

***MERRY
CHRISTMAS***

FROM

MEGA

**LE JOURNAL DES
MAURICIENS EN
AUSTRALASIE**

*A wish of peace, love and happiness in
this season of new hope*

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EDITORIAL

**BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR.**

Next year we will provide with every journal a listing of all Mauritian Businesses in Australia. Due to the Anti-Discrimination Act, we can't call it Mauritian Business Directory but we can call it **MEA National Business Directory (MBD)**. All listings are free. Company Names in **BOLD** and display advertising will incur a small fee.

FOR THE LISTING TO SUCCEED, WE REQUIRE LOTS OF SUPPORT FROM ALL BUSINESS OWNERS, CLUB MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS, FRIENDS, ETC. PLEASE HELP US HELPING MAURITIAN BUSINESSES. INFORM US OF ANY BUSINESS YOU KNOW. SEND US A BUSINESS CARD, A LETTER, A FAX OR JUST PHONE US ON 0419 970 907 FOR A CHAT. YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOMED.

HISTOIRE GÉNÉALOGIQUE

Mauritius and Family History at the National Library.

Dr. Edward Duyker.

(Part 1 of 2)

Like Lloyd Rees and Gary (Angry) Anderson, I have a Mauritian mother. When I began to research my ancestors and the history of Mauritians in Australia, I was amazed at the number of Mauritian genealogical and family history sources held by the National Library. They help demonstrate the extraordinary richness of our national collection.

The fertile Indian Ocean island of Mauritius was uninhabited until the seventeenth century. The Cantino map of 1502 suggests that Arab/Swahili navigators were the first to sight the island. They were followed in the early sixteenth century by Portuguese mariners who came to call the island Cirn  (the island of the Swan). Portugal, however, did not attempt to settle.

In 1598, the Dutch fleet of Admirals Van Warwyck and Van Neck arrived at the island and renamed it Mauritius, after Maurice of Nassau. The first Dutch attempt at colonisation of Mauritius began in 1638. Four years later the island was used by Abel Tasman as an important base for his historic expedition which discovered Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand. Because the colony received little external support, the first attempt at settlement was not a success and in 1658 the island was abandoned.

Another colonial experiment was mounted in 1664. Again the colonists were afforded little external support. In 1710 the Dutch left Mauritius for good. Except for a few vague ruins, a number of place

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

names and several introduced species, today there is little evidence of Dutch endeavours on the island. It was during Dutch rule that the Famous dodo became extinct.

In 1715, Guillaume Dufresne d'Arsel took possession of the island for France and re-named it Isle de France. Six years later the French began to settle the island. At first the future looked bleak for the small colony of French settlers and their slaves, but in 1735, with the arrival of Bertrand François Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699-1753), the Isle de France began its transformation from a struggling infant settlement to a thriving community. Labourdonnais was to Mauritius what Lachlan Macquarie was to New South Wales. By the late 1780s the Isle de France had become an important seafaring colony. The end of the French East India Company's monopoly on colonial trade had enabled the emergence of a class of ship-owning traders on the island. Among them was Marc Joseph Marion Dufresne (1724-72) who pre-empted Cook in discovering the most westerly islands in the Indian Ocean and reaching Van Diemen's Land. Seafaring merchants soon dominated a considerable share of the trade between Eastern and Indian Ocean ports. In the many wars with the British, the colonists of Isle de France joined the fray as corsairs. Armed local merchantmen preyed with remarkable success on British Indian shipping. Ship building and commerce-raiding came to be major local industries and enabled the island to survive the revolutionary decade as a semi-independent entity under the tricolour. During the brief Peace of Amiens, two trading expeditions were sent to Port Jackson from the island, but renewed fighting smashed prospects for trade. Eventually, blockading British naval Forces tightened their grip. It was during this period that Matthew Flinders was interned for six-and-a-half years on the island.

In December 1810, ten thousand British and Indian troops landed on the Isle de France. With no prospect of support from France, the colony capitulated under terms which respected the laws, customs, religion and property of the settlers. Britain retained control of the island after the Treaty of Paris in 1814 and reverted to the use of the old Dutch name of Mauritius. During the early years of British rule, the island was integrated into

the imperial order. Between 1820 and 1834 Britain even found it convenient to have the Catholic Church in Australia officially administered from Mauritius. These early years of British rule were also characterised by a major expansion of the island's sugar industry. Aside from Britain, Australia soon became an important market for Mauritian sugar. In April 1827, Governor Darling wrote that "Mauritius...may be considered as almost exclusively supplying the colony of New South Wales with sugar".

Most of the important merchants in Hobart and Launceston also traded with Mauritius. For the greater part of the nineteenth century the balance of trade between Australia and Mauritius was firmly in Mauritius's favour. Mauritian sugar exports to the Australian colonies, as a whole, peaked at 110,792,752 pounds in 1877-78. This mercantile relationship, which ultimately made Australia Mauritius's most important trading partner during the nineteenth century, also had some implications for immigration. It was on the merchant vessels bringing sugar and other commodities to Australia that over two hundred Mauritian convicts were transported to Australia. Many of these convicts were slaves or former slaves. Later, Mauritian diggers in well-organised companies made their way to the Victorian goldfields on merchant vessels. Dependence on Mauritian sugar also stimulated attempts to develop Australia's own sugar industry. These endeavours, in turn, attracted a small wave of skilled Mauritian sugar planters and chemists who helped pioneer our sugar industry. But aside from these three immigrant waves, the export of Mauritian sugar to Australia brought numerous Mauritian merchants, seamen and their family members to Australian shores. Some stayed in Australia and were among the earliest free Mauritian immigrants in this country. In this century, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s, Australia received another wave of Mauritians. They now number over 18,000 and include individuals who have made an important contribution to our cultural life: for example, Odile Le Clezio who played Marie Curie in Yahoo Serious's *Young Einstein*, Henri Wilden who was for many years principal tenor of the Sydney Opera Company and pianist Bernard Marie. (To be Continued.)

MSA

Regis JASMIN

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MAURITIAN ASSOCIATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

RE: VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR AND MRS REX FANCHETTE, HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR MAURITIUS FROM 18TH TO 20TH NOVEMBER 1996.

The High Commissioner on his esteemed visit presented his credentials to the Governor of Victoria, his Excellency Mr. Richard McGarvis at Government House followed by a luncheon.

His Excellency was received by many and varied dignitaries and officials representing the Government of Victoria and from the private sector. The High Commissioner availed himself of this opportunity to bring to their attention some meaningful aspects of the Bi-lateral relationship between Australia and Mauritius. To this end, the visit took on a very high profile, more so than normally be the case in similar visits.

In the evening of Tuesday 19 November 1996, His Excellency Mr and Mrs Fanchette were officially welcomed by the Victorian Mauritian Community. It was an extraordinary warm and sincere welcome. A most happy occasion celebrated the long awaited visit. In his speech, the High Commissioner displayed his humour and the seriousness with which he sees his function in Australia.

The community feel very proud to have such warm, generous, dedicated ambassadors for Mauritius. We wish the High Commissioner and Mrs Fanchette well and we look forward to seeing them as often as possible in our garden state.

**May the Joy and
Peace of Christmas
be with you
throughout the year
of 1997.**

Le M. M. M

Dorothy Mackay. (Part 1 of 2)

LE MAGNIFICAT MEAL MOVEMENT INTERNATIONAL.

Le Meal (Notre nourriture) , Le Saint Sacrement....

C'est un mouvement de prière et d'unité devant le Saint Sacrement. Il commença à Melbourne en Australie et maintenant est répandu à travers le monde entier, très rapidement. Nous sommes appelés à veiller en prière comme Marie, au pied de la croix en adoration de notre seigneur Jésus Christ. Jésus caché dans la Sainte Eucharistie sera magnifié comme la nourriture céleste de notre pays et de notre sainteté.

Le temps qu'on passe devant le Saint Sacrement en silence est d'une valeur considérable; ça nous guérit et nous apprend la sainteté. Plus on aime Dieu, plus on réalise notre pauvreté et son immense désir de nous aimer et guérir. Il nous apprend aussi comment nous abandonner complètement à sa volonté. L'adoration est le chemin vers une vie plus profonde avec Dieu, car on le permet ainsi de nous remplir de la douceur de son amour. Il nous a convié à ouvrir une couverture rayonnante d'adoration pour que notre pays devienne une terre Sainte pour préparer son retour.

Il nous a donné sa mère pour nous guider et nous diriger. Il désire qu'on l'honore sous le titre de Marie, Co-rédemptrice, Médiatrice de toutes grâces et avocate, Reine du ciel, puissante et douce, et point d'appui de tout chrétiens.

Nous aussi comme Marie sommes appelés à dire "OUI" à Jésus, notre Eucharistie sauveur en imitant Marie, pour que Jésus naisse dans notre vie et que nous le partagions avec les autres. Marie veut nous joindre avec Jésus dans une union d'amour et de réconciliation.

QUELQUES RAISONS QUE NOUS DONNE LE PAPE POUR L'ADORATION.

1. Le temps que passez avec Jésus aidera à réparer le mal qui sévit au monde et apporter la paix sur la terre. L'église nous dit "Soyons généreux avec notre temps en allant à sa rencontre, que notre adoration ne cesse jamais". (Pape Jean Paul 11).

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2. "L'église et le monde ont grand besoin d'adoration Eucharistique" (Pape Jean Paul II - Redeemer of man)

3. Le meilleur temps que vous passez sur la terre est avec votre meilleur ami, Jésus dans le Saint Sacrement. "Comme elle est grande la valeur de converser avec le Christ dans le Saint Sacrement, car il n'y a rien de plus consolant sur la terre, rien de plus efficace pour avancer sur le chemin de la sainteté." (Pape Paul VI Mysterium Fidei).

4. Si Jésus était actuellement visible dans l'église, tout le monde, aurait couru pour l'accueillir. Mais il reste caché dans l'hostie sacrée sous l'apparence du pain parce qu'il nous appelle à la foi. "Le Saint Sacrement est le coeur vivant de chacune de nos églises, et c'est notre très doux devoir d'honorer et d'adorer dans la Sainte Hostie que nos yeux voient, la Parole Incarnée, que nous ne pouvons voir " (Pape Jean Paul VI -Credo du peuple de Dieu)

5. Jour et nuit, Jésus demeure dans la Sainte Eucharistie parce que vous êtes la personne la plus importante au monde pour lui. Il pense à chacun de nous individuellement. Dans sa présence Eucharistique il reste sous les signes qui expriment et communiquent cette amour. (Catechise de l'église catholique). Le Seigneur demande un Magnificat Meal Mouvement une fois par semaine dans chaque paroisse, une demi heure environ de silence suivi du Rosaire et d'autres prières choisies par les groupes individuels.

(à suivre)

Pour plus d'information, écrivez au Magnificat Meal Mouvement Int, P.O. Box 353, Toowoomba, QLD 4350. À Melbourne contactez Dorothy sur ce numéro de téléphone: (03) 9793 4150.

ON HOLIDAYS FROM MAURITIUS

Michel and Janine Prosper and family are currently enjoying a relaxing holiday in Australia from Mauritius. They left on the 17th of November flying to Singapore and Malaysia for a 4 day shopping spree where they looked at sports gear and textiles. However they feel that Mauritian textiles are definitely of a much higher standard. Arriving in Sydney on the 24th of November in time for breakfast, Michel and family commented

that they love Australian shopping much better than Singapore or Malaysia as things like Nike sports shoes are much cheaper here. The Prosper Family also believe that food is much cheaper here than back home for example:

Peaches 7 Rupees for 1

Oranges 10 Rupees for 3

Banana 2 Rupees for 1

This is the third visit to Australia for Michel and Janine and the second visit for the young Prosper's and they will be back again in the year 2000 as Bertrand 17 years is with the National Badminton team in Mauritius where he works hard and is looking forward to perform in the Olympics.

Bertrand relaxing in Sydney at his aunty's place.



Bertrand said his parents wanted to go to Europe for this holiday however he had been so impressed with his last visit that he wanted to come back. Also this would probably be the last time he would travel with his family as he will be going off to university in the near future. He was shy to admit that Australian girls are very pretty and charming. When he goes shopping they are everywhere: left, right, up and down.

Currently Bertrand is studying: Accounting Commerce, Art, English, French, Maths, English and French literature at St. Joseph's, Curepire. He hopes to be an Accountant.

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Martine, 13 years is the youngest member of the Prosper family and she will be in Form 3 next year at Loreto Convent School, Quatre Bornes where she will be studying Maths, French, English, Social Studies, Science, French and English literature, Home Economics and Art. Martine loves reading and playing Volley Ball. At

school, along with Beatrice Momplé, she is the best athlete in the category under 13.

For Martine shopping in Australia means she is able to buy the sports gear, shorts and brand name shoes she loves to wear as they are much cheaper here than in Mauritius. Martine intends to be an Air Hostess or Physical Education Teacher when she finishes her schooling.

Janine, works for Rogers and Company Ltd as a Confidential Secretary to the Board Secretary at Rogers House, Port Louis. She agrees with Michel that Mauritian textiles are of very high quality. She commented that electrical appliances were much cheaper in Singapore and Malaysia than in Mauritius.



Michel who is the Manager of the Organisation and Methods Dept of The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd told MEA that after his last visit to Australia where he spent 6 weeks driving around, he felt very uncomfortable driving back home in Quatre Bornes due to the small streets. He felt as though the cars were all coming straight to hit him.

From Sydney the Prosper's travel to Melbourne to spend Christmas with family and catching up with other friends before they fly out of Australia at the end of December.

CANTERBURY PÉTANGUE CLUB

The Canterbury Pétangue Club held an 'Hawaiian' social night on the 9th November 1996 at the Canterbury Bowling Club and MEA was there. Mauritian Food was on sale and music was provided by 'After Dark' band and DJ Serge Broudou. A variety of song entertained the dance lovers and MEA captured some on camera.



Charles and Dianne Lang dancing the tango.

Rose May and Rick Frilay dancing the segá.



It was a great night.

BONNYRIGG CHOIR

Back in the sixties in Mauritius, many Mauritians were singing in different choirs at various Sunday Masses. Eventually they all migrated to Australia where they met and formed the Bonnyrigg Choir. Today they sing on the third Saturday of the month at 6 pm. at St. Therese De L'enfant de Jesus Church on the corner of Stella Street and The Boulevard, Fairfield, NSW.

To celebrate the end of 1996, the choir held their Christmas dance at Monte Fano Hall in Smithfield on Saturday 30th November with approximately 350 guests and MEA had the pleasure and honour of being invited.

Reverend Father Ian officially opened the dance and then the fun began with everyone being able to purchase truly fine Mauritian food from Yves Fine Catering and Cuisine. The hosts; Yves' (Robert) and Cynthia Tourneur cater for Weddings, Engagement, 21st Birthday, Conference, Office and all other functions. They specialise in Australian and European, Mauritian, Chinese and Indian cuisine.



We were able to dance to the sound of Mario Rose DJ.

Mario Rose and his sound equipment.

As the evening progressed we were treated to a fabulous floor show of Latin dancing and then a Séga competition was held. It was very hard for the judges as there were so many extremely good séga dancing couples. Eventually the judges were able to narrow it down to just four couples and a dance off was held.

Séga Competition: 1st prize went to Celine Gassin 17 years and Hugo De Reland 29 years.



2nd prize went to Mrs Anick Hewett and her friend Mr Jean Marc Nulliah.



Husband Steve & Anick Hewett (Photo above) have been married for 4½ years and are expecting their first baby in late January 97. MEA takes this opportunity to wish them all the very best and congratulations on the forth coming delivery.

The dance was a real success and it was a great evening.

D'ÉTRANGER À AMI

Christian Belcourt

At a time when Pauline Hanson's racial comments have left the Australian ethnic community feeling vulnerable, abandoned and betrayed, may be we Mauritians can renew the good feeling for other races from this article (author unknown) which I picked up from a dalpourri paper wrapping at Port Louis market during my recent visit to Mauritius in September of this year.

It goes as follows (sorry for the French version as my software translation package refused to cope with the ethnic message...maybe Pauline could debug it when she has time !!!)

Une visite au Marché Central de Port Louis, Île Maurice, un beau matin des années Quarante du siècle dernier, et une visite a ce même marché un beau jour des années de notre fin de siècle, nous font découvrir l'avènement d'une jeune nation de toutes races.

Que de changements! Autrefois, le parfum des épices ne s'entremêlait que du souffle de l'Océan Indien tout proche. Aujourd'hui il faut aussi y ajouter le parfum trop moderne des automobiles.

Mais ce n'est pas là le plus important. Il y a aussi l'écroulement de tant de barrières.

Barrières vestimentaire effacées qui font que tout le monde peut mettre tout, sari, salwar Kameez ou robe.

Barrière mentales effritées qui font qu'un peuple se reconnaît et reconnaît les mêmes espoirs, craintes et passions, plutôt que de se retrancher au delà des préjugés contre les autres.

Maintenant les autres, ce sont les visiteurs, qui ne sauraient ce qu'est un espoir Mauricien, une crainte Mauricienne, une amitié Mauricienne.

Mais ce qui s'est-il passé pour faire une petite nation d'un rassemblement d'êtres de diverses nationalités qui se voyaient maîtres suprêmes. Français fiers ou serviteurs, Indiens sans droits, ou descendants d'esclaves, Africains enfin libres, ou commerçants Chinois de s'agripper a la richesse de l'île?

Certainement les évolutions sociales sont venues

mettre de l'ordre dans les pensées. Et l'indépendance a forge une certaine entente. Mais il y a plus, bien plus.

C'est la beauté de l'île qui a fait naître les premiers sourires du Français a l'Indien, du Chinois a l'Africain, C'est la richesse de ses lagons qui a poussé l'un a inviter l'autre a pénétrer sa maison, pour prendre un verre.

C'est la douceur de ses cascades qui a vu mûrir les amitiés.

C'est la chaleur de ses couchers de soleil qui a pris aux anciennes patries Africaines, Européen ou Asiatiques les coeurs de leur filles et fils.

Enfin, c'est l'âme qui avec le temps a passé **d'étranger à Ami.**

YOUR HOLIDAY CAR

The Xmas holiday is fast approaching and your car will be one of your most important commodities. Some vital checks before you start your long journey are: Check all four tyres and spare for wear. Check all lights are working. Under the bonnet, check belts for fraying or splits on underside. Check battery level and terminals. Check radiator hose for cracks and perishing. Check oil level in engine and gear box and go through the complete car carefully. **HAPPY HOLIDAY.**



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MAURITIUS VS RODRIGUES.

Mauritians and Rodrigues soccer players had a match on Sunday 17th November 1996 at Blamfield Park, Liverpool, NSW and Rodrigues won 6 : 2. As per every soccer match Mauritian gourmet was available to cater for the large crowd of spectators and was prepared by the dedicated catering persons below:



From Left to Right: Sylvaine Antoine, Sylvette Carter, Claudine K/Nell, Marie Ange Castel, Marieline Pierre and Dolly Lennon.

Prestons Soccer Club held its Final presentation night of 1996 at the Bonnyrigg Plaza, Bonnyrigg. Joelle Touchard was awarded female player of the year and Jeff Albert was awarded male player of the year. Music was provided by the "Lennon Disco".



Dolly and Wendy Lennon busy organising the music along with helper Bruce.

Dolly Lennon is also the Manager of the Female Soccer team "Prestons United" and Social Director of the Prestons Soccer Club Inc.

She organised the ladies soccer team which started with only eight females in February this year. They now have two teams consisting of 26 ladies ranging in age from 13 to 42 years. Apparently this is the first and only Mauritian ladies soccer team in existence. By the end of October the team were playing World competition soccer representing Mauritius against Columbia and won the game 1-0.



Top, from left to right: Sam Carter (coach),. Jessica and Johanieta Jasmin, Angela Carter, Tina Crewe, Wendy and Kellie Anne Lennon, Belinda Suzar, Melisa and Maryline Pierre, Dolly Lennon (Manager). Bottom, left to right: Joelle and Amy Touchard, Kathleen Waterstone, Daniel Jasmin, Pamela Sebaruth, Christelle Hug, Christine Berard, Nathalie Empeigne.

Below are Dolly Lennon and Yves Antoine with the youngest female soccer player Christelle Hug (13 years)



Apsa



WORKING FOR THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN

Ms Lani Fouri

NATIONAL FLAG DAY

Every year APSA organises a national flag day to raise funds for children needing medical attention unavailable in Mauritius. These children come from families who cannot afford the cost involved in such treatment, and APSA's assistance provides them with hope for the future. In the four days leading up to Christmas, over 400 volunteers will be sent out in teams all over Mauritius.

In 1994, APSA raised Rs 1.87 million and Rs 1.62 million in 1995. This figure was lower than expected due to the flag days coinciding with the general election. Three children have benefited from last year's collection; two were sent for treatment in Reunion Island, while the third, Goolaup, a little boy, will be sent to Paris to be treated for severe facial deformities.

The appeal target for 1996 is Rs 2 million. Among the children who will benefit from this year's collection is two and a half year old baby Lutchmee from Montagne Blanche. She was born with a large congenital defect to her abdominal wall, resulting in a huge ventral hernia. She underwent surgery at birth and miraculously survived, but today she needs more refined surgery overseas which will save her life. The other two beneficiaries are a mentally handicapped child who has scoliosis and a two year old child with incomplete male and female genitals. The latter will undergo tests to confirm his sexual gender followed by an operation to rectify the sexual organs.

APSA will be taking these three children to Reunion Island to receive the necessary medical treatment which will give them a chance to lead a normal life.

APSA FOSTER FAMILIES

In a society where abuse and the breakdown of family life are becoming increasingly common, APSA is often called upon to help children who are abandoned or in difficult home circumstances. In such cases APSA finds foster homes for children on a temporary or permanent basis.

In a recent case three children, a girl aged 10, and two boys, one aged 4 and the other 18 months, were referred to APSA by the Child Development Unit. Their mother worked as a prostitute and lived with the children and her partner in impoverished conditions. The children had received little schooling. Her partner's lifestyle encouraged drug addicts and disreputable characters to visit the house, exposing the children to potentially dangerous situations. This continued after he was arrested for robbery and held by the police; on one occasion his friends broke into the family home. Eventually the mother contacted the authorities fearing that the children were at risk of abuse.

These children have now been placed in APSA foster families where they will live in a stable environment with strong moral values. They have settled down and adjusted well, and with suitable parenting it is hoped that they will grow up to be responsible adults who can contribute positively to society. APSA foster families will continue to support the authorities in the quest for better foster care services in Mauritius.

BIEN MANGER POUR MIEUX SE PORTER

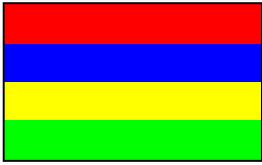
LES MEILLEURS SPORTS POUR LE COEUR

- La marche
- La gymnastique
- La bicyclette
- La natation
- La course à pied

Faire du sport, ça rend le coeur "costaud" en améliorant ses performances, en le rendant plus puissant.

Le sport, c'est bon aussi pour l'ensemble de la machine cardiovasculaire et pour la forme en general.

THIS YEAR IN MAURITIUS



THE POLITICAL SCENE:

Disappointment with the coalition government abounds

After a sweeping victory capturing all 60 directly elected seats on the island last December (1st quarter 1996), the coalition government's popularity has plummeted to an all-time low. Some local political observers feel that the Labour Party-Mouvement Militant Mauricien (LP-MMM) alliance has become one of the most unpopular governments in post-independence. Mauritius Policy implementation has virtually ground to a halt, and the population has been repeatedly disappointed by a government whose electoral campaign emphasised efficiency.

THE LABOUR PARTY WILL WATCH THE MMM CLOSELY

Although both Mr. Ramgoolam and the leader of the Mouvement Militant Mauricien (MMM), Paul Berenger, have tried to convince the population that relations between their two parties have not been affected by recent events, a number of parliamentarians from both sides privately admit that they are a divided force. MMM ministers have tried to outperform LP ministers in order to expose incompetence among the Labour ranks. This strategy will widen the cracks within the coalition and could pave the way to a split in the LP-MMM alliance. MMM members will be keen to push for their party to become the majority partner in the cabinet. Token parliamentary and extra-parliamentary opposition groups will try to capitalise on recent events and incite MMM parliamentarians to distance themselves from the recent blunders. This will make Mr. Ramgoolam's task all the more challenging in the coming months. Not only will he have to ensure order in his LP cabinet team, but he will also have to monitor closely the actions of the MMM. Much of the criticism directed against the government in recent

months has in fact been aimed at the LP, while the MMM has retained its popularity. Mr. Berenger has not been in the firing line. The opposition will therefore harness this opportunity to try to depose Mr. Ramgoolam, thereby allowing Mr. Berenger the chance to take the reins. However, Mr. Ramgoolam will not give up that easily. During the rest of the year, he will lean on some of his more experienced cabinet ministers to reassert his authority over the coalition government. If the MMM decides to distance itself from the LP, the prime minister will still be able to form a new government with a workable parliamentary majority.

ECONOMIC POLICY WILL BE MADE CLEARER

In view of the fact that the 1996/97 budget has failed to clarify the new government's economic policy, the LP-MMM coalition will concentrate on spelling out dearly its economic strategy. This will be a vital exercise because business confidence has plummeted to an all-time low. The government will speed up the publication of a series of white papers on privatisation, tourism development, agricultural reform and industrialisation strategy. Although the 1996/97 budget was revised no fewer than three times, the prime minister will introduce additional measures aimed at reversing the tax increases announced by the former finance minister. A complete return to pre-budget conditions cannot be ruled out. This would allow the new finance minister the chance to present a fresh budget, providing businesses, unions and workers with a clearer indication of the intentions of the new government.

GDP GROWTH WILL STILL AVERAGE 4.5-5%.

Meanwhile, the EIU maintains its forecast of real GDP growth of around 5% in 1996 and 4.5% in 1997. If, however, the tax measures of the 1996/97 budget are implemented, economic growth in 1997 could fall to 4%, while inflation could move into double figures. Unemployment is not causing concern at present, but could become a structural problem, especially if the clothing and textiles industries continue to decline.

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However, the government will almost certainly introduce additional fiscal and monetary measures aimed at reversing the tax rises. Business confidence has been dealt a blow by recent events and this will have a negative impact on investment growth. Some new investment plans have already been shelved due to the Amcol-Guibies saga and recent tax measures. In order to avoid a decline in the economic growth rate, the government must send clear signals to the business community of its commitment to free enterprise.

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR PROMOTES A REGIONAL ROLE FOR MAURITIUS.

“The United States will continue to encourage Mauritius to be a leader in promoting democracy and economic growth in Africa and the Indian ocean region” the new U.S. ambassador to Mauritius says.

Harold Geisel officially resumed his new duties representing the United States on August 13, when he presented his diplomatic papers to Prime Minister Navim Ramgoolam. Mr. Geisel, who is serving his first assignment as a U.S. ambassador, has replaced Ambassador Leslie Alexander. Mr. Alexander recently left Mauritius after a nearly three-year stay to take an assignment as the U.S. envoy to Equador.

In a wide-ranging interview before he left Washington for Mauritius, Mr. Geisel talked about relations between America and Mauritius and his priorities as the new ambassador. His tour of duty in Mauritius will be for three years.

Geisel said that American interests in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean region remain strong even though the end of the Cold War has brought a marked reduction in military movements in the Indian Ocean, and despite the fact that the United States has closed down diplomatic missions in the Seychelles and the Comoros.

“The most important area of interest for us is that Mauritius remain a model for the rest of the Indian Ocean,” the ambassador said in a recent interview with WEEKEND. “Mauritius has democracy, economic ability and respect for human rights. These are all the things that we admire. And the tremendous economic advancement of Mauritius

over the last 15 years is unparalleled. Mauritius doesn't give itself much credit for all that it has accomplished”.

UPDATES ON PRELIMINARY ROUND OF AFRICAN NATION CUP 1998.

Mauritius soccer team was held to a 1-1 draw at Seychelles on Saturday 24th August 1996 and got through the preliminary round of the African Nation Cup, after having won 1-0 in the first leg.

The Mauritian midfielder, Andrée Caboche was sent off in the 19th minute and despite the setback, the evergreen Ashley Mocude managed to score a minute later to give the Mauritian team a two-goal aggregate lead. Danny Rose equalised for Seychelles in the 50th minute, but the home team could not find the net again.

Mauritius will now play in group seven of the qualifiers which includes Malawi, Mozambique, and Zambia.

Next Meet:

26 JAN. 1997: Mozambique vs Mauritius

23 FEB. 1997: Mauritius vs Zambia

21 JUN. 1997: Malawi vs Mauritius

13 JUL. 1997: Mauritius vs Mozambique

16-28 JUL. 1997: Zambia vs Mauritius

HIPPODROME LES PAILLES

Works will be starting very soon on the new race - track at Pailles and are expected to end around April 1998. CMH (Compagnie Mauricienne d'Hippodromes) of the Roland Maurel group has sought the collaboration of Amcol Holdings from Singapore to achieve this gigantic project, which will include an Open Stand and a Grand Stand.

Amcol Holdings have invested R800 Million in the project. The Grand Stand will accommodate 20,000 people, 137 Tote terminals, 40 bookmakers' stands, 99 private lounges together with lounges for the president , the horse owners, and the members of the managing company. There will also be a restaurant , a terrace for 250 persons as well as several small restaurants, private and public rest-rooms and banking services. The Open Stand will

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house 45,000 people, 69 Tote terminals, 40 bookmaker stands, 2 food courts comprising 16 outlets and public rest-rooms.

Promoters are planning to create parking facilities for at least 1700 vehicles. The new complex will be able to accommodate 340 horses and races will be run on a distance of 1000 to 3200 metres. Spectators will be charged R150 to enter the Grand Stand and R30 for the Open Stand.

FATHER: Son, can you check the water level and fill it if it's low...

SON: Yes Dad. I open the cap on top of the engine and fill it using the garden hose but water is leaking out on the side of the engine.

FATHER: You \$#% stup@#\$ &%

MAURITIUS STUDIO

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR ALL OCCASIONS

WE CAN ALSO SUPPLY GIFT BASKET (HAMPERS) AND HAVE A TERRIFIC RANGE OF 'YVES ROCHER' COSMETICS AND FRAGRANCES.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JACQUELINE AND PIERRE BRUNET (BONANZA). P.O. BOX 285, BANKSTOWN, 2200, NSW

PHONE (02) 9724 7304. MOBILE 0414 722 477

CLUB LIST

(A partial list in alphabetical order. More in the next edition)

AUSTRALIAN MAURITIAN ASSOCIATION SOCIAL CLUB

PRESIDENT: Danielle Perombelon L.R.E.A
VICE PRESIDENT: Pierre Figon
SECRETARY: Jean Noel André
CONTACT: President (02) 9825 1897 (AH)
MEETING: Once every two months held in committee members homes.
MEMBERS: Approx. 230 family members.

CANTERBURY PÉTANGUE CLUB PETANGUE AND SOCIAL CLUB.

PRESIDENT: Christian Maulgnet
VICE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY: Marlene Salece
CONTACT: Marlene (02) 9708 2032 (AH)
MEETING: Every week on Wednesdays and Sundays at the Canterbury Bowling Club.

**CHAMAREL CLUB (VIC)
SOCCER AND SOCIAL CLUB.**
PRESIDENT: Gilbert Clark

**CLUB MAURICIEN
GAMES NIGHT CLUB (DOMINOES).**
PRESIDENT: George Laboulet
SECRETARY: Harry Louise
CONTACT: Harry Louis (02) 98313615 (AH)
MEETING: Every first and third Friday of each month at Blacktown City Bowling Club.

**LA CARAVELLE
SOCIAL AND SPORTS CLUB.**
PRESIDENT: Marie-Line Labour
VICE PRESIDENT: Denis Viney
SECRETARY: Primo Philippe
CONTACT: President (02) 98241059 (AH)
MEETING: Once a month at Macquarie Fields.
MEMBERS: Approx 200 members.

**PRESTONS SOCCER CLUB
SOCCER AND SOCIAL CLUB.**
PRESIDENT: Yves Antoine
CONTACT: (02) 9607 0145 (AH)

**STATE COUNCIL ON THE MAURITIAN
ASSOCIATION IN NSW.**
CHAIRMAN - PERCY COTTE
MEETING: Every 2 - 3 Months.
CONTACT: Percy Cotte (02) 9728 3822
MOBILE: 0412 160 835



Coming events

END OF YEAR DANCE (NSW)

AUSTRALIAN MAURITIAN ASSOCIATION

28th December at Ryde Civic Centre, Ryde. Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$18 for members. Band is Melbourne Base "Fernand Poupinel and Band" and DJ is Mario Rose. BYO Drinks, Food and Glasses.

LA CARAVELLE

31st December at James Mehan High School, Macquarie Fields. Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$12 for members. Band is "Torrid Zone" and DJ is Mario Rose. BYO Drinks, Food and Glasses.

CANTERBURY PETANGUE CLUB

31st December at Ryde Civic Centre, Ryde. Cost is \$20 for non-members and \$18 for members. Band is "After Dark" and DJ is Serge Broudou. BYO Drinks, Food and Glasses.

CLUB MAURICIEN

21st December at Blacktown City Bowling Club, Blacktown. Cost is \$10 per person. DJ is Serge Broudou. Drinks and Food available at Club Prices.

END OF YEAR DANCE (VIC)

MSA

31st December at Chandler Community Centre in Noble Park.

OTHER EVENTS

25th January 1997.

Rhythm & Blues Reggae Night at Blacktown Bowling Club, Blacktown. Cost \$5.00 per person, Mauritian style food available and drinks at bar prices. An evening for Young & Old.

8th March 1997.

C.A.T (Consortium des Artistes du Théâtre Inc) will present La Belle de Cadix opérette de Francis Lopez at the Marconi Club, Bossley Park. \$35 per person includes 2 course meal with wine and a dance after the show. For details contact Danielle Perombelon on (02) 9825 1897 (AH). Tickets are selling fast.

MARCH/APRIL 1997

HSC Award. (Details in Next Edition)

Sincere wishes for a
Joyous Christmas
and a New Year filled
with Happiness

MEA

LE JOURNAL DES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

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FORMATS

Written materials can be sent on diskette to The Publisher. Materials can be written in any format or in the popular word processing formats such as MS Word, MS Works, Word Perfect etc. Images can be sent in format such as BMP,TIF,CDF etc. Hand written articles can also be sent by mail to the above address. Full facilities are available to scan written documents using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology. Colour Photos will be scanned in grey scale before insertion into the journal.

Material can also be faxed to (02) 9632 8451 during the hours of 9.00am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.