



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 35
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President's Message *Hervé Rochecouste*



Welcome to the 35th year of SACIM's operations in Australia. Since 1973 SACIM organizations have treated over 280 children from Mauritius in Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Adelaide, and have supported Australian medical teams who have treated a similar number of children in Mauritius. Our members and supporters should be proud of this achievement, and the various committees over the years also proud of having had the opportunity to promote the mission.

A few weeks ago we farewell Betty Domaingue who passed away peacefully in Melbourne at the age of 92. By now you will all be aware that Georges and Betty Domaingue were the founding members of SACIM in 1973, and were our first foster parents having personally received our first children in their Caulfield home. The SACIM committee extends its sincere condolences to Georges, Charles, Diana, Irène, Margaret and their families for the loss of Betty. We acknowledge the great work that Betty personally did from the start and for such a long time. I visited Georges and Betty on several occasions recently and was always fascinated by the SACIM children stories that Betty talked about on each occasion. Please refer to the article on Betty's life and work on page 3 of this newsletter.



Betty Domaingue

In February this year SACIM learnt that 5 year old Emmeline Etienne would be undergoing treatment in Sydney for a malignant brain tumour. We were aware that the parents Jean-Mée and Nadine were in a position to partly fund the surgery and treatment themselves, and that supporters in Sydney would be holding a fundraising event there. The SACIM Committee in Melbourne discussed the case and decided that we were in a position to contribute to the cost of treatment and we donated \$20,000 to the Centre for Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery of the Prince of Wales Hospital towards Emmeline's treatment. The surgery was successfully performed by Dr. Charles Teo enabling Emmeline to return home and start school again. Unfortunately we heard of the sad news that Emmeline passed away a couple of weeks ago as the cancer had aggressively spread to her spine. You will read further details on Emmeline's courageous journey on page 2 of this newsletter.

In April we celebrated our 35th Anniversary in style at the Freccia Azzurra Club in Keysborough. The event was attended by 385 members and supporters and we were honoured by the presence of Mr Francis Ong Seng, the Air Mauritius National General Manager from Sydney, and Mr. Gérard Zamudio, the Air Mauritius Melbourne Operations Manager, Air Mauritius have been a great sponsor of the SACIM Grand Raffle for several years and have enabled us to raise considerable funds. We

were also happy to see Monique Malié (COMMSA - SACIM WA/Perth) and her guests in attendance, and also Jean-Claude Etienne and his team from Sydney. Committees and guests from several Melbourne based



Gérard Zamudio & Francis Ong Seng at our Function

clubs were also represented, including Stella Clavisque Club, Chamarel, Kind Cuts for Kids, Victoria Mauritius Pastoral Council, Françoise Babet Leukaemia Foundation, Community Radio 3ZZZ, the Lupus Foundation and Silver Edge. I use this opportunity to personally acknowledge the \$500 donation made to SACIM on the night by the Stella Clavisque Club. Congratulations to the Stella Clavisque Club who recently celebrated their 40th year of serving the community – this is quite an achievement. As usual Marlène has provided an article on the function in the centre pages of this newsletter.

On the 24th of May the SACIM Committee was invited by Air Mauritius to attend their 40th Anniversary function at the St. Kilda City Hall – the function was also an opportunity for us to meet the deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius and Minister for Tourism, Mr. Xavier Luc Duval visiting Australia for the first time. It was a great function to celebrate this Air Mauritius Milestone and hear of the future plans for tourism in Mauritius. Our thanks to Air Mauritius for having included SACIM as your guests for the evening.



Xavier Luc Duval

Well, as you can see we have had many issues and events since our last newsletter in December 2007. On the bright side we have had quite a lot of feedback from members and supporters who attended our 35th Anniversary function—all of them stating that it was by far the best social event that they had attended in many years. We take note of the feedback and will ensure that we keep improving and deliver even better functions in the future. I have been attending SACIM functions in Melbourne for the past 35 years and I know that the organization has lasted that long because we have fun doing what we do—our members and supporters understanding that we have an important mission that necessitates fundraising. If the fundraising also provides enjoyment and entertainment, then it is possible to sustain the activities for as long as the mission exists. Once again SACIM Australia has been able to donate \$10,000 to Professor Paddy Dewan's Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation. Paddy and his team had a successful trip to Mauritius in November 2007 and we are proud to have been in a position to assist. Again, well done Paddy and thank you for your great work in Mauritius!

Hervé Rochecouste, President.

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Next Melbourne Function on:
Saturday 18th October.
Book your table now!!

Happy Anniversary SACIM

35 Years in Australia

2008 Calendar
AGM 2008 Melbourne
23 August 2008
Inaugural Function Sydney
27 September 2008
Annual Function Brisbane
4 October 2008
Charity Dance Melbourne
18 October 2008

Emmeline's Story



The story of Emmeline Etienne is a sad one and most of us have either heard of the news along the way, or received progressive information by email over the past four months. The story is best told by publishing some of the information that we have received during her journey.

Information sheet from the Council of Mauritian Associations of NSW (Aust). 20 February 2008

Emmeline Etienne is a sweet Mauritian girl who only just turns five this February. Emmeline lives in Mauritius with her parents Jean-Mée and Nadine, and her 10 year old brother Xavier.

Just days before Christmas last year, Emmeline was diagnosed with a tumour on her brain stem. After being unsuccessful at receiving treatment in South Africa due to the seriousness of her condition, the family immediately flew to Sydney where Dr. Charles Teo undertook the highly delicate operation and removed a big part of the tumour.

Unfortunately, biopsy results revealed that it is an aggressive malignant tumour and further treatment would be required to try and eradicate Emmeline's life threatening condition. Without this treatment, Emmeline's chances of survival will be minimal. She will undergo radiotherapy under general anaesthetic, 5 days a week, for a period of five weeks from mid-February.

Her parents have worn out their funds, and assistance from any medical fund or insurance is extremely minimal. They are in dire need of your help with the funding of the treatment. Before radiotherapy can commence, Emmeline needs to have a special head support made to protect her from the radiation. The cost of the head support itself is in the vicinity of \$2,000. The actual treatment per day is in the vicinity of \$3,000. In total, the costs will amount to almost \$60,000, that's in addition to the cost of the operation that Emmeline has already undergone.

We humbly ask for your support by inviting you to join us at our Fundraising dance so that we may help alleviate the medical costs and give Emmeline the best of chances to fight this terrible condition and a chance at life itself.

In the event that you are not able to attend, we ask you to consider assisting us by making a donation instead.

Jean-Mée and Nadine thank you for taking the time to read about their little girl and are grateful for your help during this difficult time in their lives...

Email from Jean-Mée Etienne, 26 April 2008

Dear Hervé,

On the 1st of April, Emmeline, Nadine and I flew back to Mauritius. It has now been twenty five days since we have been back and besides a virus caught on our arrival home, Emmeline has been doing fine. She has started physiotherapy and is working mainly her facial asymmetry for the time being. She has also gone back to school and is enjoying it thoroughly.

In three weeks time she will be having a brain MRI performed. It will be sent to the doctors in Australia for them to make the first planned assessment of her condition.

Thanks again for your support.

Best regards, Jean-Mée Etienne.

Email from Philippe (Jean-Claude Etienne), 12/5/08

Dear friends,

My apologies for not having been in contact sooner since my return from abroad.

I have pasted below some extremely sad news relevant to Emmeline Etienne who has captured our heart with her brief stay in Sydney while undergoing treatment.

The news is heart-breaking.

Since they got back home, Emmeline went back to school, and a message from Nadine last week said that they had been reassured that last week's MRI on her brain revealed that her brain tumour was contained and was at "status quo"!

However, over the last few days, she kept complaining of a sore back. X-rays of her back revealed nothing, so the parents weren't too concerned then ... yesterday though, she was in a lot of pain and was throwing up all morning. Jean-Mée and Nadine took her to the clinic where she underwent an MRI that revealed that the terribly aggressive cancer has gone through to her spine and her bone marrow. She was put on morphine for the pain and is now in palliative care. Nadine says that Emmeline won't come back home. The doctors have given Emmeline just a few days to live, 2 weeks at the most.

The family is distraught and have asked that we pray for them at this time.

Please pass on this message to all that have been involved in helping Emmeline and any that you feel would want to know.

Philippe J Etienne.

SMS from Gilbert Clark, 17 May 2008

To SACIM committee members.

I received a call from Jean-Claude this afternoon. It is with great sadness that he advised me that Emmeline passed away quietly today. She was calm and slowly gave up the fight. Jean-Mée, Nadine and Xavier again expressed their sincere thanks for the moral and financial support of the various Melbourne and Sydney organizations who have greatly assisted the family during their stay in Australia.

Please pray for her.

Gilbert

SACIM is grateful to have had the opportunity to support this case. Although all the activities were happening in Sydney, those of us in Melbourne felt that we were very close to the family. The case was the first one in our evolved role as SACIM Australia. Supporters outside Melbourne have assisted with our fundraising effort through the major raffle and other events over the years. Some of you will remember that when SACIM NSW closed down a few years ago, they transferred their bank balance to our account. We will support cases that meet our criteria when we are in a position to do so.

To Jean-Mée, Nadine and Xavier - our thoughts are with you. The SACIM Committee.



Betty Domaingue 1916–2008

Those who have been participating in SACIM activities over the last 35 years would have most certainly will have known Betty. "Old" family friends have been fortunate to have known her for much longer than that. My family has been friends with the Domaingue family for over 50 years, and, as kids, we used to walk to their Quatre-Bornes house in Brown Sequard Avenue to play during the school holidays. In those days Georges was also our kind family doctor, and the memories of Betty are those of a caring lady who was always concerned with the wellbeing and comfort of others. I remember those wonderful refreshments and English cakes that we enjoyed during our break from playtime. Some of us even became good at mimicking her English accent when she spoke Creole!



Then came the years of sailing and cruising, and the many happy holidays in the various beach bungalows in Trou aux Biches that we enjoyed together. Betty was always there, helping with the sails, mending, fixing, caring for the children, and of course, cooking those unforgettable meals. Many years later, following emigration to Australia we caught up again with the Domaingue family in their home in Caulfield, where we again enjoyed numerous parties. We were then young adult tertiary students.

Eventually everyone got married and we started our own families. Although Betty was always an unassuming person, who was always be 'in the background', she had a lot of influence on the lives of those around her. She was, to a great extent, the role model that we subconsciously emulated as we grew into adulthood. In many ways, she facilitated our own journey of having to immigrate to another country, and to adapt to new ways of life in a new culture. She actually had to do it twice!

Over the years, we came to appreciate that while we enjoyed holidays, outings and parties, there was actually someone working very hard in the background to ensure the success of these events. Betty worked tirelessly, be it looking after the household, managing children, organizing events, and yet she never sought credit for her time and her work. When she was around, we just assumed that it was quite normal to have everything planned for our enjoyment and consumption. None of us can recall her ever complaining that something was too hard to deliver, nor did she ever give up in any of her endeavours.

It is with that same spirit of determination and eagerness to support others that Betty worked so hard in the background to provide the much-needed help in fostering the first SACIM children in 1973 and for many years afterwards. This involved many late and sleepless nights, early morning trips to the hospital, and anxious moments outside the operating theatre, all of which would have been emotionally draining. Yet she found time to prepare special 'Mauritian' meals for the young children, concerned as she was that they would be missing their Mum's cooking. She sat by their bedside and told them stories, and her heart went out to both the children and their families back home. In the first few years of SACIM's operation in Melbourne all the cases involved very young children who had severe congenital heart problems that required open heart surgery. In other words, those children would not be alive today if there had been no surgical intervention.

Betty provided both physical and emotional support in those difficult times. She never once thought it too much hard work, nor too time consuming. In her usual selfless manner, she gave all she could to ensure the wellbeing of the children. In this respect, we can claim that the success of SACIM is largely due to the foundation work of Betty in those early stages of the organization. SACIM is now in its 35th year of providing care to 275 children in Australia.

In the first two years of SACIM's operation in Melbourne, i.e. from 1973 to 1975, Betty fostered 8 young children, namely: *Danielle Lanappe, Marina Parisien, Yasmin Issimdar, Anusuya Ramessur, Jean-Patrick Moonien, Diljane Madub, Manee Ramalingapillay and Bagavady*

(Vadee) Poinen. (Manee passed away in theatre after the third operation). This is quite an achievement, given that, in those early years of operation, SACIM was a budding organization and not as structured as it is today. The foster parenting network comprised of one couple, and one household.

Betty's dedication as a carer of SACIM's children set the bar very high, and has in fact never been repeated in our 35 year history. On the average SACIM cases stay in Australia for 3 to 4 months and require a lot of after care, so, if there were 8 cases in two years, this meant that there was at least one child in the home at all times, and often two at the same time (furthermore, these children did not always get on!). Would you complain if you had to do this in your first few years of settlement in Australia? Betty certainly never did, this is one of the reasons why she is so highly regarded within SACIM, and by all those who have known her. Despite her contribution to SACIM, Betty was a very humble person, who never sought recognition for herself. She never had a role on SACIM committees, nor could we find many photos of her with the children in the hundreds of photos we have kept over the past 35 years. Betty was an astounding quiet achiever.



Over the past few years I visited Betty and Georges a few times to catch up and talk about stories of a few years back. For the past 15 years Betty had been confined to a wheel chair and Georges was very busy taking care of her. Every time I saw them Betty was in a good mood and happy to talk about the early years of SACIM. The last time I saw her she recounted an incident involving *Yasmin and Marina*, both of whom were about 4 years old, and had arrived at the same time. The young girls were so eager to hear her stories that they did not want to go to sleep. It was late at night, and Betty figured that the only way she could get them to sleep - and herself get some much-needed rest - was to hop into the cot with both of them. It was not long before they all three fell asleep, and Betty woke up the following morning, to find herself still curled up with the girls in the cot.

At Betty's funeral we learnt about Betty's other interests, for she had many. She enjoyed listening to classical music with Georges, but most of all her passions included reading (mostly fiction and poetry), playing bridge and doing cryptic crosswords (she was a real whiz at these and even at the age of 90+ never ceased to astound with her quick mind). After working hard at the service of others, Betty enjoyed the solitary pleasures that books brought her (her daughter Diana claims that she out read the Caulfield library). Betty also loved Nature and animals. In all respects, she was a gentle, generous soul.

Betty worked as a nurse during the second World War, then qualified in midwifery, which she taught in a London hospital. This is where she met Georges who was a medical student at the time.

During her long and very active life, Betty has inspired many of those around her. SACIM is grateful for her pioneering work, and the high standard that she set for the care of the sick Mauritian children. It is largely thanks to her that we have been able to provide a better quality of life to those 275 children cared by SACIM in Australia.

Members and supporters who received an invitation to renew their support of SACIM have been invited to consider a role on the committee, or to offer their support with other activities. At busy times, we are in dire need of foster parents, assistance with fundraising events, and support with the production of the Newsletter, as well as with other minor activities. If you are in any way motivated by Betty's life and work, and are able to offer your help, please contact the secretary - you will find contact details on page 8 of this Newsletter. The SACIM committee thanks Diana for the photos she sent for this article, and also for kindly reviewing the drafts.

SACIM 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance *Marlène Tesmann SACIM (Aust) Inc. Functions Coordinator*

On the Saturday 19th April 2008 the SACIM Organization selected an excellent venue "The Freccia Azzurra Club" in Keysborough to celebrate its 35th anniversary of dedicated service to the children of Mauritius. It was an ideal opportunity for the SACIM supporters to show their loyalty to this organization and they did!!!

We welcomed some 385 guests amongst whom were our VIPs Francis Ong Seng and Gérard Zamudio of Air Mauritius, representatives from COMMSSA-SACIM from Perth, supporters from Sydney who made a special trip to Melbourne to be part of our celebration. We also had guests from Mauritius holidaying in Melbourne.

In his speech Hervé, our president, reminisced over the achievement of SACIM over the past 35 years, acknowledging the original idea to set up this organization by Dr. Georges Domaingue and his wife Betty. After establishing themselves in Melbourne they saw the need to help their much needy compatriots who could not access the medical facilities that were so readily available here. Hervé read messages by Dr. Georges Domaingue, Dr. Amrit Rajkomar and Professor Paddy Dewan who had sent apologies for not being able to be present that night. Paddy sent an SMS from Palestine (Gaza) where he was busy operating on needy children.

Present also was Daisy Rochecouste, one of the founding members and still a fervent supporter of the organization. Hervé mentioned the SACIM past presidents Fritz Herry and Michael North-Coombes, who were in attendance and still very much part of the organization. and past presidents Jean Constantin, Rosemay Oxenham, Jocelyn Rosette and Robert Sam Yue who could not attend, and sent apologies to be read.

Gilbert Clark compèred the night with his usual zeal like a pro! The band entertained us with diverse rhythms and songs playing everything from the 70's, 80's etc reviving some much loved tunes activating an exhilarating atmosphere. This enchanted the guests as they demonstrated their spontaneity on the dance floor.

The raffle was drawn by Francis Ong Seng around 10.30pm and the first prize was won by Jennifer Valadon of Rowville—the first prize being 3 nights accommodation for two at the Crown Towers Resort offered by **a1 gold coast holiday**. Monique Tyack (a guest from Mauritius) won the second prize: a dozen bottles of wine donated by Freccia Azzura, and Frances Cucuzella won the third prize: two bottles donated by Guy Tuyau. Guylène Bouchet won the first door prize: a hamper offered by Guillemette and Jimmy Walter, while Marilyn Heerah won the second door prize: a shopping voucher offered by SACIM.

The night was complemented by a succulent three course meal with delicious desserts. A wonderful night of fun and laughter was had by all and we hope to see you all again for our fund-raising on the 18th of October when the major Air Mauritius raffle will be drawn. That next function will be a Mauritian food and social dinner dance. *See you then!*

Below are the transcripts of messages read by Hervé during his speech.



Dr. Georges Domaingue, SACIM VIC Founder

Unfortunately I am not able to join you to celebrate SACIM's 35th Anniversary. I am very happy to have witnessed progress made over the years. I am especially pleased about the improvements made in Mauritius and the training and development facilitated by Australian doctors. I never foresaw that we would be bringing children to be operated in Australia for ever. Training of Mauritian doctors is essential. This is beginning to show results.

I congratulate SACIM and send my best wishes for the future.

All the best, Georges.

Dr. Amrit Rajkomar, President, SACIM Mauritius

You have been very enthusiastic and regular in the fundraising events for our children. We have a special word of thanks for all the foster parents who look after the sick children and provide transportation, board and lodging for the accompanying mothers. Our heartfelt thanks for your wonderful contribution over the past 35 years. May SACIM Australia keep going strong for many more years.

Thank you and best regards, Amrit.

Professor Paddy Dewan, Chairman, Kind Cuts for Kids Foundation

Dear Hervé. I am sorry not to be with the team for SACIM's 35th Anniversary, but I am currently in Palestine (Gaza) doing critical operations on kids that need care. I will be thinking of you in my time zone and wish you all the best for the future.

Regards, Paddy.

Contact details: stephan@a1goldcoastholiday.com.au Phone: 0438-216-195. www.a1goldcoastholiday.com.au
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SACIM 35th Anniversary Dinner Dance *Photos*



SACIM Constitution: Status *Jimmy Walter—Treasurer*



Most members will be aware that, at the 2006/2007 year Annual General Meeting a number of Special Resolutions were passed to change the name of the Association and its Constitution, made up of the Statement of Purposes and Rules. As required under the Associations Incorporation Act (1981) (referred to as "the Act" elsewhere in this document) final approval to these changes were sought and obtained from the Department of Justice (Consumer Affairs Victoria) with the amended Constitution becoming effective from 21 September 2007.

However, in their approval letter the Department of Justice advised that upon their further inspection of our Constitution they had identified that it did not comply with Section 6 (a)(i) of the Act, in that our Rules did not provide for the following:

- The grievance procedure (Rule 8 of the Model Rules).
- The manner of altering the Statement of Purposes (Rule 3 of the Model Rules).
- The manner of altering the Rules (Rule 3 of the model Rules).

* *The Model Rules are a set of rules established under the Act. In the case where the Rules of an incorporated association do not make provision for a particular matter the relevant provision of the Model Rules is deemed to apply.*

The Department of Justice advised also that these omitted Rules are deemed to apply to our Association and instructed us to inform our members that the Association rules are to be read in conjunction with the Model Rules (a copy was provided to us). Through subsequent verbal communications with the Department of Justice officers we were

led to believe that our Constitution could be amended to rectify the above shortcomings without the passing of Special Resolutions. In response, we informed members of these developments and outlined some proposed changes to SACIM's Constitution in our Newsletter of December 2007.

More recently, we were informed in writing by the Department of Justice that Special Resolutions would need to be passed should we want to proceed with any changes to the Constitution. Accordingly, the SACIM Committee has decided to present for approval by members at this 2008 Annual General Meeting a number of Special Resolutions to change the SACIM's Constitution. The proposed changes were not specifically requested by the Department of Justice. The only requirement emanating from the Department of Justice is that all members be informed that the Association rules should be read in conjunction with the Model Rules. However, the Committee believes that it is beneficial to have all the rules with which SACIM must comply in one self-contained document and, therefore, minimize reference to other sources, namely, the Model Rules. Also, following the advices received from the Department of Justice, the Committee spent a great deal of time comparing the Constitution with the Model Rules and identified a few additional discrepancies; these are mainly cosmetic and have been included in the proposed changes to align the Constitution more closely with the Model Rules.

Please note that the omissions being rectified have existed for some years; presumably, from the time the Constitution was first written, but were not identified by the successive SACIM Committees or the Department of Justice until recently.

The changes proposed by the Committee are outlined in this article and will be mailed to all financial members with their AGM invitation in August.

Marina Dahoo (née Parisien) - SACIM patient in Melbourne in 1973, 1985, 1998 and now probably in 2008

Marina Parisien was only four years old when she first came to Melbourne for treatment for a critical congenital heart condition. This was in 1973 the first year of operation of SACIM in Australia. She was taken in charge by Georges and Betty Domaingue and the other SACIM founding families. Marina was successfully operated on at St. Vincent's hospital, where Georges then worked as chief anaesthetist.

The surgery was complex and Marina stayed in Melbourne for a long time for post operative treatment and to recover. SACIM was then a small organization in Melbourne, and all the people in the group got to know her well. Marina came again for additional surgery in 1985, that time at the Royal Childrens' Hospital. As SACIM evolved and more and more children came for treatment, a relationship was established with the Royal Childrens, where quite a few of our cases are still treated today. Marina returned to Melbourne again in 1998, that time for additional shunting to her pulmonary artery. Over the several visits to Melbourne, Marina has been fostered by several SACIM families, including Jean and Marie-Claude Constantin, Paulette and Gervais Ribet, and Fritz and May Herry.

A few weeks ago we have been informed by SACIM Mauritius that Marina had been diagnosed in Mauritius and that she was suffering from non functioning pulmonary arteries again. Marina is now 39 and has been happily married for a few years. Her cardiologist in Mauritius requested sent a report recommending further treatment in Australia.

In Melbourne the SACIM committee organized to have the report assessed by specialists at Monash Private Hospital and after careful consideration they advised that there will

be a need for further imaging done in Mauritius if possible, and that the case could be referred to Melbourne for a catheter study and eventual surgery. The estimation for the cost of treatment in Melbourne was around \$50,000.

The information was conveyed to SACIM in Mauritius who organized the additional diagnostics for Marina and the imaging files and reports have been sent to Australia just before this newsletter went to press.

The next step will be to contact the Melbourne cardiologists again and work towards getting a detail quotation for the treatment if their advice is to proceed with the case. This should not take more than a couple of weeks. If a decision to go ahead is taken and SACIM Mauritius agrees, with the course of action, we will then organize to complete the visa and travel formalities for Marina to come to Melbourne.

This will be the first time for us to have an adult case in Melbourne. Although the SACIM policy aims at the treatment of children, it includes exceptions for adults who have previously been SACIM cases. In our 35th year of operation we may have a patient who was one of our first in 1973!



Marina at the Royal Childrens' Hospital in 1985: Second Visit



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[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 **03-9799-0895** or discuss with any Committee Member.

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

New Committee Member: Guy (Cyril) Tuyau

Cyril joined the SACIM committee after the last AGM. There was a vacancy and he was interested to come forward and contribute after having enjoyed the SACIM October 2007 function at the Prahran City Hall. Cyril has been with us for a few months now and is very keen to make things happen. This is what he has to say about his motivation to have joined the SACIM committee:



thing else. I have worked for the Dunlop/Goodyear organisation as a management accountant for nearly 25 years.

I have known of SACIM for a long time, and I am confident that it is a worthwhile cause. I have always been passionate of the wellbeing of children, mainly since the birth of my own children. When I heard the announcement about the vacancies of the SACIM committee, I did not think twice about joining. I like the organisation because it only focuses on one thing and it does not play politics. I hope that in the years to come that I will be able to make a solid contribution to SACIM and its worthwhile cause".

"Back in Mauritius I was heavily involved with the Sacré Coeur parish at Beau Bassin. I participated in a lot of voluntary work from organising meals for the poor to establishing the parish's auto financing to being a scout leader up to the rank of assistant commissioner for Plaines Wilhems.

I migrated to Australia at the end of 1979 and always wanted to be involved in community work. But because of my young family at the time (I have a son, Nicolas , and a daughter, Maxine), and also because I decided to further my studies I did not find the time to commit myself to any-

We welcome our newest committee member and wish Cyril all the best for a very active association with SACIM. It was a bold decision to have joined the committee, in particular because Cyril lives near the airport, or 50 km away from where most of the other committee members are located in the South Eastern suburbs. Distance is not an issue and we will find interesting tasks for Cyril, in particular when we have children treated at the Sunshine Hospital—which is nearly his backyard!

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

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

Or make a donation as indicated below.

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

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

TOTAL \$_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____ Signature (1) _____

Signature (2) _____

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

Please send completed form to: The SACIM Secretary, 1 Keystone Court, Lynbrook Heights, VIC 3975.

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