

SACIM News

350 copies circulated for SACIM Members & Supporters 2007 SACIM (Aust) Inc.
Society for Aid to Children Inoperable in Mauritius

SACIM (Australia) Inc. Volume 36 Issue 2

December 2009

President's Message Gilbert Clark



Christmas already.

Earlier this year, I reported in our newsletter and at our May dance on the case of **Ashlay Fokeer**. What was shaping to be a daunting exercise for a green president fizzed out and we did not get to spend the \$50,000 quoted and Ashlay

was treated successfully in India instead. The only other two cases referred to us were deemed by us to be outside of the sphere of SACIM Aust Inc's stated objectives. Those two children were treatable in Mauritius.

We were comfortable that the May dinner dance was another successful SACIM fundraiser achieved in a convivial atmosphere typically Mauritian.

SACIM held its annual general meeting in August and there were two changes to the committee. Our long serving secretary, *Monique Cavalot* decided it was time to hang her keyboard. Monique had been in that position for longer than I have been a member of SACIM. I felt like an abandoned child when I was informed after merely a year in the presidency, of Monique's retirement decision. For a while, I thought it was something I had done. But, I have been reassured otherwise. Christine Quenette came onboard. I have not really queried Christine's motive yet, considering she won't be getting paid for all the hard work she is about to put in. We won't tell her about that just yet. Welcome Christine. If there are others out there in the wilderness who feel that they have the angst to contribute something toward *"les petits malades"* of Mauritius, then SACIM is where we need you to focus your energy.

Our fundraising enable us to do just that. Whether, it is by way of directly contributing to the medical expenses overseas of children inoperable in Mauritius or sponsoring the work of the team from the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation, headed by *Professor Paddy Dewan*, paediatric surgeon extraordinaire and possibly Patch Adam's twin. We at SACIM Australia have full confidence in the ability of this surgeon to carry on the qualify of care demanded by his patients and from our point of view, his paediatric patients of Mauritius in particular. Sacim Aust. Inc. contributed \$10,000 again this year to the KCfK Foundation just before their two week stint in Mauritius in November

Paddy's report on his work there is to be found on page 3. Well worth a read. And right next to his report, Paddy has penned a new poem "Chasing Rainbows" for his third book, Some of you may remember from your old geography lessons "the land of rainbows, waterfalls and shooting stars; the star and key of the Indian Ocean". How appropriate is the poem!

Late in August I was informed about a young child, *Alizée Dromart*, the little charmer she is. I was written to by friends of her family seeking any sort of influence we may have had with the Royal Children's hospital to help speed up a response to an application submitted by her family. An appli-

cation to have Alizée undergo a course of radiotherapy recommended by her surgeon from France. Understandably, the process was worrying slow for an unwell child and her family. At about the time we were informed, the RCH communicated the conditions to be met for her acceptance to the Dromart family and Alizée came to Australia for the recommended treatment. **Jean François and Joëlle Dromart** have kindly used page 2 of this newsletter to share with us some of her more recent history. I thank Alizée's aunt, Christine Dromart for helping out.

What trauma this family must have endured since June 2002 when at age 14 months, Alizée was diagnosed with having a brain tumour. Since then and until we met her here last September, Alizée has undergone one form of treatment or another in Mauritius, ile de la Reunion, South Africa and France where she has had major brain surgery three times between March 2005 and August 2008.

The first time I met Alizée, because of my business attire she recoiled away believing I was another doctor who has come for some more examinations. Once reassured by her parents, she had no problem coming to give me the traditional Mauritian peck on the cheek and to speak with me. Alizée has touched the heart of so many that at a private fundraiser held in Doveton in October, requests for some 50 seats had to be declined. SACIM Australia has pledged to contribute \$20,000 toward future medical expenditure for Alizée.

SACIM's latest fundraiser was held at the Malvern Town Hall on the 31st of October last—the weekend preceding the Melbourne Cup, another 4 day weekend for many. The thought of a half empty hall had me petrified. O man of little faith! With the magnificent effort of all committee members and specially all the supporters who responded to our call, a sincere thank you. The hall was filled beautifully. We were praised in abundance. Monique Cavalot was presented with a plaque to commemorate her many years on the committee and particular as secretary. Thank you Monique. Marlène has stepped up to the mark, and in my book, if not effortlessly, at least very competently. I continue to enjoy the support of dedicated, magnificent committee members, all in for a good cause. Thank you one and all.

STOP PRESS

Hot from the wires has come a request from SACIM Mauritius seeking admission into one of our hospitals, public or private, for a 16 year old patient. *Bhavna Boudou* suffers from a scoliosis of both dorsal and lumbar spine with dorsal convexity to the right side and lumbar convexity to left side. She was noticed to have a spinal deformity at the age of ten. She presently complains of back pain with prolonged exertion and standing. We will begin our search for treatment in Melbourne as soon as we receive additional medical files requested.

I commend to you all the articles in this newsletter Dear supporters, the committee wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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Bhavna Boudou



2010 Calendar

Dinner Dance April 2010

AGM 21st August 2010

Charity Ball Malvern Town Hall *16th October 2010*

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A big thank you to SACIM Australia Jean-Francois and Joëlle Dromart

Our daughter, *Alizée Dromart*, was diagnosed with a brain tumour when she was just 14 months old and has been battling this condition for over six years. Despite numerous operations undergone at Hopital Necker Enfants Malades in France and countless treatments of chemotherapy at Institut Gustave Roussy, France during the past seven years, Alizée's illness continues to progress.

Late last year, after two major operations, the doctors at Institut Gustave Roussy recommended a radiotherapy treatment as the best prognosis for her recovery. Given the existing collaboration between Institut Gustave Roussy and *Professor David Ashley* at the Royal Children Hospital/Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the tremendous level of family support in Australia, our request for the radiotherapy treatment to be conducted here was approved.

In early October, Alizée commenced her treatment at Peter Mac and after five gruelling weeks of daily radiotherapy sessions, we returned to Mauritius on 24th November. Few days after our arrival, Alizée fell ill. She lost her appetite for food and was getting weaker by the day. She was admitted to the hospital where doctors confirmed that her blood count was extremely low. After spending a week at the hospital, Alizée is now back home and convalescing well.

The costs associated with Alizée's medical treatment in Australia were well above our means and without the one off assistance of a not-for-profit association, it wouldn't have been possible for Alizée to receive her first radiotherapy treatment there.

Nonetheless, new funds are required to ensure Alizée's future treatments in Australia and our appeal for help was not left unanswered. The Mauritian and wider Australian community rallied to organise several activities to assist us in our quest to raise funds for Alizée.

We are very grateful to *Gilbert Clark* for his personal commitment and we say a big thank you to SACIM (Aust) Inc for making a substantial pledge towards any future treatments Alizée may require in Australia. Without your generous actions and contributions we would have lost hope of Alizée receiving this lifesaving treatment in future.

We have returned to Mauritius in good spirits. The next few months will tell if the radiotherapy treatment has been a success. Nevertheless, we are awed, humbled, blessed and ever so grateful for all the love and support we have received from everyone we have met in Australia.

Once again, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank SACIM for their support and kind assistance. We wish you all the best in your mission to make a difference in people's lives.

Warm regards.



Alizée Dromart at Home









Alizée with her parents, sister Marie and Nella Roussel at the Fundraising Dinner of 14 November 2009



Nella Roussel, Father Piat and Alizée at the Fundraising Dinner Dance

SACIM*NEWS* December 2009



Report of 10th Paediatric Surgical/Training Visit to Mauritius - November 2009 Prof. Paddy Dewan

Surgery for children in Mauritius has now taken a great leap forward, as there are now three surgeons with subspecialty training, including *Dr. Nazeer Hosany, Dr. Naresh Burton* and *Dr. Kevin Teerovengardum*, who not only fully certified in France as a Paediatric Surgeon, but who has been appointed to the Victoria Hospital as a Paediatric Surgeon. Working with these dedicated and motivated men, the Mauritian and Australian teams saw 162 patients, performed 63 operations, which involved 39 anaesthetics. *Since 2001, there have been 444 patients seen, 517 operations and 359 anaesthetics.* The support of the SACIM in both Australia and Mauritius cannot readily be calculated in human benefit, particularly because of the huge benefit of the training component of the 10 visits. However, if each time a child was operated on, they had been transferred to Australia, the overall cost would be well over \$10,000, which equates to SACIM, the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation, together with the Ministry have provided \$3,500,000 worth of care.

The latest visit started with *Professor Dewan, Diane Paech* and *Dr. David Allen* leaving their bags at the hotel and heading to the Flacq Hospital. There, a large contingent of patients and staff were gathered. Eighty patients were reviewed and many were placed on the operating list. The second clinic was on the following Saturday, with a similar number of complex patients, requiring the clinic to go into the night.

The team was hosted to dinner with the Minister *Dr. Rajesh Jeetah*, and SACIM, with apologies and best wishes from the Australian Commission Ms Cathy Johnston, and supported by junior medical staff, some of whom donated their services, anaesthetic, radiology, nursing staff, theatre technicians and, importantly, a very skilled catering staff.

During the clinics many patients were able to be discharged to the care of the Mauritian team, and the 29 children had an anorectal anomaly, 7 Hirschsprung's, 2 a Megarectum, 8 Constipation, 2 Duodenal atresia, 57 the penile maldevelopment of Hypospadias, 16



Dr. Kevin Teerovengadum, (left) celebrate with Dr Naresh Burton at the dinner arranged by SACIM Mauritius.

Dr. Hosany (left) completes an operation performed by Dr. Kevin Teerovengardum, under the watchful, training eye of Professor Dewan.

testicle position anomalies, 18 a history of urethral obstruction, 13 a kidney blockage or Hydronephrosis, 4 had an intersex, 2 Bladder exstrophy and others had a range of other urinary tract anomalies.

A total of 63 operations were performed on 39 patients with over 80 hours of operative time, with up to 6 hours per operation including: 13 Hypospadias repairs, 5 Pena type procedures for anorectal anomalies, 2 with neonatal emergency of duodenal blockage. Two children had an operation to reimplant their ureter because of a blockage or reflux into the kidney, one of who was able to go home the same day. A 10 year old boy had surgery to enable him to be continent by enlarging his bladder. No significant complications occurred.

The visits have been like the poem on the right, *Chasing Rainbows*. *Dr. Teerovengadum* is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and has been found. Our task is to now support his further development of the service, which is ably supported by *Dr. Nazeer Hozany* and *Dr. Naresh Burton*.

Chasing Rainbows—Paddy Dewan

Lightning strikes, illuminating the sky; Thunder rolls.

Dark, black clouds billow hurriedly to the horizon.

Waves tip their caps in greeting to the reef, Calming their angry intent.

Sailors batten hatches.

A car of foreigners

Catches raindrops on a winding road;

Passing sweet fields and boulders,

Chasing rainbows.

Antennae search for a message,

On a house and home for the sick,

Where crowds gather on a day of landing And, on Saturday, young Dodos chase rainhows

Through clouds with silver linings.

The path is well beaten by rain, and three

Cashing rainbows into the night.

Rainbows of many colours;

Reflective, enlightening rainbows;

Rainbows that have no end;

Another storm cloud enters,

Flashing light of images to remember,

Overcoming fear.

The fire of contact and electrical conduct.

Causes a flood, frown and blood stained pain,

The red of the rainbow,

The blue of the rainbow:

All the colours of the rainbow.

The day becomes night again; silver linings chase clouds away

Rainbows crisscross rooms, travel down roads.

Curve upside down on faces and beam brightly from eyes.

Chasing rainbows;

Finding silver linings and tear drops of gold.



Joyelle, the boy who started in all! Professor Dewan thought it inappropriate to have the family come to Melbourne a third time. His tee-shirt says it all – ultimate...success, & now a team in Mauritius can take over in the near future.



SACIM*NEWS* December 2009

Charity Dinner Dance and Grand Raffle, Malvern Town Hall, October 2009 May and Fritz Herry



People everywhere in life
From every walk and station
From every state and nation
Have given us so Many things
Intangible and dear
We could not begin to count them all
Or even make them clear



Helen Steiner Rice

As a community the Mauritians and in particular at SACIM, we have been blessed for having given such a beautiful Hall to celebrate and welcome the benefactors and the friends of that great organisation which we dearly call SACIM.

It is mind boggling to think how we could have run such a dance and raise so much money without the help of the generous Mauritian community. I must add straightaway that the dance and the organisation took a different direction and a different ascendancy ever since **Professor Paddy Dewan** came on to the scene. It is awe inspiring to listen to him as he goes to explain to the community his dreams and his aims when he heads towards Mauritius. He has taken the Mauritian community into his heart and we are very grateful for that.

We can never forget that when people come to the SACIM dance they all have at heart the interest of children in Mauritius who have no facilities and no hope of being cured in Mauritius. Thanks a lot to all these friends of SACIM who year in and year out come in great numbers to our dance wherever it is being held. More specially this time where the function was held in the magnificent Malvern Town Hall.

Mauritians are keen for appreciating good food and this occasion was no exception. At SACIM we are lucky to have laid our hands on the superb caterer "Jacques La Catering" who has provided us a most varied and delightful buffet. I understand on that night the guests could not have enough of it. Congratulations to the caterer.

How could the Mauritians come together and not have a band in attendance! We are notable for liking good music and of course we like dancing. **Ben Sandapa** and his band was without doubt excellent. Of course when it comes to the séga we were just in our element. The feast would not have been complete, if we did not have the expert dancers **Jacques and Margaret Péril.** All eyes were glued on to them as they graciously performed Latin dancing numbers. Jacques and Margaret had also organized for several dance teachers from their school to attend our function and the dancing exhibition was quite a show for all of us.

On this occasion we were delighted to welcome the new director of *Air Mauritius*, *Mr Steven Palombo* and partner *Anna*. We are indebted to Air Mauritius for the 1st prize of our annual raffle tickets. It consists of two return airfares to Mauritius. Included with the first prize was also six nights accommodation at *Pointe aux Canonniers* offered by *Sea Point Bungalows*. SACIM thanks *Ms. Akaloo* for the sponsorship and the kind offer of the prize to complement the Air Mauritius flights. The raffle second prize was sponsored by *Jean-François Tailly* of *A1 Gold Coast Holiday*, consisting of seven nights accommodation at Surfers paradise at *Circle on Cavill*. Thank you Jean-François for having sponsored the SACIM raffle once again—and we strongly urge all our supporters to consider booking accommodation at Circle on Cavill when they visit the Gold Coast next time. *Get the contact details for Jean-François at the bottom of Page 5, mention SACIM when you call to get a good discount—You will enjoy your holiday in the sun and support SACIM at the same time! Other raffle sponsors included: <i>Joseph Drich* who donated a painting, *Robert Desfosses* of the *Coles Group* who donated a shopping voucher of \$200, *Via Veneto Italian Restaurant* of Lygon Street with a dinner voucher for two; and *R. E. Masset & Associates* who donated a dinner voucher for two at the Korean Restaurant Dae Jang Kum in Clayton. The raffle first prize was won by *Ms. Thérèse Etienne* of Sydney. This is the third year in a row that our raffle first prize has been won by someone outside Melbourne. Thank you to all our raffle ticket sellers and buyers, and to our Melbourne supporters we can only say better luck in 2010! A summary of the revenues raised by the dinner dance and raffle is provided on *Page 6* of this Newsletter.

We were also delighted to welcome Professor Paddy Dewan and his wife Padma, to whom we owe an eternal debt, and also to his organization, the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation. Paddy just returned from yet another trip to Mauritius and gave us a good account of the work done there by the Kind Cuts for Kids team.

This was a night to remember. Almost everyone on that night went home with the firm intention to attend the next year's Dinner Dance for more fun. As we said earlier all this would not have been possible without the help of so many generous people.



We only know we owe so much
To people everywhere
And when we put our thoughts in verse
It is just a way to share.

Helen Steiner Rice



SACIM NEWS December 2009





October 2009 Dinner Dance Photos



Contact details: reservations@ecircleoncavill.com.au Phone: 1300-484-668, 0402-915-605.

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SACIM*NEWS* December 2009

Treasurer's Report Jimmy Walter



Since the end of last financial year, 30 June 2009, SACIM has continued to maintain a strong financial position due mainly to the successful conduct of the yearly raffle and the October 2009 dinner dance. Gross assets *increased from \$201,106 to \$206,575* as at 30 November 2009.

The SACIM's assets remain very low risk financial assets, being deposits held with ANZ Banking Group Ltd and, therefore, covered by the guarantee for bank deposits provided by the Federal Government. Details are as follows:





\$185,231
\$12,428
\$8,916





At the SACIM's Committee meeting of October 2009, members of the Committee considered various approaches from SACIM ordinary members and supporters requesting that SACIM assist the *Dromart* family with medical and related expenses they had incurred in relation to their daughter, *Alizée*. As these expenses had already been incurred and already paid for by the Dromart family and other benefactors the Committee considered that any reimbursement of these expenses to the Dromart family would fall outside SACIM's Objectives as embodied in its Constitution and, therefore, could not be approved. However, having regard to the merits of the case the Committee agreed that SACIM would meet future expenses if they arise up to the amount of \$20,000 subject to compliance with SACIM's existing procedures. In line with that commitment we have raised in our financial accounts a Provision for Medical Expenses for \$20,000, being a current liability. This account will be used to meet any future payments we may be called upon to meet under our commitment to the Dromart family.

Our main sources of income in the 5 months of this current financial year were:





Yearly Raffle	\$8,654(net)
October 2009 Dance	\$4,762(net)
Investment Income	\$2,282
Membership Fees	\$1,085



The raffle remains our most successful fund raising activity with \$9,324 of tickets being sold. Sales would have been better had not an inordinate number of raffle books been lost in transit to members or not returned at all (33 books). Had these books been received by members and sold or returned unsold to us in reasonable time we could have sold \$10,000 of tickets (the maximum we can market under existing legislation without special dispensation). Therefore, I urge members to make special efforts to minimize these losses by ensuring that they advise us of any change of address and, in cases, where they are unable to sell their tickets they return the unsold tickets to us promptly as we are not allowed to print additional tickets.

Gross ticket sales for the dance amounted to \$12,600 (280 tickets); this was a good effort taking into account that the dance was during the week-end preceding the Melbourne cup which resulted in many of our very loyal supporters being away from Melbourne. Our total expenses were \$7,838, leaving us with net revenue of \$4,762.

During the same period we incurred medical costs of \$30,000 made up of \$20,000 to provide for potential medical and related expenses which SACIM may incur in the future in relation to **Alizée Dromart** as mentioned above and \$10,000 to fund **Professor Paddy Dewan** mission in Mauritius.

In the five months to 30 November 2009 SACIM's activities generated gross revenue of around \$25,000 due to the continuing hard work of Committee members and with the support of all members.

In conclusion, I can state that SACIM's financial position remains very sound with no dark financial clouds on the horizon. I continue to hope that we shall be given more opportunities to effectively put our resources to good use for the children of Mauritius.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2010 to all our readers.

SACIM NEWS December 2009





Exotic Band available for all Mauritian Functions



air mauritius

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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treating the children.

SACIM*NEWS* December 2009

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: sacim@rochecouste.com

SACIM is kindly hosted by Clancy Philippe on his Web Site at:

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 274 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

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.

Nandana and Irises Poetry by Paddy Dewan

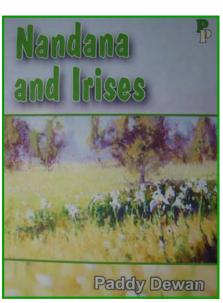
Papyrus Publishing and the Fashion Incubator, present a night of art, poetry and fashion, to launch Paddy Dewan's third poetry collection. The poems reflect an insight into the human form, and an uncommon sensitivity and caring. Paddy will read his poems, artists will display their works and young fashion designers will be showcased, with a theme of yellow, green and white.

Drinks and nibbles provided from 6.30pm. Entry is free, but bookings are essential.

Bookings can be made with Tina on 86858846 or pad4pad@bigpond.com



Thursday Feb 4th 2010 6:30 pm Fashion Incubator, Level 2. Melbourne Central



SOCIETY FOR AID TO CHILDREN INOPERABLE IN MAURITIUS - Membership Application & Donation For	n
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 <i>donation</i> in support of SACIM's work.)	
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Membership runs from 1 st July to 30 th 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.