



# SACIM News

[www.sacim.org.au](http://www.sacim.org.au)

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 1  
July 2010

## President's Message *Gilbert Clark*



Hoping this newsletter finds you all in good health and spirit and ready to tackle another new year, financial year that is.

We at SACIM Australia continue to strive to find support for a few of the less fortunate children of Mauritius.

As reported in our previous newsletter and talked about at our May dinner dance, *Bhavna* has been referred to us by SACIM Mauritius for corrective surgery of a severe deformity of the spine which has been progressing since the age of 10. The road has been long and arduous but hopefully *Bhavna* will soon find the relief we have been charged to source for her wellbeing.

Enquiries underway centres on her receiving surgical correction at the Epworth hospital under the expert hands of *Dr Michael Johnson*, a specialist in thoracic and spinal surgery and his supporting team. There has been extensive correspondence amongst all parties in Australia and Mauritius in preparation of any possible treatment here.

The medical team here has been anxious to have the maximum amount of tests performed in Mauritius to 1] save on costs and 2] ensure that *Bhavna* only comes to Australia after it has been determined that corrective surgery is advisable with a high prospect of success.

The risks associated with this particular surgery are understandably high and all must ensure that irrespective of outcome the interest and subsequent wellbeing of *Bhavna* is always prominent. Although far from certainty, recent discussions with the *Dr Johnson*, *Dr Caldercott* and the Epworth have been encouraging.

If and when *Bhavna* reaches Melbourne, the expected lengthy stay here could stretch our foster care resources. So, if there are those amongst our members willing to assist with foster parenting during this special time for *Bhavna*, please make yourself known to any member of the committee and we will be sure to call on you. I anticipate she will be alone, lonely and likely to be very apprehensive. For the faithful, your prayers will not go amiss. When appropriate, hospital visits will likely help her in the recovery process.

So, more than just your money, *Bhavna* will need also need your moral support. Please be there for her.

Also, we continue to monitor the progress of *Alizée Dromart*. For those unaware, she has had a rather difficult time on her return to Mauritius late last year. More operations, more stress and demand on her body and also more stress for her parents. They, however stressed, by the grace of God continue to be by her side. Again for those of the faith, your prayers for *Alizée* and her parents will not go astray. *Jean-Francois* and *Joëlle* continue to appraise us of *Alizée's* journey.

In May, SACIM held its bi-annual dinner dance at the Carwatha College community centre. Overall

we had a successful fundraising. I will not steal *Jimmy Walter's* thunder but encourage you to read our treasurer's report on the finances of this benevolent and worthwhile society for aid to children inoperable in Mauritius.

*Carmel Lucas*, no stranger to our functions, was caught unaware on camera putting her thoughts down on paper. *Carmel* has penned an interesting and refreshing article about that function; a fresh approach with fresh eyes. Thank you very much *Carmel*.

In *Cyril Tuyau* we have discovered another new talent. His skills as an auctioneer is second to none. That was his first we are told. He must be telling fibs. Extracting those bids from an audience already relieved of some significant dollars by just being there was a great coup. The spirit in which the bidders participated was just as good. Thank you and congratulations *Cyril*. Thank you to all the bidders who help made it fun and the successful bidder.

This society needs its volunteers to carry on the work of its predecessors. Just when we thought our relevance diminishing, there has been a resurgence in cases being referred to Australia. At our last meeting, we had the pleasure and good fortune of admitting at the round table, *Monique Mal-lié* from COMSSA Perth. So far this year they have received three patients. Although we have had one serious referral only, *Bhavna*, the unofficial quote is close to 50% of our funds. *Ashley Fokeer* last year, had he come to Australia would have cost around \$50,000. *Kritibye Cahano*, a case of arthrogryposis earlier this year was withdrawn and referred to an Apollo hospital in India by the Mauritius Department of Health. SACIM is as relevant today as it was 37 years ago. Even if few, the cases being referred are at a level of expertise and equipment not yet available in Mauritius. And before you ask, our illustrious *Professor Paddy Dewan* cannot do it all by himself. He saw over 169 patients in his two weeks in Mauritius last November.

This brings me to urge you to renew your SACIM membership regularly and also to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. \$25 per year is really not that hard. I like to think this work is worth doing and that despite whatever hardship we may face from time to time we must forge ahead. We donate to some many good causes in this great new country of ours. A little bit back to the old country cannot hurt, specially when we are talking about children.

I thank you all for the successes of our fundraising dinner dances and urge you to continue your support. Special thanks to our sponsors and prize donors. Our next dinner dance will be at the Malvern Town hall and is attracting a lot of interest already. Be ready, be early to book.

Since we ran out of time at the last dance, in this newsletter we launch our new website [www.sacim.org.au](http://www.sacim.org.au). We expect to keep it up to date with news and events except for the newsletter which we propose to be one issue behind for the benefit of our paying members. Happy reading, God bless.

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**Pierre Rochecouste**  
1944 — 2010  
We lose a great  
SACIM friend

## 2010-2011 Calendar

AGM  
21st August 2010

Charity Ball  
Malvern Town Hall  
16th October 2010

Dinner Dance  
Hampton Park  
23rd April 2011

## In Memoriam—Pierre Rochecouste *Hervé*



On Monday 28th June 2010 we lost a good SACIM friend—*Pierre Rochecouste* passed away early in the morning after a two year fight with cancer. Pierre was well known to all of us for having established SACIM NSW in Sydney in the early 80s, and being at the helm of the organization there for around 15 years. SACIM NSW ceased its operation in the late 90s, and in that time they received and treated 62 children from Mauritius. This is quite an achievement, considering that the total number of children cared for by SACIM in Australia has been 280, and that those treated in Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne were over a longer period than 15 years. (*Perth & Melbourne still operational*).

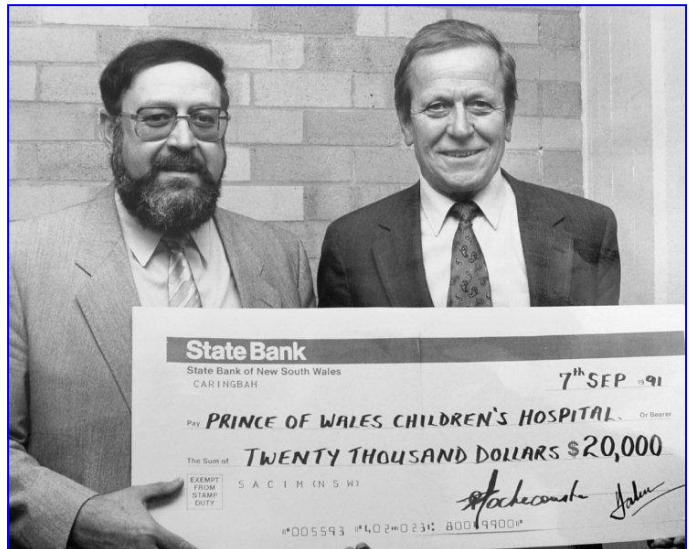
I have been very close to Pierre for over 60 years and I was fortunate enough to have been able to see him in Sydney quite often over the years, and also in the past two years. I was there with him for the last days and I can say that until the end he was always confident that he would pull through and continue his hard work. In the last two months the pain was too much and Pierre eventually knew that he would not win the fight. His contribution to his work, family and social environments were so great that we can all be confident that Pierre will be with us for many more years.

Ever since our very young days in Mauritius Pierre was the organizer, the motivator and leader for initiatives that kept us involved and following by example. Family events, boy scouts groups, social outings, church choirs or just a group of friends going out to dinner, Pierre was always the head strategist, leader and organizer. He was well known for his generosity, hard work and ability to motivate others to follow. It is therefore not surprising that he continued his dedication in Sydney after he settled there in 1967. Pierre's outstanding life contribution in Sydney not only included his SACIM work, but also support and assistance to our large family of Mauritian expatriates in Sydney. In fact, I will not hesitate to say that during the 43 years that he spent in Sydney Pierre became the most well know Mauritian expat through the work that he did in the community.

To his family and close friends, Pierre was mostly known for his continuous sense of humour. There was never any breaks between his jokes and in all parties he was always surrounded by a large group of people bursting out in loud laughing fits from time to time. Sometimes it was difficult to reconcile how such a competent stand up comedian achieved so much in serious and difficult charitable work for the very under-privileged. The same

can be said of the amount of support that he provided to close family and friends when they were going through difficult times. Most of the 62 SACIM cases that had critical surgery in Sydney would not be with us today if it was not for the dedication of Pierre to the cause.

SACIM NSW was known for their ability to raise funds by holding well organized and managed formal functions. During their years of operation they were able to make quite large donations to several hospitals in Sydney who cared for the children. They also had a good network of foster parents to provide a family environment to the children during their stay in Sydney. In the photo below we can see Pierre making a large donation to the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital. *In today's dollars such a donation would be the equivalent of \$75,000.*



When SACIM NSW ceased operation they had unused funds of \$22,000 that were donated to SACIM VIC. Around the same time we evolved our constitution to be known as SACIM Australia and extended out fundraising work to Sydney. The funds provided by SACIM NSW were used in 2008 to support the treatment of *Emmeline Etienne* at the Westmead Hospital in Sydney. Pierre continued his work for SACIM Australia by selling around 100 raffle books in Sydney every year—this in itself has been an outstanding performance considering that we only sell 500 books every year, i.e., 20% of those have been sold by one person for the past 9 years! Thanks to this work we have had several winners in Sydney, including the first prize winner in 2007.

We will remember Pierre for his outstanding work, generosity, integrity and sense of humour. We will emulate his outstanding contribution and continue the work that provides a better quality of life to underprivileged children, often life itself.

### Keeping in touch with the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation

SACIM Australia has been making donations to the Kind Cuts For Kids (KCfK) Foundation for the past few years in order to support their medical missions to Mauritius and elsewhere. The KCfK completed a 2 week mission in Gaza where Professor David Croaker of the ANU Medical School, and 2 medical support personnel from the Canberra Hospital have performed 120 consultations and 35 operations. The team also delivered training to several paediatric surgeons while in Gaza.

Professor Paddy Dewan will be travelling to Bangladesh to visit the BSMMU University Paediatric Surgical Department in the last week of July 2010. The expected outcome will be the education of Paediatric Surgeons and Urologists, through roughly 40 patients, 20 surgeries and 3 lectures. The hospital now has a dedicated Paediatric Surgical theatre. KCfK medical missions are being planned for Columbia and Ethiopia later this year. SACIM Australia is proud of the fact that the "*Mauritius Model*" that was developed and optimised through 10 KCfK missions to Mauritius is now being applied successfully to assist children elsewhere around the world. More details about the KCfK Foundation at: [www.kindcutsforkids.net](http://www.kindcutsforkids.net).





[www.sacim.org.au](http://www.sacim.org.au) – SACIM Australia Web Site Launch *Webmaster*



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

SACIM Australia is affiliated to SACIM in Mauritius who identifies the cases and prepares the children to be sent overseas to several countries for major medical care. In Australia the role of SACIM is to establish contact with hospitals and medical personnel, to welcome the children as they arrive, provide foster parenting for the duration of their stays, admit them to hospital, visit and comfort them during the stressful time and also care for them until they can go home. This assistance is kindly provided by volunteers.



Finally! After a couple of years of trials and hard work SACIM Australia has launched its own Web Site. Our members and supporters can now visit at:

[www.sacim.org.au](http://www.sacim.org.au)

to find out about our mission, events and other news. We will be optimising the pages as we go and as such would appreciate feedback from our members and supporters. Please email your views to [info@sacim.org.au](mailto:info@sacim.org.au), thanks. The committee would like to sincerely thank our volunteer webmaster who has put the web site together.

We also use this opportunity to sincerely thank *Clancy Philippe* who has kindly provided information on SACIM Australia on his **Mauritius Australia Connections** Web Site at: <http://www.cjp.net/sacim.htm> for several years. We hope that by the time this Newsletter is published Clancy would have organized a link to our own web site. Thank you Clancy for your ongoing support.

The plan is to use the SACIM Australia web site to inform our members and supporters on our ongoing mission, the latest news and events and also to make older Newsletter copies available on line. We will further develop the functionality as we go. You can now, for example, download the flyer with the details of our Saturday 16th October Dinner Dance at the Malvern Town Hall (also advertised on Page 8 of this Newsletter). By making the information available to a wider audience we hope that the events will be supported by greater numbers. In addition, anyone anywhere in the world now can find out about our mission and achievements.

We invite organizations with missions that have an affinity with SACIM Australia to approach us with a view of establishing bi-lateral links for information exchange. We have included a few to start the process and hope to be able to include more as we establish the relationships. We will show the web information and discuss further with all our financial members who attend our AGM on the 21st of August at the St. John Vianney Parish Hall in Mulgrave. If you are interested please download the AGM details at the "Events" page and join us there.

We will aim to keep members and supporters informed as much as possible "between" Newsletters by updating the Web Site as soon as we have details on new information and events.

For the information of those who will visit the Web Site we have included links to the Web Sites of: *SACIM Mauritius, COMSSA SACIM West Australia, the Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation, Mauritius Australia Connection and Melbourne Ethnic Radio 3ZZZ 92.3 FM*. We plan to add a few more as we maintain the pages up to date.

SACIM (Aust) is the proud recipient of a 2005 Victoria Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs

## Charity Dinner Dance Carwatha College Hall, May 2010 *Carmel Lucas*



The SACIM Dinner Dance on the 1st of May welcomed the Autumn season with fine food, excellent music and a sense of unity, as the Mauritian Community and their friends (I am in the latter category) united to support the mammoth task of raising \$100,000 to ensure that a fine young lady, 16 year old *Bhavna Boudou*, gets to enjoy the quality of life that she deserves.

The SACIM President *Gilbert Clark* welcomed guests, and thanked the organising committee whose considerable skills had successfully transformed the evening into yet another successful gala event hosted by SACIM.

The Mauritian community and their friends welcomed the opportunity to enjoy fine food and good music and this event came up trumps in both areas. No doubt the organising committee deliberated long and hard to ensure that both were available on the same night. Congratulations to them one and all!

One can't help being in awe of the work that *Professor Paddy Dewan* and his team does to ensure that, slowly but surely, Mauritian medical professionals are acquiring the skills necessary to allow more patients, especially those with renal conditions, to be successfully treated in Mauritius. What a magnificent focus for his many and varied skills and talents. From an outsider's point of view, I see his work as central to what motivates people to support the many fundraising events held by SACIM. His passion for healing is but one facet of his talents and the attendees were treated to some beautifully descriptive stanzas from his poems, entitled "*Radiant Smiles*", "and "*Tears of Gratitude*" a highlight of the evening and a poetic summing up of why SACIM and their supporters do what they do. How could they not?

Paddy has just returned from his 10th working visit to Mauritius where he and his team saw 162 patients, performed 63 operations and administered 39 anaesthetics. The quick turnaround of patients who were able to return home, usually a day after surgery, was achieved due to Paddy's skilled and innovative operating techniques. A source of amazement for the very skilled Mauritian doctors he was working with.

Paddy believes that he is doing himself out of a job, but in the next breath reports on his pioneering work in Madagascar and mainland Africa. "*Chasing Rainbows*" is certainly an appropriate title for his final poetry reading, because of the rainbow's significance as a sign of hope for all people but very especially for the Mauritian people. Hope is at the heart of his work and that of SACIM.

Some serious fund raising followed with the drawing of the raffle, no one won anything on our table this time, and one lucky lady won two prizes. (I think she needs to invest in a lottery ticket. (They say that such events go in threes!))

SACIM always have great raffle prizes thanks to the generosity of their many sponsors and it's a nice touch that they invite the sponsors to present their own prizes. Congratulations to all the winners!

Trying something different proved to be an instant success and a source of great enjoyment when an accommodation voucher for the Radisson was auctioned and bidding went to \$300. I think they are on a winner there!

Discussing with the people around me, as to why they supported SACIM so generously and enjoyed the dances so much, proved to be quite enlightening and made sense to me, having visited Mauritius for the first time in 2009.

The unanimous agreement was that they came for the sense of community they felt when they mixed with other expats, danced to their unique and beautiful music, ate the food from home and were able to showcase their wonderful culture to their Aussie friends. And to top it off while experiencing all this they can support the sick and needy children in their home land.

Personally as an Aussie guest I have always felt very welcome at SACIM events and very much enjoy the atmosphere and the richness of the unique cultural experience.

Looking forward to the next SACIM dinner dance already! Thank you for inviting me over the years Mar!!







May 2010 Dinner Dance Photos



**Treasurer's Report – Financial Position at 31 May 2010** *Jimmy Walter*



During the eleven month period ended 31 May 2010 SACIM's core fund raising activities have continued with some success and have included the yearly raffle drawn in October 2009, the October 2009 dance and the May 2010 dance. Income received from our interest bearing deposits also remains a very important source of revenue. Overall, our main revenue streams for the first eleven months of the 2010 financial year were as follows:

October 2009 Raffle	\$8,654 (net)
October 2009 Dance	\$4,762 (net)
May 2010 Dance	\$4,941 (net) *
Investment Income	\$4,740
Donation	\$1,412
Membership Fees	\$1,085

\* Does not include sale of ticket proceeds of \$1,000 received in early June. Taking this late receipt into account net revenue for the dance to be included in the yearly financial statements is \$5,941.

Total gross revenue for the period amounted to \$42,300 and the SACIM's Management Committee is pleased with this performance considering the tight monetary conditions that have prevailed. The raffle remains our most successful fund raising activity with \$9,324 of tickets sold, offset by a minimal expense of \$670. Unfortunately, the maximum amount we are authorized to offer for sale is \$10,000 under existing legislation without special dispensation. Gross ticket sales for the October dance amounted to \$12,600 (280 tickets) with associated expenses of \$7,838 leaving us with net revenue of \$4,762. Total ticket sales for the May 2010 dance were \$12,550 (251 tickets); this was supplemented with the night's raffle and auction which raised an additional \$1,655. Therefore, gross revenue for the dance was \$14,205 which was offset by expenses of \$8,264 to give us net revenue of \$5,941. One area of weakness where some special effort will be required in the future is Membership Fees which continue to decrease not only as a proportion of

total revenue but also in absolute terms. In this regard, I urge all members to encourage their relatives and friends to become SACIM members and, thereby, contribute to a very worthwhile cause.

On the other hand, total gross expenses for the same period totalled \$50,300, exceeding gross revenue by some \$8,000. This funding deficiency is reflected in a similar reduction in our deposit balances. Our biggest expenses by far were medical expenses totalling \$30,150; the main two items were:

- \$20,000 to provide for potential medical and related expenses which SACIM may incur in relation to *Alizée Dromart*. Details of that case and rationale for this provision were outlined in our December 2009 Newsletter. So far \$7,311 of that provision has been used leaving \$12,689 available to meet future claims.
- \$10,000 to fund Professor Paddy Dewan mission in Mauritius.

As mentioned earlier, expenses of \$7,838 and \$8,264 were incurred in relation to the October 2009 and May 2010 dances, respectively. Another significant item was administrative expenses of \$2,691 (mainly, printing & posting of Newsletters and various notices to members).

Despite the reduction of about \$8,000 in our bank deposits SACIM's financial position remains strong with net assets as 31 May 2010 amounting to \$193,070 (gross assets of \$205,759 less medical provision of \$12,689 for *Alizée Dromart*). Gross assets are made up as follows:

ANZ Cheque Account	\$8,646
ANZ V2 Plus Fund	\$530
ANZ Term Deposit	\$196,583
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 205,759</b>

I do not anticipate any significant change to this financial position during the last month of this financial year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to our fund raising activities and urge them to continue with their efforts in the future.

**SACIM (Australia) Inc. Dinner Dance**

(and Drawing of the 2010 Air Mauritius Grand Raffle)

**Malvern Town Hall (Stonnington City Centre)**

336 Glenferrie Road, Malvern VIC 3144

(Corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street; Melway Ref: 59 C8)

**Saturday 16th October 2010**

**7:00pm to 00:30am**

**Live Music by Jean-Claude Allas and his band**

**Table Service by Jacques La Catering**

**Three Course Meal - Dinner Served at 7:45pm sharp!**

**Ticket: \$50 per person - BYO Drinks only**

**Dress: Lounge Suit**

**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, Cyril Tuyau: 03-9390-1838**

**Hervé Rochecouste: 03-9561-7078, Fritz Herry: 03-9560-2914, Jimmy Walter: 03-9758-6812**

**All payments before Friday 1st of October 2010!!! or tickets will not be confirmed.**

**Thank you for your support, see you there!**





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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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3 issues**

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For Newsletter queries, please contact  
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Web Site:  
[www.sacim.org.au](http://www.sacim.org.au)

**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.

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.*

**Visit to SACIM Mauritius** *Jimmy Walter*

In early May I visited Mauritius for holidays and I took the opportunity to meet the Management Committee members of SACIM (Mauritius) at their headquarters in Vacoas. I was fortunate to have landed two days before their monthly Management Meeting and, therefore, was able to attend the meeting to which I had been kindly invited. This was my first visit to SACIM (Mauritius) and I had never met any of their Committee members face to face before.

I found the meeting to be very enlightening; it gave me a good insight into the nature of their operations and the difficulties they face in trying to help the unfortunate sick children requiring assistance who are referred to them. The meeting also gave me the opportunity to discuss and clarify in a friendly atmosphere some communication issues that from time to time arise in their relationship with us. A few members offered some friendly and valuable suggestions to improve the efficiency of our operations; these suggestions are welcome and have been passed on to our SACIM Management Committee for action.

Overall, my visit was very fruitful and should help in enhancing the friendly ties between SACIM (Mauritius) and us and, eventually, lead to a more efficient operation for the benefit of inoperable children seeking SACIM'S assistance. For this, I thank the SACIM (Mauritius) Committee members for giving me the opportunity to attend their meeting and express my views.



**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 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.*