahead of me at the College du Saint Esprit, he eventually became one of our teachers after successfully completing his HSC. Jimmy became SACIM's treasurer during Hervé's presidency and has made a substantial contribution to the cause. Even though he had retired from the treasurer's position at the last AGM, he remained active on the committee and his contribution was ongoing until death. I had the privilege of saying goodbye to Jimmy a couple of days beforehand. A moment I will treasure for a long time. To Guillemette, Steven, Trevor & Christopher, I and on behalf of SACIM Australia, extend our sincere condolences and deepest sympathies.

To all members and supporters of SACIM may the year ahead continue to bring you good health and happiness.

Happy New Year

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Check website for regular updates

Farewell to Jacques (Jimmy) Walter, 1944—2010.*Hervé Rochecouste*

Sunday morning 12th of December 2010 and the phone rang just before 6am in the morning. I knew that this would be important, and when I answered and heard Guillemette's weak voice on the other end, I already knew that the news about Jimmy would not be so good. I just spoke to Guillemette on Saturday afternoon to find out what would be an appropriate time to see Jimmy on Monday morning.

It all happened very quickly. Jimmy had been fighting colon cancer for the past 3 years, and after surgery had been managing his chemo treatments with a lot of courage. Every time we saw him he was full of courage, inspiration and motivation – so much so that we all thought that he was winning the fight. As the SACIM Australia treasurer he attended all the monthly meeting during that period, and as usual he was always in control with his financial reports and investment advice. He was there at the October function and he knew that it would be his last one. In the past few months Jimmy had been advised that his chemo treatment had not been successful and that the cancer had unfortunately spread. I visited him a few times over the past few weeks and knowing that he was in the terminal phase, he had organized for palliative care at home. When we last spoke he had accepted his fate and was in control, in spite of the suffering and discomfort.

Having known Jimmy for over 55 years, I personally solicited his assistance a few years ago as SACIM President when I required a Treasurer – he immediately accepted and his contribution to the organization over the past 6 years has been priceless. He was knowledgeable, a very hard and consistent worker, and above all a very good “moderator” who always brought the committee grand strategies to plans that were acceptable and achievable. Jimmy had a long career with the ANZ Bank prior to his retirement and SACIM has benefited from his experience.

All of you will have read Jimmy's SACIM Newsletter articles on Page 6 over the past few years – they were informative about all the financial decisions that were being taken, and about the accurate reporting of the status. For all of us who have followed the SACIM changes in the recent years, we would have followed the systematic and step by step activities that Jimmy implemented to evolve the constitution to what it is today. This was by far his greatest contribution to the organization and as a result SACIM has been formally positioned to be ready to face the future mission. The changes were carefully prepared to suit the agreed strategies, communicated in Newsletters, presented at

Jacques Pierre Walter

AGMs, amended required, and eventually adopted and formalised. Such an achievement required constant application and hard work over two whole years, in addition to the day to day activities of Treasurer. We thank you for this great contribution Jimmy.

Jimmy was a quiet motivator to all of us. He was not keen to assume the more visible leadership role, but was quite happy to do the hard background work that keep things moving. At the last AGM he stepped down from the Treasurer's position, but stayed on the committee to ensure that the processes that he established would continue beyond his own time in the role. Gilbert visited Jimmy a couple of days ago and Jimmy handed him three envelopes with information and instructions for the President, Treasurer and Secretary to complete and close all his action items outstanding from the last committee meeting. He had taken the time to hand write the names and addresses on the envelopes, and included a 55c stamp on each to ensure that they reach the recipients. He knew then that he would not be around for much longer, but still felt the urge to quietly drive issues to conclusion.

SACIM conveys its sincere condolences to Guillemette, Stephen, Trevor and Christopher and their families. Thank you for having supported Jimmy behind the scenes while he was devoting valuable time to SACIM.

Mauritius

11th Paediatric Urology/Surgery Teaching Program 29th September - 10th October 2010

Prof Paddy Dewan

Mauritius has been part of the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation program since 2001, the recent visit being the 11th. Seventy patients were seen in a clinic on the first day, and a second clinic was held on the Saturday; a further small number of patients were seen in the ward, resulting in a total of 140 consultations as part of the program. The most important aspect of this visit was the high proportion of the surgery that was performed by Dr Kevin Teerovengardum, and the success of the Mauritian Anaesthetic support. The total number of patients treated in the 10 years exceeds 450, with over 1200 consultations and 500 anaesthetics.

The challenge, now, is to establish the infrastructure and support for those who now have the Paediatric Surgical training to provide the service, which include:

Elective theatre

Equipment

Time

Emergency theatre access

Support from associated specialties

Pathology

Radiology

Paediatric medical

Neonatal intensive care

Nursing

Funding for Paediatric Surgical research

Paediatric Surgical Professional Development

Community awareness

GP training

For Mauritius to have a sustainable Paediatric Surgical Service, there will have to be a focus on a regional solution, ie, the Paediatric Surgeons should be involved in outreach to nearby countries, where they should involve themselves in the role of learning through teaching. Thus, maintaining their skill base through access to a critical mass of complex cases. If such an approach is not facilitated, Mauritius will not be able to attract those with sufficient training and ability to give world best practice to its people.

During the recent visit, 43 operations were performed on 26 patients:

Urology

Cystoscopy	– 5	Hypospadias	– 11
Hysterovagnectomy	– 1	Ureteric diverticulectomy	–
	1		
Mitrofanoff - bladder	– 1	Pyeloplasty	– 1



Dr Naresh Burton working along-side one of the theatre nursing staff (left). On the one day of reset, Naresh snaps Kevin, Paddy and Mclee (right) as they spend the day team building before another long day of surgery.

Gala Event at Malvern Town Hall! 16th October 2010 *Carmel Meehan*

The SACIM committee once again created a “wow factor” by their stunning white and pink decorations which admirably suited the elegance of the Malvern Town Hall venue. The pink Singapore orchids on each table added to this elegance. The weather outside was freezing but inside the atmosphere was inviting and warm. But just to make sure that those who needed to be, were extra warm, there were a few jars of homemade “dynamite” hot chilli sauce being surreptitiously produced from hand bags and coat pockets.

A warm welcome was extended to everyone by President Gilbert Clark and to some special guests including Professor Paddy Dewan and Dr. Padma Rao; Anna and Steven Palombo (Air Mauritius); Alex Rima, the Honorary Consul for Mauritius in Victoria and his wife Mary, and Laurence Barbeau a lifelong supporter of SACIM, from Sydney.

The music was appropriate and produced some elegant swish and sway on the dance floor, (so beautiful to watch, but tricky to accomplish). The variety of era and tempo provided by Jean-Claude Allas and his band suited all ages and stages of the attendees. As usual they were of a mixed age group and this seems to add to the family atmosphere that permeates SACIM functions.



The raffle was a huge success and tickets were in short supply, with great prizes on offer, especially a trip to Mauritius

donated by Air Mauritius. Many people I'm sure, dreamt of a wonderful holiday if they were the lucky ticket holder. However there were groans of disbelief when several of the prizes, including the air travel went to interstate supporters of SACIM.

(How many stamps does it take to send a bar fridge to Western Australia we wondered?)

Special mention needs to be made of the generosity of noted artist Micheline Jones who donated a beautiful landscape painting to form part of the raffle prize pool.

Congratulations to the winners!

Raffle Results:

1st Prize: Guy Vielle, Queensland

2nd Prize: Judith Ardagh, Western Australia

3rd Prize: Anonn. Western Australia

4th Prize: Roland Marmitte, Western Australia

5th Prize: Jessica Chapman, Mill Park

A special presentation acknowledging his years of work for SACIM was presented to Herve Rochecouste and especially of note was that



his father before him had also been a dedicated worker for the SACIM cause. Congratulations and thank you to Herve and his family for their generosity of spirit and for the great work they have accomplished over so many years.

It was disappointing and frustrating to hear that the child whom SACIM hoped to be able to sponsor was denied this opportunity by the powers that be in Mauritius.

However Gilbert asked us not to despair that there were many more worthy children waiting in Mauritius that were in need of significant funds to improve their health and life expectancy.

Professor Paddy Dewan spoke of the work he has been engaged in on his 11th visit to Mauritius and was presented with a cheque for \$10,000 to assist him and his team in their critical work.



He spoke positively of the acquisition of expert medical skills that have been achieved as a result of his teaching of local practitioners. In particular he noted that he did not need to use Australian anaesthetists or theatre nurses as now those he worked with were local and amongst the best in the world in their particular field.

During his last visit he and his team conducted 140 consultations, with families camping out for hours to ensure that they were seen by the team. Over all the team has conducted 368 operations in Mauritius and held 1,137 consultations, contacts with families and contact and training sessions. This is a remarkable achievement and one that surely needs the highest recognition from all quarters.

Professor Paddy also spoke of the life changing work “Kind Cuts for Kids” does in paediatric medicine and many attendees purchased fluffy Australian children’s toys to raise money for this great organisation.

In all the SACIM Dinner Dance was a great success in terms of variety in food, music and entertainment and everyone present knew that they had had a great time supporting a very worthwhile cause.



October 2010 Malvern Town Hall



Hervé Rochecouste by *Fritz Herry*

Our immediate past president

We were very fortunate in having Herve Rochecouste as one of our past president. Obviously he had all the requirements to lead SACIM. He came from a family who was most dedicated to that cause, in fact, his father; Raymond Rochecouste was one of the founders and past president of SACIM. By his ability, knowledge and dedication put SACIM on solid foundations. It is obvious that Herve was brought up in the right environment. At an early age he has seen his parents, Raymond and Daisy, who were not only members of the committee, but were also foster parents to the SACIM children who came to Australia for open heart surgery. He has seen firsthand how to come to the help of poor, suffering children who were unable to have sufficient treatment in Mauritius and had to come to Australia for their treatment, and most of them went back home in perfect health.

I am sure that while growing up, Herve had always in his mind to work for SACIM. As an expert in the field of electronics and the head of a company he roamed over Australia and other parts of the world to share his knowledge and expertise. In spite of his busy schedule, in the end he decided that it was time to come to the help of SACIM. We badly needed people of his calibre to keep SACIM going.

In 2001, Herve joined the organising committee. In 2002, as the organisation was being registered, we needed a competent treasurer with computer knowledge. This was the birth of the computer age for SACIM. Herve, a computer whiz, had all the data of the finance computerized and readily available at any time. He also saw the birth of our newsletter in the form that we have it today with all the colourful and technical presentation that was welcomed by our members.

There was much more to be done for SACIM, and the office of Vice-President became vacant in 2004, Herve stepped in. Then onwards he familiarised himself with the admission of children at the Royal Children Hospital and worked in close contact with the specialists.

The following year, 2005, the office of President became vacant. In spite of all his commitments and his travels interstate for his company he took over the job of President.

Under Herve's Presidency SACIM took a new direction. He strove very hard to make SACIM (Victoria) becoming SACIM (Australia), that is,

that we would take responsibility to further the work of SACIM throughout Australia and to provide financial support, not only to SACIM children but to other needy children from Mauritius.

During his tenure of office which lasted three years, Herve went to Mauritius at a crucial time when the SACIM organization was about to be dissolved. Through his diplomacy and team knowledge he was able to persuade some people of the committee of SACIM (Mauritius) to keep the organization going. He was very successful in his mission and today SACIM is much indebted to him.

Herve must have left the committee with a heavy heart, knowing that there is still a lot of work to be done. It is indeed a great loss to our committee. I understand that he is now a member of the committee of "Kind Cuts for Kids", which is headed by Professor Paddy Dewan. On behalf of the committee and on my behalf, we wish him the best of luck in his future prospects.

On the 16th October, Hervé was presented with a plaque in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the charity.

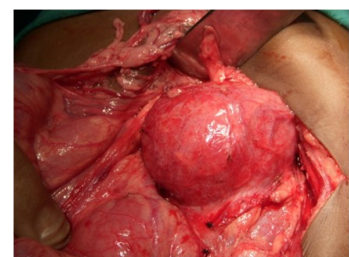


3/...

Paediatric Surgery in Mauritius - 2010

Urodynamics	– 3	Vesicotomy	– 2
Ureterocystoplasty	– 1	Ureteroureterotomy	– 2
General Surgery			
Colostomy	– 1	EUA anus	– 1
Laparoscopy	– 1	Laparotomy	– 1
Orchidopexy	– 2	Pena	– 1
Thoracic Surgery			
Oesophageal dilatation	– 1	Oesophago-oesophagostomy	– 1

A neuroblastoma, a tumour of the adrenal gland, can be seen on a CT scan, and at operation. Previously, such advanced cases were unable to be treated. The boy, who was operated on, has, virtually certainly, been cured of his cancer.





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Les Flamboyants

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About SACIM (Australia) Inc. SACIM (Aust) Inc. is a volunteer charitable organization that 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 37 years SACIM has cared for 280 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 locally there. In most 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, 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,
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Please find enclosed a Cheque/Money Order/Cash for \$_____ (Membership is \$15 per annum per member, \$25 for family)
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TOTAL \$_____

Name(s) _____
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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.