

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

*The
world has
lost two
of the
most
special
and
caring
women
this
century.*



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LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

MEA

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

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FRONT PAGE:

Mother Teresa – She preached love in a unique way.

Diana, Princess of Wales.

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EDITORIAL

1. The news that Diana, Princess of Wales, had died was, around the world: Disbelief.
2. **Mother Teresa** died on Friday 5th September 1997. (Refer Story Page 13).
3. Part 1 of 3 of our article about **Racism** in the August editions has created a great deal of interests. We received many calls on the subject. Due to the story on Diana and Mother Teresa, we will continue part two and three in the next two editions.

DIANA. PRINCESS OF WALES

Born Sandringham, Norfolk, July 1, 1961. Died Paris, August 31 1997, aged 36.

The Honourable Diana Frances Spencer was born at Park House, Sandringham, in Norfolk. She was the third and youngest daughter of Viscount Althorp, later the 8th Earl Spencer, who died in 1992, and his first wife, the Hon Frances Roche (later married to the wallpaper heir Peter Shand Kydd). She became Lady Diana Spencer on the death of her grandfather in 1975. Her Spencer forebears had been sheep farmers in Warwickshire who

If Diana's accident happened in Australia, she most probably would be alive today.

settled in Althorp, Northamptonshire, in 1506. Cousins of the Spencer-Churchill's, they included many connoisseurs and patrons of the arts. Having inherited a considerable fortune from Sarah, duchess of Marlborough, the family was able to spend large sums on antiquities, paintings and sculpture.

For many generations, the Spencer's served their sovereigns and the tradition continued. The princess's father was equerry to George VI and to the present Queen. Both her grandmothers, the late



Countess Spencer and Ruth, Lay Fermoy, were close members of the court of the Queen Mother, as were no fewer than four Spencer great-aunts.

While the princess's paternal ancestors were representative of the Whig oligarchy of the 18th century, she also descended through several lines from the Stuart kings, Charles II and James II, who were not ancestors of the Prince of Wales. Other paternal forebears included the great duke of

Marlborough, Sir Robert Walpole, the marquise of Anglesey (who lost a leg at Waterloo), and the Earl of Lucan. On her mother's side there was Irish and Scottish blood with a sprinkling of pioneer New England stock.

The Princess was educated at Riddlesworth Hall in Norfolk and then at West Heath, a boarding school in Kent. Later she attended a finishing school, the Institute Alpin Videmanette at Rougemont in Switzerland, for six weeks. Her childhood was somewhat unsettled and unhappy due to the

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separation of her parents when she was six and their divorce in 1969. She had a more natural affinity with her father than with her mother.

After leaving school, the princess worked as a nanny, a baby-sitter and a skivvy. She attended a cookery course in September 1978 and soon after this her father collapsed with a cerebral haemorrhage, from which it took months to recover.

In 1979, she worked briefly as a student teacher at Miss Vacani's dance studios. Later she was invited by friends to help at the Young England Kindergarten in Pimlico, London, where she was popular with the children. She worked at the Kindergarten three days a week and at other times she looked after a small American boy.

In London, the princess shared a flat at Coleherne Court, Earl's Court, with three girlfriends. They found her a kind and thoughtful flatmate, keen on housework and evenings in front of the television, a lover of ballet, opera and cinema. She enjoyed dancing and sometimes they returned to find her dancing happily around the flat. At the time of the pre-wedding press siege, these girls were to prove staunchly loyal allies. Years later, one of them, Carolyn Bartholomew, the former Carolyn Pride, was a source for the Morton biography of the princess, *Diana, Her True Story*.

The Prince and Princess of Wales claimed to have met in a ploughed field at Althorp where Prince Charles was staying as a guest of Lady Sarah Spencer, the princess's elder sister, in November 1977. The accepted version of the story is that Charles and Sarah were romantically involved, though not deeply so. The younger sister fell in love with the prince, was keen to be Princess of Wales and saw in him a challenge. She knew from an early age that she would have to tread carefully and she never put a foot wrong.

It was not until late in 1980 that Diana's name came to the attention of the world. The Prince of Wales was nearly 32 and the subject of his marriage had been of consuming interest to the media for nearly a decade. Nor had he helped his difficulty by pronouncing that he thought 30 a good age at which to marry. As November 1978 loomed, the pressure increased. But he remained a bachelor and there were times when he looked a less than happy man.

Diana's appearance on the scene refocused press attention on the prince's bachelor state. While a discreet and low-key courtship was executed in private, Diana was pursued to and from work by determined cameramen and reporters, and had to resort to complicated manoeuvres to rescue the last vestiges of her privacy. Her subtle handling of the press earned her not only universal respect but the real affection of these normally hard-hearted men. At one point she broke down in tears and a note of apology was subsequently placed under her windscreen wiper. But the press pursuit persevered to the extent that her mother appealed to *The Times*. Later the Queen was obliged to complain to newspaper editors through her press secretary.

The prince proposed early in February 1981. The engagement was announced on February 24, after which Diana was better protected. From that day on she was surrounded by what she described as "a mass of smiling faces". Indeed, the engagement was greeted with universal approval though the princess found her immediate prenuptial days in Buckingham Palace tense and lonely.

The royal wedding took place in St Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981. Charles ensured that it was a "marvelous, musical, emotional experience", with three orchestras playing and Kiri



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Te Kanawa and the Bach Choir singing. Many heads of State attended, including nearly all the crowned heads of Europe, president François Mitterrand of France and Nancy Reagan, wife of the then US president. The wedding day was such that for a brief while it seemed that all strife was set aside, the sun blazed richly and, at the end of it, the police thanked the public for their vigilance, the public praised the police and, as one commentator put it, "the world was a friendlier and easier place for everyone".

The honeymoon was spent first at Broadlands, the home of Lord and Lady Romsey, and a favoured retreat of the prince when he had stayed there with Lord Louis Mountbatten in his youth. Then they cruised on Britannia in the Mediterranean. A long holiday at Balmoral followed. Returning to London in October, the prince and princess took up residence at Kensington Palace and at Highgrove House in Gloucestershire, their homes for the next 11 years.

Their first royal engagement was a 645km tour of Wales, the first such visit of a princess of Wales for 113 years. The tour included a visit to Caernarvon Castle where the Prince of Wales had been invested in 1969. The Princess of Wales was given the freedom of Cardiff, made her first public speech and spoke a few words of Welsh. Despite the ever-present threat of terrorist incendiary devices, the tour was a resounding success.

The princess made an immediate impact on the world of fashion. The British fashion industry, long in a precarious state, received a welcome boost with her arrival. Her style was fresh, attractive and original. She became the personification of current trends in British fashion, with felicitous results for the trade. She soon revealed a penchant for outfits of considerable glamour. On her first outing with her fiancé, she had arrived at the Goldsmiths' Hall in a décolleté black taffeta dress, a considerable contrast to her

formerly discreet image, which caused the octogenarian Lady Diana Cooper to joke: "Wasn't that a mighty feast to set before a king?" Her wedding dress, with its lavish detail and lengthy train, matched the magnificence of St Paul's Cathedral and her going-away outfit was chic. The fair fringe she favoured early in the marriage was widely copied for a time.

Soon the princess was pregnant, giving birth to Prince William on June 21, 1982. A second son Prince Harry, followed on September 15, 1984.

In the early years of the marriage the Wales's normally undertook joint engagements. This was the period of the princess's apprenticeship. But it soon became clear that, of the two, it was her that the public most wished to see and Charles was to some extent reduced to a male dancer supporting his glorious ballerina in her pirouettes. While the popularity of his bride should have delighted him, it added a sense of pointlessness to his slightly frustrated life. Equally, he was irritated when he



tried to make an important speech and the next day the papers merely reported his wife's outfit. He failed to grasp that one of the things the world wanted was a recurring series of images of a young couple enjoying a happy family life. He always appeared reluctant in such photo-calls, fearing that this diminished the importance of his more serious endeavors. The princess, on the other hand, fulfilled all such demands to perfection.

Their respective backgrounds were an additional challenge in the creation of a happy family atmosphere; She had come from a broken home, while his upbringing had been formal to say the least. His early companion had been his nanny and he lacked any close involvement with his parents. The love of solitude, to which the prince adhered even after marriage, combined with his love of polo and hunting, inevitably left the princess for many periods without him. But both parents shared an adoration for their children.

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Even as the world rejoiced on their wedding day, the princess was aware that she had not entirely won Charles's heart. Yet she always felt that she would win him. He most probably felt that the marriage was akin to an arranged one and some have said that he did not enter into it in the same spirit as his bride. When the princess realised that Charles was never entirely to reciprocate the love she felt for him, she, like many mothers, transferred much of her devotion to her sons.

The princess celebrated her 21st birthday in July 1982 and that September represented the Queen at the funeral of Princess Grace of Monaco in the cathedral at Monte Carlo. She was soon busily involved in public duties. As the years went by, she evolved into a deeply committed member of the royal family. She swiftly became better informed - in the early days of her marriage a Fleet Street editor was surprised to hear Prince Charles explaining to her at lunch that Chancellor Helmut Kohl was the leader of West Germany. She also learned the tricks of the royal trade, speaking easily to members of the public of all ages and possessing a good instinct as to what to talk about.

Yet in the early days she seldom made public speeches and, when she did, they were of the most formal sort.

As she gained confidence, she began to write her own speeches, delivering them from the podium with calm assurance. She spoke of the importance of the family in everyday life, the rehabilitation of drug users and urged more compassion for those dying of AIDS. When she and the Prince of



Wales appeared together in TV interviews, it was not long before she was the more articulate of the two, leaving him almost monosyllabic despite an earlier reputation for fluency.

The modern manner is for members of the royal family to be actively involved with any organisation of which they are patron or president. Until she gave up most of her charitable commitments at the end of 1993, the princess was never merely a figurehead but served directly as fund-raiser, promoter, chairman of meetings and, of course, as public spokeswoman.

She gave her support to an enormous number of charities its a wide range of fields. Among her key presidencies or patronage were Barnardo's, the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the English National Ballet, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, the Royal Academy of Music, the Leprosy Mission and the National AIDS Trust.

An exhausting round of overseas travel was also a feature of her marriage. Her first big overseas tour was in March and April 1983, when she accompanied Charles on a visit to Australia and New Zealand. The infant Prince William went with them. They traveled extensively in Australia, visiting every State and Territory. The then Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, a committed republican, conceded that the princess was "a lovely lady". The Australian trip, followed on that occasion by 12 days in New Zealand, was the first of three such visits by the royal couple in the 1980s.

During the next decade the princess traveled widely, sometimes without Charles. In 1989, on her second visit to the US, she visited centres for the homeless and dying children in the AIDS ward of Harlem Hospital in New York. She was dubbed, in American parlance, "bigger than Gorby, better than Bush". Visiting Nigeria in 1990, she saw much suffering at first hand and pointedly shook hands with the chief of a leper colony. In October that year the princess went alone to Washington for a ballet gala and to further understanding of AIDS.

Besides the birth of her two children there were other events of significance in her years of marriage. She much encouraged the union between Prince Andrew and her friend Sarah Ferguson and she was delighted when they married in 1986. For

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some years she and Sarah Ferguson remained close friends and confidants, and it was a cause of distress to her when that marriage came apart in the spring of 1992. The Duchess of York had appeared to be a good ally at court, never as glamorous as the princess, never likely to threaten her place in the esteem of the public, but certainly her friend.

But the arrival of the Duchess of York was in retrospect, a damaging thing for the Princess of Wales, for she began to be tarnished by the new duchess's fun-loving and sometimes irresponsible attitude. The two may have seemed alike in character, but they were essentially different, the princess being a great deal more dutiful and less interested in the perks. But the Duchess of York influenced her somewhat and it was during the time when they were close that the two, then Royal Highnesses, prodded their friends with the tip of their ferrules at a Royal Ascot meeting one of a number of incidents that caused establishment eyebrows to be raised. Each woman represented an alternative fantasy for the young: to be like the Princess of Wales was to diet rigorously and undertake regular aerobics. The Duchess of York, on the other hand, made few concessions.

For many years a small circle was aware of the not altogether happy state of the Wales's' marriage. Much was written about this through the years, but the situation continued until The Sunday Times adopted the story in 1992 and blew it up to sensational proportions. The public was left with another dream shattered and the monarchy's image was tarnished.

The 1992 revelations suggested that the Prince and Princess of Wales had failed to establish a mutually happy rapport during their marriage. There were many obstacles to natural happiness. With nearly 13 years between them, they were almost of different generations. The prince was always of a serious disposition, inflexible in his way of life, not noted for his willingness to accept change. The princess was initially more light-headed, though she developed considerably in the first decade of the marriage. She certainly entered the union with a more generous heart than her husband, who did not disguise his anxiety that the taking of a wife was an additional burden in an already busy life.

Despite the princess's enormous popularity with the public, the differences in the couple's interests seemed to divide them increasingly as the years progressed. Though they were both energetically and successfully involved in public life, the framework of their home life gradually eroded. He began to entertain separately. She spent more time

in London, frequently away from Highgrove.

Their problems were the focus of more attention than any couple could bear. Not only did they have to face their respective difficulties, but also they had to do so in the full blast of media attention. The strain began to show. The Prince of Wales resumed his earlier association with a former girlfriend, Camilla Parker Bowles. The princess's name was linked with those of two men nearer her age. Old Etonian James Gilbey and lifeguard officer James Hewitt.

There were clear signs of marital discord during a visit, to India in



February 1992, when the Princess spent time alone looking at the Taj Mahal, and during a four-day trip to Korea in November that year, when the prince and Princess, clearly unhappy in each other's company, were dubbed "the Glums" by reporters.

By the end of 1992, speculation about the state of the royal marriage had come to a head, fuelled by the release of a tape of an intimate conversation

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between the princess and Gilbey. There was talk of separate living arrangements and a suggestion that reconciliation was impossible. In December, the then Prime Minister, John Major, confirmed to the House of Commons that the couple were to separate.

Separation did little to reduce public interest, particularly after the discovery in 1993 of another intimate recording, this time of a conversation between the Prince of Wales and Parker Bowles.

In December 1993, the princess tearfully bowed out, of public life, severing her links with most of the charities she had supported and begging to be left alone by the press. In 1994 Charles admitted his long-standing and continuing relationship with Parker Bowles in a TV interview with Jonathan Dimbleby.

Despite her pleas for privacy; the princess remained very much in the public eye. As she went about putting her life in order during the period of personal confusion that followed the separation – visiting gymnasiums one day and psychotherapists the next, her every step was dogged by photographers and reporters. Yet her relationship with the media was always more complicated than she was prepared to admit. She may have been unhappy about some of the press ambushes and about speculation on her association with married men, such as art dealer Oliver Hoare and England rugby Captain Will Carling, but there were undoubtedly occasions when she courted the attention in an attempt to influence perceptions of her marriage and its breakdown.

Nowhere was this more evident than in her extraordinary decision, taken without consulting the royal household or her advisers, to appear on a special edition of the BBC's Panorama Program in November 1995. She spoke frankly about her unhappy relationship with the royal family, her eating disorders, and her

own and her husband's adultery. She announced her desire to be seen as a "queen of hearts".

On August 28, 1996, the Prince and Princess of Wales divorced.

Throughout, her marital difficulties, the princess had remained devoted to her sons. After the divorce, when she and the prince were given joint custody, she continued to invest considerable energy in their upbringing. She was an adoring mother, and there were many images of mother and children together, the most celebrated when the children ran to their mother's arms on Britannia after a period apart. The devotion was reciprocated and her boys were a great source of comfort to her.

After her divorce, the princess made a return to public life, associating herself particularly with the Red Cross and taking a leading, and sometimes contentious, role in the international campaign to ban landmines. Earlier this year she auctioned many of her dresses to raise money for charity. She also seemed to find new happiness in her private life. Spending much of the past few weeks in the company of Fayed.



When she married the Prince of Wales, Diana said on TV that she saw her life as a great challenge. Realistic though she was at 20 years of age, she underestimated how great that challenge would prove and at what cost to happiness it would be met.

The Princess made a lasting impression on the public. On the whole, they loved her, and even when she tried their patience, she remained a source of fascination. Outwardly shy, she had no lack of inner strength and commonsense. Before her marriage she cast her head down, hiding behind her fringe. After the marriage she gained confidence, the head came up, and she began to acquire that star quality that drew all eyes in crowds and preoccupied fellow lunchers in restaurants. That quality and that strength of character saw her through her marital difficulties,

and remained with her once the marriage was over.

Soon after the princess's marriage, the Queen gave her the Royal Family Order, but she was never given any other honors, such as the Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, which she perhaps merited. On her divorce, she assumed the title Diana, Princess of Wales, and remained a member of the royal family. She received various foreign orders on State visits.

THE ACCIDENT

It has now been confirmed by the Paris prosecutor's office, that the driver of the car, identified as Henri Paul, had more than three times the legal alcohol limit in his blood at the time of the accident. The prosecutor said Henri Paul had a blood alcohol level of 0.175, the legal limit is 0.05. The car he was driving was confirmed by Mercedes-Benz to be an armoured vehicle, which because of the extra weight can be difficult for an experience driver to handle.

The car was driving on *Cours La Reine* and just prior to entering the tunnel known as Place de l'Alma underpass, the driver lost control. The car hit the right hand side of the concrete wall just at the tunnel entrance and the driver then lost control. The car proceeded for a few metres and eventually hit one of the solid concrete pylons separating the two lanes. The high-speed impact of a heavy object coming to a sudden stop is what has produced enormous damage to the car and its occupants.

In Australia, you may have noticed that along side bridges, corner turns on main highways, tunnels, etc, there are heavy metal crash barrier rails on either side of the road to absorb an impact. This will force the object to skid along the rail instead of a sudden impact with a solid object such as a concrete pylon or a concrete wall. If there were similar metal crash rail on the roads and inside the tunnel, the car would have slide along the rail and even bounced from the left and right rails before coming to a stop. The occupants would have probably been scratched but would not have suffered the extensive injuries, which contributed to their death.

Apparently, there is no such crash protection system in France.

NOCES D'ÉMERAUDE

55 ans



Paulette & Philippe Pérombelon de Bayswater, Perth, WA ont célébré leurs noces d'émeraude (55 ans) le Dimanche 31 Août 1997, en compagnie de leurs enfants, petits enfants et arrière petits enfants à la salle St Augustin de Bayswater.



De gauche à droite: Alain, Lineley, Marie Noëlle, Danielle, Philippe, Paulette, Désirée, Josette, (absent Sylvain, le fils aîné)

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m. m. m

The Magnificat Meal Movement

Part 1 of 2

In our last edition, we mentioned about a story broadcast on television regarding an investigation being carried out by the authorities on the "Magnificat Meal Movement".

We would like to thank the Bishop's House of Toowoomba, QLD for providing us with the

following articles, which will no doubt clear this matter once and for all.

On 17th May 1996, the Bishop of Toowoomba, William M. Morris, DD issued the following letter to all parishes:

"Dear Father,

The Magnificat Meal Movement under the direction of its founder, Debra Geilerkey, has caused many questions to be raised, not only here in the Diocese, but throughout Australia and in a number of countries.

Questions such as, whether or not Debra and her Movement have church approval, the orthodoxy of some teachings and practices of the Movement, it's financial base and alleged private revelations and miracles.

Confusion reigns concerning whether or not the Holy See is investigating Debra and her Movement and who is her Bishop. Half truths and inconsistencies in various statements and reports concerning Debra and her Movement makes it difficult to know what is true and what is not, thereby causing confusion in people's minds to its authenticity. Allegations of persecution and a lack of openness and acceptance of the official church have also been made.

To help settle this confused situation I would like to state the following: the local church has never persecuted Debra. I have always been on friendly terms with Debra and her husband, Gordon, and up until recently Debra and Gordon would visit me on a regular basis and we would discuss worries and concerns I had, such as Debra's

alleged private revelations, alleged miracles and some teachings and practices of her Movement. The door has always been open and still is.

On the 28th March I received a letter from Archbishop Franco Brambilla, Apostolic Pro Nuncio, informing me that he had received communication from the Holy See and it stated that there is no evidence of any information concerning Debra Geileskey and her activities and that there is no trace of any enquiry on the part of the Holy See.

In the May edition of the Magnificat Meal Movement newsletter it is stated that Rome had at last announced a new replacement Bishop, who is the Bishop-Elect Issam Darwish, the

new Eparch of Saint Michael's of Sydney for the Melkite Greek Catholics. The Apostolic Pro Nuncio has informed me that this is not true and no such announcement of an appointment has been made.

May I restate the fact that there is no official church approval for the Magnificat Meal Movement or for the alleged private revelations and visions of Debra, some being quite horrific and I believe unorthodox.

There has been no response to my request of Debra for the Statutes under which the Magnificat Meal Movement operates nor has there been clarification concerning its financial situation.

The Movement has no permission to reserve the Blessed Sacrament in its new Headquarters in the old Convent at Helidon nor does it have permission to carry out Eucharistic celebrations in the public forum. There is no church approval or blessing for the new Religious Order that Debra is supposedly founding and anyone entering that so called Order does so without any blessing of the church, for the Movement is a private Movement sponsored by Debra, is of Debra and has absolutely nothing to do with the church.

The confusion and the hurt surrounding Debra and her Movement saddens me, for there have been many who though orthodox devotion to the Eucharist and to Mary have experienced conversion of heart and deepened their faith in the Risen Lord.

Unfortunately, because of the half truths, the inconsistencies, and in some instances the lack of orthodoxy concerning aspects of statements made

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and practices performed, I must ask that devotion to the Blessed Eucharist and to Our Lady under the auspices of the Magnificat Meal Movement cease within the Diocese of Toowoomba. I strongly support these devotions and ask that they continue under the direction and support of the local Catholic communities according to the approved liturgical teachings of the church.

From this moment in time until further notice the Magnificat Meal Movement has no standing within this Diocese”.

On 1st July 1997, Bishop Morris issued the following statement on the Churches position regarding the Magnificat Meal Movement.

“In May 1996 I made a statement to the Diocese which was released to the Media and sent to the Bishops of Australia as well as various parts of the world. This statement was made to clarify the Church’s position in its relationship with the Magnificat Meal Movement. I stated then and I state again now that the Magnificat Meal Movement is a private movement sponsored and founded by Debra Geileskey. It is of Debra and has absolutely nothing to do with the Catholic Church. There is no Church approval for the Magnificat Meal Movement or for the alleged private revelations and visions of Debra. Those who attend and participate in the practices of the Magnificat Meal Movement do so as private individuals and not as members of the Catholic Church. Those who participate within the liturgical life of the Parish of Helidon do so as individuals and not a members of the Magnificat Meal Movement.

There has never been a response to my request of Debra for the statutes under which the Magnificat Meal Movement operates nor has there been clarification concerning its financial situation. Half-truths and inconsistencies in various reports concerning Debra and her movement make it difficult to know what is true and what is not, thereby causing confusion in people’s minds to its authenticity. This confusion continues by using such titles for Mary as Corredemtrix. Mediatrix of all Graces and Advocate.

On June 22, 1997 the Catholic Weekly reporting from the L’Osservatore Romana stated that a Commission was set up by the Vatican at the request of Pope John Paul II to investigate

petitions sent to him from certain circles asking that Mary be formally proclaimed as “Mediatrix” (Mediator), “Corredemptrix” (Co-redeemer) and Advocate. The Commission unanimously agreed that the Roman Catholic Church should not solemnly define new teachings about the Virgin Mary. The Commission’s main objections were that the titles as proposed are ambiguous, and that the second Vatican Council although initially asked to make the same solemn proclamation chose not to do so after study, prayer and discussion. It completely avoided referring to Mary as Co-redeemer and made only a very sober use of the titles Mediator and Advocate.

(to be continued)

CLUB LIST

AUSTRALIAN MAURITIAN ASSOCIATION
AMA
CANTERBURY PETANQUE CLUB (NSW)
CHAMAREL CLUB (VIC)
CLUB MAURICIEN (NSW)
ENDEAVOUR HILLS CLUB (VIC)
KEYSBOROUGH CLUB (VIC)
LA CARAVELLE (NSW)
MAURITIAN CHINESE CIRCLE OF
SYDNEY-MCCS (NSW)
MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE INC. (VIC)
MAURITIUS SERVICE ASSOCIATION
MSA (VIC)
NORTH SHORE PETANQUE CLUB
PRESTONS SOCCER CLUB (NSW)
STATE COUNCIL ON THE MAURITIAN
ASSOCIATION (NSW)
STELLA CLAVISQUE CLUB INC. (VIC).

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MOTHER TERESA

Died Friday 5th September 1997.

It was the day India “City of Joy” became a city of tears. From every corner of the globe, the powerful and famous came to mingle with Calcutta’s teeming millions in a mass outpouring of love for the tiny Albanian-born nun whose name became synonymous with Christian compassion. Mother Teresa herself might not have approved but, after the most spartan of lives, the world was not about to let its Saint of the Gutters go without an extravagant farewell.

Calcutta bade farewell to Mother Teresa on Saturday 14th September 1997, with all the pomp and flourish it could muster, pouring forth its thanks to a woman whose work inspired the world. On a hot and muggy morning, orderly crowds numbering tens of thousands lined the streets to wait for her flag-draped open coffin to wend its way through slums, the people of which she worked to save. People stood 10 deep in some places along the route of the funeral procession, many clutching children and all they owned as they awaited a fleeting glimpse of the nun known throughout the city simply as “Mother”. Some tattered and filthy had ridden for days on trains and buses and slept in the streets to claim a place.

The following are excerpts from eulogies at Mother Teresa’s funeral:

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican’s secretary of state reading a message from Pope John Paul II:

“The hour has arrived for us to say a final farewell to the late Mother Teresa. We are coming here from many corners of the world to demonstrate our affection and gratitude and render a fitting homage. From the cold bier, the unforgettable and dear mother continues to speak to us and seems to repeat the Lord’s words – it is more blessed to give than receive.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta understood fully this gospel of love. She understood it with every fibre of her indomitable spirit and every ounce of energy of her frail body. She practised it with all her heart and through the daily toil of her hands, crossing the frontiers of religious and ethnic differences, she has taught the world this lesson – it is more blessed to give than to receive...

Today, on behalf of Pope John Paul II, I offer you a final earthly farewell, and in his name, I thank you for all you have done for the poor of the world.”

Roman Catholic Archbishop of Calcutta, Henry D’Souza:

“Perhaps the greatest message she has given to the world is the value and dignity of human life. All human life is precious, in whatever condition we find it... “To the dying and the suffering, she brought her tender compassion, washing their wounds, easing their pain. “She reached to lonely people... Mother Teresa understood the hunger of these hearts about whom she would say: The greatest poverty is to feel unwanted and unloved.’ And this

poverty was to be found everywhere, even in the affluent countries... “She said the poor people are great people. They can teach us many beautiful things. The greatest injustice we have done to our poor people is that we think they are good for nothing. We have forgotten to treat them with respect, with dignity as a child of God. Often I think they are the ones to whom we owe our greatest gratitude. They teach us...

Her goodness was contagious. It invited others to share.”

Indian businessman Sumit Ganguly.

I have learnt a lot from her ways. It is unique in the world, the way she preached love.”

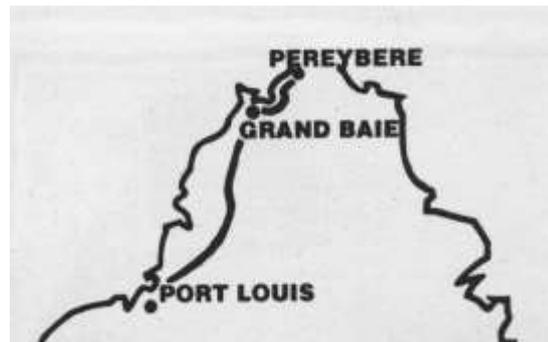
Sister Nirmala, the new leader of Mother Teresa’s order, when asked how the order would continue without Mother Teresa:

“The Missionaries of Charity is dependent on divine providence. God will provide whatever we need.”



LES BUISSONS

Situé sur la côte nord ouest de l'île, "Les Buissons" vous offre tout le confort moderne dans le village de Péreybere à 100 mètres de la plage. Centre commerciaux, restaurants et night clubs à proximité, occuperont vos journées et vos nuits.



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STELLA CLAVISQUE CLUB

Part 9 of 9. By Sylvio Lebret.

THE SWINGING EIGHTIES...

Here we are at the threshold of 1980 with not only memories of a past successful year, but also with the incentive of the committee to carry on the good work in view of what the Stella Clavisque pledged to its members. First it was considered time to reward those spouses of committee members and some club members who, throughout the years, had been active in helping out voluntarily in the organisation of functions. They all gathered around a spit-roast in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere on the 1st of March.

In the meantime, the committee was gearing itself for a big event: *The Gala Night*. It all started when Henry Wilden, the well-known Mauritian tenor of the Australian Opera, on holiday in Melbourne, was to be a guest at the Parish Ball of the St John Vianney Fete Restaurant Committee. Serge Florent took this opportunity to ask him to sing a few lyrics: a rehearsal was hastily arranged, and though the piano was not the best, and the pianist was almost taken unawares, the result was a success. This gave Serge the idea to submit to the committee the proposal of a proper Gala Night when Henry Wilden would be on tour in Melbourne with the Australian Opera. This time, on the 12th of April, things were done in style: a concert piano was hired and tuned on premises, the pianist came from the Australian Opera orchestra, the menu was carefully selected and served expertly. Henry's wife was flown from Sydney at the Club's expense. A few guests had to be asked at the door to come back formally dressed as strictly requested (one of them did not have to go far: his coat and tie were in his car). Needless to say, the result was spectacular and memories of that night were the topic for many years to come.

As a diversion from dances and social functions, the committee organised a bus outing on the eve of the Queen's Birthday and this was very well attended. The committee also needed some breathing time, after the organisation of the gala night, to prepare for the Mid-Year Ball of the 23rd of August. The theme was Spanish/Latin-American: food, floor show, dress, and it included a guest appearance of the late and talented André

Lagane. It was over all a very good night. Less than two months later, in October 1980, a highly successful Mauritian Night was held. In spite of a very large attendance, food was never lacking, and, to set the right mood, a group of professional séga dances had been hired and they gave a very dynamic and agreeable performance.

After Mauritius had suffered extensive damages and destruction in December from cyclone Claudette and two subsequent smaller ones, the High Commissioner in Canberra, Mr Raymond Devienne, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, launched an appeal to clubs for contribution from all Mauritians to the Prime Minister's Claudette Relief Fund. The Stella Clavisque was happy to transmit the request to its members and to make a substantial contribution. The Committee, in its desire to expand and make the Club better known, decided also to take part in the Summer Park Programme which the City of Springvale was planning for Australia Day 1981 at Burden Park. This venture entailed considerable planning as it involved setting up a food stall to sell national foods and expose art objects and crafts from Mauritius. And the suggestion for participation in folklore dancing and national costume parade was a bit hard to carry out, specially the parade, as we do not have a national costume.

And it was then time to prepare for the Annual New Year's Eve Ball. The usual organisation machinery was set in motion. All was promising to be very well when an act of nature almost ruined everything: a sizzling heat on that last day of 1980. Even balloons could not stand the heat and burst out soon after being inflated; the problem was partly resolved by bringing all the balloons at Paul and Ghyliane Lesur's air-conditioned residence for blowing, and when the afternoon started to cool down, I drove from Mulgrave to Mordialloc with a carload of balloons jumping all over: I still wonder 16 years on, how I did manage to go through traffic and arrive unscathed at the memorable Alan McLean Hall where the balloons were arranged at the last minute. The heat however did not abate and spoilt a good part of the evening.

The General Assembly of Members which had been postponed due to the heavy programme finally took place at the East Burwood Hall on the 4th of April 1981. In a tentative to attract members

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

at the Assembly, a family gathering was scheduled for after the meeting, including drinks, snacks, and dance. Unfortunately the unpopularity of General Assemblies got the better and quite a few beat the system by turning up...after the meeting! The new executive Committee formed at that first meeting read as follows: President: Ghyliane Lesur; Vice President: Roland Finette; Secretary: Sylvio Lebret; Treasurer: Serge McIntyre; Asst Secretary Treasurer; Michel Leblanc; Members: Suzy Vaillant, Nadège Finette, Jean Cassar, Karl Bozelle, Raymond Senèque and Jean-Marie Vaillant. We lost two pioneers of the Club; Jean Commins and Serge Florent.

PLUS VIEUX PÈRE

On September 7, no doubt many fathers celebrated this special day and received many presents. Henri Ithier (103 Years Old - Refer Story in August edition) was granted "Le Plus vieux père de NSW" and received a voucher of \$104 from Mitre10 in Cambeltown. Congratulations from all Mauritians. We wish him well and the latest news is that he is stable from his Osteoporosis illness.

BOOKS FROM MAURITIUS

We are still waiting from Australia Post of the whereabouts of our books. MEA apologises to all those that are waiting for the books. According to staff of Parramatta Post office, the parcels must still be on a ship somewhere!!!

OBITUAIRE

Raymond Rochecouste (1918 - 1997) passed away in Melbourne on the 17th July 1997. Raymond migrated to Australia with his family in 1968, and is well known to us as one of the founding members of SACIM Australia. The Society for Aiding Children Inoperable in Mauritius (SACIM) started its activities in Australia when SACIM Victoria was founded in 1969 in Melbourne. Since then, SACIM has spread its caring wing in other states, and over 100 children from Mauritius have been cared for, mostly in Melbourne and Sydney hospitals for open heart surgery. Before coming to Australia, Raymond worked as permanent secretary to the Prime Minister's office in Mauritius.

In Mauritius, Raymond was also well known for

his leadership activities with the Scouting movement. On the lighter side of life, Raymond was a keen dinghy sailor and Australian landscape painter. MEA sends their condolences to Raymond's wife Daisy, and children Sylviane, Hervé and Brigitte.

COMING EVENTS

2nd October. Prestons Soccer Club Inc. Melbourne Tour. Leaving Sydney Thursday 2nd October 7pm Arriving Melb Friday 3rd October 7am. Saturday 4th October Soccer Games Endeavour Hills v/s Prestons followed by the presentation ball on Saturday night. Returning to Sydney 7am on Monday the 6th October. For more details and to book your seat on the bus. **Contact: Yves Antoine (02) 9607 0145 or Dolly Lennon (02) 9832 7282.**

2nd October. Racing Soccer Club of NSW Ltd Long Weekend Melbourne Trip. Depart Sydney Thursday 2nd October 7pm. Arrive Melbourne Friday 3rd October 8 a.m. with possible trip to the Casino Friday night. Saturday 4th October Keysborough SC v/s Racing SC followed by the presentation dance. Sunday 5th a Family sports day hosted by Dandenong Inter SC then departing Melbourne 6.30pm arriving back in Sydney around 7am. Monday 6th October. For more details **Contact: Nicolas Serret. (02) 9605 7973 (AH), (02) 9638 0166 (BH). Mobile 0414 257 901**

11th October. Prestons Soccer Club Inc. Charity Ball Fund Raising Night for Olivier de la Roche

To be held at URUGUAYAN CLUB 56 – 62 Whitford road Hinchinbrook 6pm – 12.30am with special entertainment of Sega Show featuring France Jemon & Sega from Down Unda. Food and Drinks will be available at club prices. The cost for this Charity Ball \$15.00 and Children 4-12yrs \$6.00 For more details about the dance. **Contact Dolly on (02) 9832 7282 Yves on (02) 9607 0145 or Herver on (02) 9607 5737.**

22nd November. MEA MAGAZINE 1st Anniversary Dinner Dance at Club Marconi Bossley Park. **Contact Marian on 0414 226 772 (BH) or (02) 9632 8451(AH).** For more details Refer to page 10.