



# LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

MAURITIUS BECAME INDEPENDENT ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1968.

Mauritius Flag: Red ~ The struggle for liberty and independence.  
Blue ~ The Indian Ocean where Mauritius is situated.  
Yellow ~ The rays of the new lights of independence.  
Green ~ The agriculture.



## MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE

**PAUL COLLARD**

### **ABBEYFIELD MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE HOME. (Part 2)**

The 4th of March 1997 was the official opening of the “PAULE COLLARD ABBEYFIELD MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE” home in Victoria and over 50 guests along with other important members of the community turned up to support Paule on this great achievement.



The home looks magnificent as can be seen from this photo. There are 10 rooms plus a guestroom, all with self contained bathroom and toilet, specially designed for the elderly. Upstairs is the housekeepers quarters.

All Members of the Management Committee of the Mauritian Golden Age Club attended the ceremony and they are:

*Laval Maillard, Noel D'Argent, Stephen Subhani, Paule Collard, Claude Audin and Seeva Seenyen.*



The official opening started at 2:00 p.m. by the Secretary of the Mauritian Golden Age Club, Mr Laval Maillard.

*“Honourable Members of Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. The Abbeyfield Golden Age Committee has the pleasure of welcoming you this afternoon at the opening ceremony of the Paule Collard Abbeyfield Home. This building is a mixture of Mauritian and Australian architecture. I extend a particular welcome to the daughters and grand daughters who are also present. Now I invite Seeva Seenyen to say a prayer.*

*Extract from Seeva Seenyen Prayer: We thank you for answering the prayers of Paule Collard, the President of the Mauritian Golden Age Club to enable her to fulfil her project of building this home for the old members in need of a refuge to live freely, joyfully and in peace...*

The Secretary then invited Jill Williams, Chairperson of the Abbeyfield Society to present her speech.

*Extract from Jill Williams speech: I am very happy to be here today to see the completion of this project, which started in 1993. Since then Abbeyfield Victoria has enjoyed working with the Mauritian community. Its members have worked..*

The Secretary continued his speech...*On behalf of the Mauritian Community of Victoria, I thank you for the advice of your experienced committee on that project. I now invite Paule Collard, Chairperson of Abbeyfield Mauritian Golden Age Committee, the mastermind of this realisation, to address you.*

*Paule Collard and The Honourable Ann Henderson. (Continued Page 10)*



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**EDITORIAL**

For the first time in Australia, Sydney celebrated the Mauritius National Day on a grand scale. It started at 11.15 a.m on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 1997, with the arrival of Fr. Henri Souchon from Mauritius, along with artist Mario Armel and his wife, Patricia. The members of La Caravelle, friends of Mario and MEA met them at the airport.

Many functions were organised around Sydney to celebrate this special occasion and there were also many complaints. As an independent magazine, I must report not only about the good news but also about critics and complaints. I cannot favour one club instead of another nor can I take sides in any argument. This magazine must always be neutral and report all events so long as it does not breach any human rights or discriminates against religion, racism and politics.

I received a letter of complaint regarding the Grand Fancy fair on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Glenfield but the letter was not signed nor a name or a telephone number attached for me to pursue. Hence I cannot publish the letter. If the writer had supplied a name and phone number and asked that it not be published, I would have respected his/her wishes and published the complaint, which I would have been able to verify. But with no name and no contact number, I do not know the accuracy of the complaint. Could the writer contact MEA again?

**LA BELLE DE CADIX**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 1997, “LA BELLE DE CADIX” was staged in Sydney at the Marconi Club, Fairfield. The show was organised by the President of AMA, Danielle Perombelon and all the artists travelled from Melbourne, some by coach and some by air to perform for an audience of over 800 people. In the huge auditorium of the Marconi Club, the tables were set out in the colours of the Mauritian Flag. Apparently, this was the first time in the history of the club that they had attracted such a large audience.

The official starting time on the tickets was 6.30 p.m. and by 7.00 p.m. nearly all 800 guests were seated.

*(Ed, someone of authority, told me that this was a record for the Mauritian community who has a reputation of always being late to functions!)*

An evening of entertainment started with dinner consisting of veal and pasta and tossed green salad followed by Mille Feuilles for dessert.

Mr. Cyril Zuhel opened the evening welcoming the guests; this was followed by the speech of the President of AMA.

Before the curtain was raised, Rebecca Verire treated the audience to a couple of songs. Then “La Belle de Cadix” started at 8.00, with 2 breaks. The show was completed by 10:00 p.m. After the final curtain closed, it took just under 5 minutes for the dance floor to be flooded with dancers and revellers.



*A scene showing the artists in their magnificent costumes.*

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### THE CRITICS

Talking to many guests after the show, I sensed a feeling of complete satisfaction and a worthwhile evening. Some observed that although the artists consider themselves as amateurs, they performed like real professionals. I also asked some of the audience at the back of the room if they enjoyed the show and all commented that, not only could they see everything but they also heard everything properly.

However, if you can please over 800 guests and disappoint one or two, that's pretty good. A few Mauritians on one table were very disappointed and I also need to report on their comments. One lady expressed the view that it would have been better if the sound had been live from the artists instead of a pre-recorded tape. I could not give her any explanation at the time but I now have the answer to this criticism:

I spent 2 hours with Jean Claude Cimiotti the following morning at his hotel and he explained the reason for the pre-recording in every detail. (Refer CD details on page 11). Anyone in the audience who felt that the pre-recorded tape was no good will undoubtedly change their mind. So I took the liberty of calling the person concerned due to the fact that she subscribed to the magazine and explained the reason for the pre-recording. She was thrilled, not only because I called her on such a small matter but also had explained the reason for such action. After half an hour on the phone, she is one person who I can guarantee will never miss future CAT performances even if pre-recorded. She was very pleased.

The number of attendees speaks for itself regarding the tremendous support that CAT (Consortium des Artistes de Théâtre Inc.) received in Sydney. Everyone was very pleased with the performance. Congratulations to all the artists who performed on stage and also to all the backstage helpers who worked very hard to ensure that all costumes and make-up were to perfection.

I had the honour of speaking with the artists behind the stage, before and after the show and MEA has exclusive pictures of the preparation of actors for the show. (Refer CD details on page 11).

The actors were staying at Hunts Motel, The

Crossroads, Liverpool. MEA caught up with them before the departure time of 11:30 a.m for some exclusive pictures. The luggage of one person was stolen from the hotel room and the police were informed. Regrettably, the hotel management and the police commented that there was nothing they could do and it was just an unfortunate accident. *(Ed, I felt that the attitude of the hotel management and the police was very poor considering that no attempt was made to even check for fingerprints. They really did not care).*

From the hotel, the coach took the artists to the Canterbury Pétanque Club for a treat of Mauritian cuisine and an afternoon of relaxation.

The majority of the actors arrived by bus from Melbourne on Friday night and returned travelling Sunday night. Fortunately, it was a public holiday in Melbourne due to the Grand Prix and this break was most welcome to allow everyone to rest before starting work on Tuesday.

After the show, we asked Jean Claude Cimiotti and Nicole for a picture for the magazine. His first words were, "This is my wife Nicole and I am still madly in love with her as much as I was 32 years ago".



The Cimiotti family has 4 children. Bruno (30), Aldo (28) married to Astrid, with one child Claudia (3) who played "La petite Didi Bohème", Franco (26) and Sonia (23).

(Continued next edition)

**F.M.S. (W.A.)**

As its name indicates, the **FRENCH AND MAURITIAN SOCIETY OF W.A.** was established more than 27 years ago to group two communities of migrants with many similar cultural affinities, although one is European and the other from a former insular colony. Two men share the honour of founding the society by their converted efforts: Luc Guignard was the French expression and Roger Ravat, the Mauritian counterpart of the Ethnic equation. The F.M.S., as it is popularly called through its 'acronym', caters for the social, cultural and sporting needs of its members. The social activities are various, with casual dancing parties, formal balls and dinner dance functions taking precedence over many others. In the sporting/recreation field, pétanque, volleyball and domino competitions win the popularity. As for its cultural content, the society offers gourmet gatherings where the Mauritian cuisine is glorified; performing art shows where the séga and Mauritian humour reign unchallenged in raising applause. This year two new projects are in the making:

First, the adaptation of Paul and Virginie as a short stage play.

Secondly, a fashion competition parade involving home dressmakers of the community.

In reaching for its objectives, the F.M.S. is always guided by the ideals of its three-word motto: *Fraternité, Moralité, Egalité.*

The office bearers of the F.M.S. for 1996/1997 are:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| PRESIDENT:        | W. O'CANNA                                     |
| VICE PRESIDENT:   | R. DE CASANOVE                                 |
| SECRETARY:        | C. SAMPSON                                     |
| ASSIST SECRETARY: | C. LAMOTHE                                     |
| TREASURER:        | S. HENRISSON                                   |
| ASSIST TREASURER: | B. SENEQUE                                     |
| MEMBERS:          | M.L. CACHER<br>M.L. THISTLEWAITE<br>G. LAURENT |
| RESERVES:         | P. CARVER<br>L. SAMPSON                        |
| AUDITORS:         | L. OUDIN<br>D. FIJAC                           |

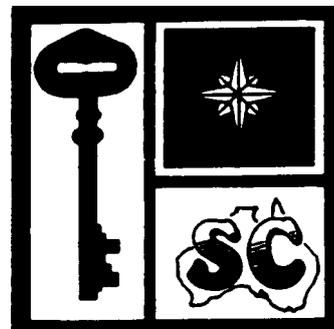
SUBSCRIBE TO MEA. IT ONLY COSTS .39 CENTS PER WEEK.

**Stella clavisque club**

**RELIVING THE PAST**

**Sylvio Lebret Part 2.**

The second General Assembly (that is according to the records though it seems to be the first officially convened) was held on 24th August 1969 at St Mary's Hall,



Dandenong. The main discussion on the agenda was the finalisation of a Constitution. A draft had already been prepared by Jean Commins after consultation with his brother Pierre, then Secretary of the "Cercle Français du Victoria", Mr H. Verbaken, a solicitor, and Mr Vincent Sabatter. The final Constitution was approved for submission to the relevant authorities. The accent was again placed on the necessity of social events; thoughts were also given to the creation of a centre to provide continuity and proper communication within the Club. The committee in office then was re-elected with the same officers, and the addition of Irlande Alfred, who had already joined in mid-term, Georgie and Philippe Hennequin. For some reason or other, the new committee seemed to be having difficulties in organising social functions: it was only three months later, on the 28th of November, that another "French Film Night" took place, this time at 161 Spring Street, Melbourne. The films shown were *La Montagne sur la Mer* and *Chronique d'un Eté*. A children's Christmas party followed soon afterwards, complete with Santa Claus, and combined with a family picnic at "Bay View" in Dromana. Great initiative had been shown by the committee in setting up means of transport to enable as many members as possible to attend. The year 1969 ended with the New Year's Eve Ball which had been baptised "Le Réveillon", and it was held in conjunction with the French Club of Victoria at Alan McLean Hall, Mordialloc. This hall was to be the witness of

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many successful, as well as not so great, functions of the Stella Clavisque Club for many years to come. Another year began in the history of the Club, but 1970 saw a very slow start which looked like a dormant period. This could have been due to the concern of the new committee in the admission of new members as some shady characters had caused disturbances at functions. A dance scheduled in April had to be cancelled due to lack of bookings, and it was not until the 24th of July that a dinner-dance was held. The success of that function could have been the result of a desperate move by the committee to put back the Club on its feet. A delegation of young members of the Mauritian Community had been invited to a historic meeting: they promised their support in exchange for the committee's agreement to devote more attention to the young element of the Club. There was also a desperate move to find a *pied-à-terre* to hold meetings, functions and gatherings. Jean Cassar contacted the Swiss Club and the French Club, but the conditions did not satisfy what the committee had in mind. It must be during that search that contact was made with the "Epicurean Society" at the "English Speaking Union" headquarters in South Yarra. The committee saw the opportunity to promote Mauritian food and culture, and grabbed it: a function was arranged under the auspices of the "Epicurean Society" where was included on the menu a Mauritian dinner (lentilles, rougaille, and typical snacks), and an exhibition of Mauritian craftwork and stamps organised. There were also guests from other ethnic groups. The gâteau piment gave rise to an amusing incident on that night as the cook had no idea of how to cook the batter which had been pre-prepared by Odette and Jean Commins. The guest speaker, Mr Maurice Lavoipierre, made an excellent impression. But all these efforts, though efficient, did not seem to bear its fruits the way it was expected. It looked like there was a lack of continuity. An extract of the minutes of proceedings of the committee meeting on the 28th of May 1970 read thus: "The President drew the attention of the committee on the assistance, both moral and financial, extended to a few persons who had shown themselves irresponsible, ungrateful and even discourteous towards the Club"; he asked the Committee to limit assistance to Club members only. This was

not encouraging, but the committee went on working on its projects. The same minutes mentioned that a dance, which was to be held at Springvale Town Hall, had to be cancelled because of insufficient bookings. It seemed that the historic meeting held earlier, when the youth element had promised their support, did not eventuate. The committee still thought that the future of the Club rested on their hands, and a big drive was made to attract them. The committee meeting of the 3rd of July 1970 was attended by Pierre Clark and Jean-Pierre Frédéric as delegates of the youth. The results were not convincing and none of them showed up at the next General Assembly of 22nd August 1970. At that General Assembly, a new committee was formed: Karl Bozelle kept the presidency, Jean Cassar the vice-presidency. Jean Commins became the new P.R.O. of the Club, Serge Adam was elected Secretary, Serge Florent and Carl Pascal were the new Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer; other members were Irlande Alfred, Urania Armaras, Ghyliane Lesur, Peter North Coombes, Paul Lesur, Marcel Fayd'herbe and Claude Labonté, with provision for the addition of two young members. Subsequently, Serge Adam made history as an elected Secretary who never attended a single committee meeting; it must be mentioned though, that those were the days when, due to lack of interest, there were no candidates who came forward, and those who attended the General Assembly were persuaded to join the committee, and, under pressure, found it hard to refuse. The President had to fill up as Secretary until November when Claude Labonté accepted to take up the office. However, he resigned at the next meeting and, on his suggestion Paul Lesur was elected as the new Secretary. A newsletter announced very energetic action from the new strong committee and pledged towards the progress of the Club. In the meantime, further attempts had been made to organise a group flight to Mauritius, but the project had to be abandoned through lack of interest. The committee was reinforced by the appointment of Roland Péril who was very popular with the young Mauritians. A car rally cum BBQ, held on the 6th of December was a huge success, with the weather contributing. Only a week after came another success with the Children's Party held at the Bozelle's place. Then came the 1970 End-of-Year Ball held at Mitcham

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Parish Centre. Claude Labonté organised and presented a cabaret in which performed the Duff sisters, Messrs André Lagane, Uranie, and Ferrière - all Mauritian amateurs.

The Mauritian night on the 19th of March started the year 1971. Some problems arose due to some delay in the service. This was understandable: 125 guests consumed 275 faratas, 100 dhalpourris, 150 gateaux piment, rice and curry, and cakes! Peter North Coombes held a slides projection which added to the atmosphere of the night. Questionnaires filled - reluctantly it appeared - at the function, gave rather positive results. However the demand for assistance was still the priority and great concern for the committee. Messrs Jean Tent and Ernie Zita of the French Club of Victoria attended a meeting of the committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June in view of organising a joint ball for the French National Day. As a prelude to that big event, each of the two Clubs organised a function for a better understanding. The Stella put on a "games/dance night" and the French Club had its turn at a "drinks night" held at the premises of the Swiss Club in the City. The "big event" took place at the Caulfield Town Hall on the 16th of July, with the guest of honour being the French Consul and his wife. However, complaints were received about the slow service, but there were pats on the back to Odette and Jean Commins and Claude Labonté for the organisation of an elaborate menu. The Stella Clavisque Club was growing in popularity and importance: the members' roll was growing fast.....(à suivre)

**Front page pictures:** Mrs Paule Collard, Fr. Henri Souchon, Honourable Rex Fanchette - High Commissioner of Mauritius, Anick Harter and Jean-Claude Cimiotti from La Belle de Cadix and Dr Edward Duyker, Honorary Consul of Mauritius.

### MAURITIUS NATIONAL DAY

Mauritius National Day came about because of Independence Day when the treaty was signed on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1968.

This year, for the first time in Australia, a Club, namely La Caravelle, decided to celebrate this special occasion on a grand scale. This message is from the President, Marie-Line Labour JP:

*Dear Members and Friends,*

*It gives me a great pleasure to preside over the festivities organised by La Caravelle Club to celebrate the Mauritius National Day. It seems that this is the first time that celebrations on such a scale are being held in Sydney. We hope that this will become an annual event gathering all Mauritians living here.*

*One of the major purposes of celebrating one's National Day is to rekindle with the past and ponder on what is meant to be a person of Mauritian origin. Our childhood in our native country amid sugar cane plantations, coconut trees and unspoiled white beaches has been enriched by life spent in a multicultural society. We have a distinct Mauritian culture and identity, which we have brought with us here to contribute to the success of our adopted country.*

*While we are fully committed to our new country, Mauritius will always have a special and warm place in our hearts. Maybe it is to recreate the atmosphere we enjoyed back home that we founded La Caravelle. The Club today caters for many of our social needs while it also boosts up our self-confidence enabling us to successfully integrate the Australian society. It unites Mauritians in quest of memories of the good old days. It also caters for our needs in terms of integration in so far as its activities are open to all. Furthermore, it offers a respite to the sometimes alien world which is how many new migrants perceive Australia. It bridges the gap between Mauritians who have been here since 1967 and the new migrants. In addition, and most importantly, it brings together the various generations of which the Mauritian community in Australia is comprised of.*

*Our Club has set out to achieve certain specific objectives in terms of organising social and other activities. We earnestly thank those who encourage us along the way. To those who have contributed with their time and commitment, we present our warmest thanks. We must also extend our appreciation and our gratitude to all our sponsors who, in one way or another, are helping us with their generous contributions.*

*In terms of the Club's organisation, I have to say that we are standing on very firm foundations. As*

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*to our future prospects, it is this committee's burning desire that all the clubs join us so that we can form only one Mauritian Club. I therefore appeal to all different Mauritian clubs, on this special day, to come and work together so that we can advance our causes. Another major objective for the coming years is to build a clubhouse.*

*I hope that we all have a good time during these festivities and I wish to all and every Mauritian in Australia "une bonne Fête de la République".*

**MARIE-LINE LABOUR JP.**

(Continued page 15)

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### **YVES ROCHER - THE SCIENCE OF BEAUTY FROM NATURE**

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### **APSA INTERNATIONAL**

**Sylvio Belcourt. (Editor)**

Last year, in October, whilst attending a ball in Melbourne, I had the great pleasure of meeting a young African lady from Mauritius, namely, Lani Fourie, who convinced me that APSA was an

organisation in Mauritius that cares for young children. Naturally, I was very touched by her story and most of all, I offered to help in any possible way. During the ball, she made a speech asking all Mauritians to support this cause. So, to help, I published an article that she gave to me, in the November issue, No 2, of MEA. This would promote the APSA organisation in Australia, which I had never heard of before. When I returned to Sydney, she asked my family to sell Christmas cards to help support the poor children that needed financial aid in Mauritius. She convinced my daughter Kilee to buy many cards and sell them at her work. We never received any cards and we did not sell any.

Whilst in Sydney, my wife and I took Lani to meet many Mauritians and arranged to pick her up to take her to various functions. She was very well received and many presidents of various clubs did everything to welcome her and make her stay as pleasant as possible. APSA was a great organisation so far as we were all concerned.

Fr. Henri Souchon was the first person to inform me of the great scandal of APSA in Mauritius. Other news came from Mauritius about APSA being investigated by the authorities. I rang many Club Presidents to confirm the information and some suggested that I was completely wrong. Lani did not look like the type of person to belong to a "crooked" organisation.

I would like to make it very clear to **ALL** Mauritians in Australia that MEA was completely misinformed by Lani and, like many Clubs that supported her, MEA also did so in good faith.

I will not publish any further stories from APSA and I would like to make it very clear that MEA will no longer support and will not be involved in any way whatsoever with this organisation. MEA regrets the publication of past articles.

### **l'arc-en-ciel mauricien**

POINT DE VUE d' Henri Souchon

#### **UN CREUSET**

Une île – un océan – un million d'habitants– une île à l'est de l'Afrique, à côté de Madagascar, dans cet océan Indien balayé par les cyclones. Un

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million d'habitants venant de la France, de Madagascar, de l'Afrique de l'Est, de l'Afrique de l'Ouest et aussi de l'Inde. Des champs de cannes à sucre, qui grimpent les flancs des montagnes volcaniques, des touristes sur les plages, des usines qui font surtout du textile et aussi quelques bateaux qui font de la pêche hauturière.

Les cloches des églises avoisinent les minarets de l'Islam, les dômes des temples hindous et même quelques pagodes bouddhistes. Huit langues sont enseignées dans nos écoles primaires. En un mot, un creuset de races, de cultures, de langues et de religions qui se côtoient, se mélangent, à l'occasion, dans l'esprit de tolérance hindoue du sens de compromis anglais.

### L'AN 2000

Île déserte, colonie française et plus anglaise, indépendante depuis 1968, que sera l'île Maurice de demain? Le pouvoir se trouve entre les mains de la majorité hindoue. L'avenir se trouve entre les mains de la communauté blanche et chinoise.

Ce papier voudrait analyser ce troisième aspect de toute société: le savoir, c'est-à-dire le monde de la culture.

Cette analyse, qui se veut futuriste, voudrait présenter la société mauricienne de demain à partir de la question de races, des religions et des langues. Et que sera l'impact de la modernité sur ces différentes composantes de la culture mauricienne en devenir?

Ce modeste aperçu est le fruit d'une très longue recherche durant les quarante dernières années, en tant qu'étudiant à l'université grégorienne de Rome et prêtre de paroisse dans deux grandes villes du pays.

Voici la liste des travaux qui ont jalonné cette recherche:

La cohabitation de races – Université grégorienne – Rome 1948.

Mariages mixtes – castes – classes – religions à l'île Maurice contemporaine – Université d'Aix Marseille 1980.

La presse culturelle, religieuse, politique, syndicale et féminine dans la société mauricienne – Université de Maurice 1981.

Le mythe de quinze langues pour un million – Université de Maurice 1982.

Comment va la religion à Maurice – l'Almanach moderne des années 80 – 1982. N.B Non publié car jugé trop explosif.

Un temps pour se compter – *Vie Catholique* 1986 "Majority Rule" et Régulation des Naissances – *Vie Catholique* 1986.

### RACES

L'île Maurice était une île déserte, peuplée par le fameux dodo, gros oiseau inapte à s'envoler – aujourd'hui disparu, et qui a donné le fameux dicton anglais "*Dead as the dodo*".

Les races à Maurice s'appellent des "communautés". Ces communautés ont un système d'autoprotection, qui dégénère souvent dans un mal mauricien appelé le "communalisme".

Ces communautés se composent comme suit:

Hindous	535,000
Musulmans	172,000
Chinois	30,000
Population générale	319,000
<hr/>	
TOTAL	1,056,000
<hr/>	

Ces groupes sont divisés en plusieurs sous-groupes reliés par des facteurs de caste, de langue et de religion.

**HENRI SOUCHON.** (à suivre)

## IOR

### INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

**Researched and presented by Christian Belcourt.**

#### INDIAN OCEAN STATUS

The Indian Ocean has never had the economic attraction of the South Pacific, but that could change in March when it will become the subject of a Charter designed to forge closer trading ties between members of 14 countries. Australian academics Ken McPherson and Max Harrison, at the request of a conference sponsored by Iran, and together with Hasjim Djalal Indonesian Ambassador on the law of the sea, are trying to

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define the geographical and legal limits of the Indian Ocean Region.

The aim of this movement is to turn the rim of Australia's other Ocean into a zone of economic co-operation. Ministers from 14 nations will meet in Mauritius in March to sign the Charter of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional co-operation (IOR-ARC).

### IOR COUNTRIES: THE COLLECTIVE ECONOMY

The countries washed by the Indian Ocean in their diversity offer vast opportunities. The 14 IOR countries are: Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yemen. These countries have a collective population of more than 1,200 million and a geographical area of more than 18000 thousand square Km.

The market size for the region represented by these countries is substantially large and fast growing. A unique feature of this growth has been the expansion of manufacturing activities with most countries having a very high share of industrial enterprises as a major contributor to their overall GDP growth. For instance, manufacturing represents about 30% share of GDP for Australia and 44% for Malaysia, while Mauritius with 33.4% sees itself becoming the Singapore of the Indian Ocean.

### RESOURCES OF THE IOR COUNTRIES

The "Coopération Régionale" of the IOR countries is likely to facilitate a more efficient utilisation of resources within the region, which is exceptionally rich in resources. Beginning with agriculture, wheat, rice, barley, maize, millet and oats are major foodgrain crops of the region. India, Australia, Indonesia and Kenya are major producers of pulses of wide varieties.

Sunflower, sesame, groundnut, mustard, palm Kernel and cotton seeds are major oil seeds of the region and countries like Australia, India, South Africa, Kenya, Indonesia and Malaysia are also large producers of a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Dairy farming is another major agricultural activity

with Australia being the most advanced in dairy farming. Situated on the rim of the Indian Ocean, each country has vast marine resources and significant part of economic activities in each of the countries is centered around the shores.

Apart from marine resources, the region has abundant mineral resources such as crude oil, natural gas, iron ore, silver, bauxite, zinc, copper, tin ores etc. (Continued next edition)

### PAULE COLLARD

(Continued from Page 2)

Extract from Paule Collard Speech: *Madam Minister, Honorary Consul of Mauritius, Commissioner for the Greater Dandenong, Executive officers from the Abbeyfield Society of Victoria, Presidents of the Mauritius Clubs and Associations, members of the Mauritian community, Ladies and Gentleman. It is with great joy and pride that...*

The Secretary continued: *I thank Paule Collard for her outstanding social work she has been doing for the Senior Mauritian of Victoria for the past seven years and wish her success in all her future projects for the betterment of the condition of the Senior of the Mauritian Community. I invite Therese Savanah to present to Paule the acrostic she has written, which will be read by Paule's grand daughter.*

After the presentation of the acrostic, the Secretary continues with the speech:

*The Mauritian community of Victoria thanks Therese for the acrostic, which reflects the general feeling of the Mauritian of Victoria. I heartily thank Paule's granddaughter for reading the acrostic. I now invite the Honourable Ann Henderson, Minister of Housing to address you and to perform the opening ceremony of the House.*

### EXTRACT FROM THE HONOURABLE ANN HENDERSON SPEECH

*Thank you very much, Madame president, Jill Williams, Commissioner, my parliamentary colleagues, Jan, community leaders from the Mauritian community, ladies and gentleman, it is certainly a great pleasure to be here today, I think*

## LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

*that this poem that we have just heard, actually states very clearly what this is about. I think that it was last August.... Paule that we stood just across the concrete and watched the turning of the first sod of this development. It was a day bucketing down with rain and it was very muddy and the days were not fine but let me tell you in August last year when I first visited this site, the spirit and the enthusiasm was electric..*

The Secretary speech concluded as follows: *I thank the Honourable Minister for having found the time to be with us this afternoon on this auspicious occasion. I invite you all to visit the house and have a cup of tea.*

### **Long live Australia.**

After the formal opening, which was carried out in front of the building, all the guests gathered inside and received a very warm welcome from the residents.

### **A large range of photos can be purchased from:**

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## **COTA (VIC)**

### **Council Of The Ageing**

COTA works with older people and the community to achieve social justice and wellbeing for all older Victorians. It is an independent organisation run by and for older people.

In former years, COTA created the award of Senior Citizen of the Year. This award is now made each year jointly by the Premier and COTA. In addition, COTA makes a number of annual Senior Achiever Awards to older people throughout Victoria who have made significant achievements or contributions in their personal or community life.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 1997, Paule Collard received a letter from COTA informing her that she was a finalist for the 1997 Senior Achiever Awards for Victoria following her nomination by Mr. Joseph R. Savanah.

(Continued next edition)

## **MAURITIUS NATIONAL DAY ON CD ROM**

An exclusive and unique CD-ROM is now being developed by MEA especially for the first official Mauritius National Day celebrations in Australia.

On the CD, you will be able to view original documents sent by Ministers, Premiers, High Commissioners, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, etc to many clubs including a letter from the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. John Howard to the MSA Club (VIC).

Why a CD and not a publication?

1. A publication or book cannot produce sound. On the CD, you will be able to hear Fr. Souchons' arrival at the airport and at all functions along with actual speeches of many celebrities.
2. There are a very large number of digitised colour pictures capturing many events that happened during the month of February and March 1997 in Australia. To print all the pictures in a publication would be very cumbersome.
3. It would take too many editions of MEA magazine to list all events.
4. A CD will last a lifetime, whilst colour pictures in a publication will deteriorate with time.
5. A CD is easier and lighter to handle. A publication is heavy and costly to post.
6. On a CD, you can store over 600 million characters.
7. Almost every home today has a computer and for any retired person, your children most probably would have a computer.
8. A CD is as easy to read as a book (if you have a computer and a screen). There will be a table of contents for you to select which story you wish to view and listen to.

9. Full instruction will be provided to facilitate operation.

## WHAT'S IN IT?

LA BELLE DE CADIX. What influenced Jean Claude Cimiotti to stage this show? Exclusive and unique pictures of the artists before, during and after the show.

MAURITIUS NATIONAL DAY. Exclusive pictures of the arrival of Fr. Henri Souchon in Sydney at the Airport.

From the Airport, he stopped at a café and asked for a tomato drink. You will love this exclusive story along with unique and exclusive pictures.

Meetings of Fr. Souchon with many young Mauritians.

The formal dance organised by La Caravelle on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 1997 with the High Commissioner of Mauritius, Mr. Rex Fanchette, the Consul of Mauritius, Dr. Duyker, the various speeches, and unique pictures of the séga show etc,

Pictures of the "vin d'honneur" celebration in Canberra on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 1997.

The official Mass of Fr. Souchon and the first official raising of the Mauritian Flag at a Club function. Full voice recording of the mass along with speeches from officials, plus many interviews.

Extra Bonus souvenirs:

The Queen of the Séga performing in Sydney. Unique and exclusive pictures of Marie Josée Clency and Roger Clency Séga night in Sydney. What Roger has to say about the séga.

Official Opening of Paule Collard Abbey Field Home. Exclusive pictures inside the home.

The production of this first and unique Mauritian CD will be expensive to manufacture and will take over 2 months to complete.

The cost of the CD will be \$35 for subscribers and \$60 for non-subscribers. New subscribers can purchase the CD and one year's subscription for \$55.00. (Refer next edition to reserve your copy)

## MAURITIAN PUBLICATIONS

MAISONS TRADITIONELLES DE L'ÎLE MAURICE  
Jean-Louis Pagès. Rs. 165

PARLEZ CRÉOLE. James Burty David, Lilette David, Clarel Seenyen. Rs. 50

BIRDS OF MAURITIUS Claude Michel. Rs. 110

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C. Michel, S. Takoor, M. Coowar. Rs. 40

LE SEIGNEUR DU LAGON OU LA PÊCHE  
AU GROS À MAURICE. Bertrand Noël.  
Rs. 275

MAURICE À L'AUBE DE L'AN 2000  
Régis Fanchette, Pierre Argo. Rs. 470

FESTIVALS OF MAURITIUS.  
Ramesh Ramdoyal Rs. 470

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Jeanne Gerval-Arouff Rs. 110

QUATRE BORNES URBS FLORIDA.  
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HISTOIRE DE LA LITTÉRATURE  
MAURICIENNE DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE  
Jean Georges Prosper. Rs. 200.

A NEW HISTORY OF MAURITIUS  
J. Addison, K. Hazareesingh.. Rs. 95

L'ÎLE MAURICE À TABLE.  
Philleppe Lenoir & R. de Ravel  
Belle publication en couleurs qui comprend 300 recettes de la cuisine mauricienne, cuisines européenne, chinoise, indienne sans oublier notre cuisine créole.

Vous trouverez également dans ce livre quelques recettes typiques des îles soeurs.

L'auteur a présenté la gastronomie mauricienne à travers ses influences comme élément de notre culture et il a consacré un chapitre sur les vins et le rhum local.

Bref, un livre à recommander aux amateurs de bonne cuisine.

282pp. Rs. 310

## LA VRAIE CUISINE MAURICIENNE

Guy Félix  
La cuisine mauricienne qui trouve ses sources aussi bien en Afrique, qu'en Asie et même en Europe, a su gagner à sa cause un grand nombre de célèbres gastronomes internationaux. Qui saurait mieux vous présenter cette cuisine authentique dont les recettes sont transmises de génération en génération, que Guy Félix, gastronome mauricien dont la réputation n'est plus à faire? Son livre est,

## LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

en fait, une invitation au voyage dans le monde culinaire mauricien: du Curry de singe au Larves de guêpe frites aux oignons de Bombay, découvrez cette extraordinaire cuisine aux mille saveurs et parfums différents!

108pp.

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### GENUINE CUISINE OF MAURITIUS

Guy Félix

Mauritius, meeting place of different races and cultures, is a real melting-pot, the diversity of which is reflected in its cuisine. In fact, Mauritian cuisine with its blend of African, European and Asian tastes, colours and flavours is quite specific and unique in its kind. It is that genuine cuisine, handed over from generation to generation, that is presented to you in this book.

132pp.

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### MORE PUBLICATIONS IN FUTURE EDITIONS:

All prices are in Mauritian Rupees and are exactly what you would pay if purchased in Mauritius. Freight and exchange rate are extra and must be confirmed prior to placing an order. All orders are pre-paid. Orders are sent to Mauritius about the 15th of every month and all shipments are sea-freight, unless prior arrangements have been made for air-freight.

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## CLUB LIST

### AUSTRALIAN MAURITIAN ASSOCIATION AMA (NSW)

PRESIDENT: Danielle Perombelon L.R.E.A

### CANTERBURY PÉTANQUE CLUB (NSW)

PRESIDENT: Christian Maulguet

### CHAMAREL CLUB (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Gilbert Clark

### CLUB CRÉOLE (NSW)

CHAIRMAN: George Lamvohee

### CLUB MAURICIEN (NSW)

PRESIDENT: George Laboulet

### ENDEAVOUR HILLS CLUB (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Ellyot Bhugon

### FRENCH AND MAURITIAN SOCIETY OF W.A.

PRESIDENT: W. O'Canna

### KEYSBOROUGH CLUB (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Ricardo Balancy

### LA CARAVELLE (NSW)

PRESIDENT: Marie-Line Labour

### MAURITIAN CHINESE CIRCLE OF SYDNEY-MCCS (NSW)

PRESIDENT: Alain Lim

### MAURITIAN GOLDEN AGE INC. (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Paule Collard

### MAURITIUS SERVICE ASSOCIATION MSA (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Régis Jasmin

### PRESTONS SOCCER CLUB (NSW)

PRESIDENT: Yves Antoine

### STATE COUNCIL ON THE MAURITIAN ASSOCIATION (NSW)

CHAIRMAN - Percy Cotte

### STELLA CLAVISQUE CLUB INC. (VIC)

PRESIDENT: Sylvio Lebret

## COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1997** - MSA Dance (VIC). Ring (03) 9782 4906 for tickets. \$12.

**Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 1997** – 11:00 a.m. Le premier pèlerinage des Francophones Berrima. Pauline Fathers Monastery, Penrose Park, 9 Old Hume Highway, Berrima, NSW. Sainte Messe à l'ombre des arbres devant la chapelle construite en honneur du Bienheureux Père Laval. Après la Messe le temps libre pour pique-niquer, faire des connaissances ou tout simplement se relaxer dans le magnifique entourage de cet endroit.

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 1997** - Torrid Zone presents "LA BELLE EPOQUE", a night of fun and dance featuring Mauritius 5 and guest artists. You will enjoy music from the 60's through to the 90's. Venue: Blacktown Civic Centre, Campbell Street, Blacktown, NSW, 7:00 p.m to 12:30 a.m. Cost: \$15 per ticket (BYO). Mauritian delicacies will be on sale. Dress: neat casual. Tickets: Percy Cotte - 636 4548 or 0412 160 835 François Alleaume - 9621 2572 Marcel Carre – 9642 5752 Liza Saminaden – 9729 0989

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1997** – MDP fundraising dance. An evening of Mauritian music and entertainment at Colocolo Club, 55 Smart St, Fairfield, NSW. All proceeds will go to the MDP

## LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

Donation Fundraising Appeal and Cancer Foundation. Tickets: \$12 for adults, \$6 for students and children under 12 free but not seated. For bookings ring Marina or Cedric on 046 211 485 or Patricia on (02) 92422519

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 1997** – A fundraising dance at Marconi Club, Bossley Park, NSW, for Gilles Serret who suffered burns to 95% of his body and is currently receiving medical treatment in a South African hospital.

### CYRILLE LABOUR

#### APPEAL FUND

MEA apologies for an error in the February issue. The dance to raise money for Cyrille Labour was not organised by La Caravelle but instead was organised by a group of friends from different existing Mauritian clubs in Sydney who benevolently got together to do something worthwhile towards a good cause.

*MEA*

#### LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

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## OBITUAIRE

Mizzie Jemon... Elle est partie.

### Oui, elle est partie.

En effet, le Dimanche 2 mars 1997, sa belle âme a pris son essor vers son créateur. Elle a cependant légué aux siens et à ceux qui l'ont connue, un héritage de générosité, d'amour, de patience, de paix et de bonté. Sur son lit d'hôpital, elle était proche du Christ, de son Sacré-Coeur qu'elle aimait de toute la force de son être. Son visage serein et paisible lui a valu l'amitié du personnel médical qui l'entourait de soins.

Pour sa famille, elle était leur joie, leur raison de vivre. Fidèle épouse, elle laisse des regrets éternels. Mère, belle mère et grandmère, elle laisse à ceux-là qui la pleurent, un vide irremplacable.

Pour ses amis, elle était l'universelle "Mamie", le sobriquet qu'on lui donnait et qui lui seyait bien par son cœur si maternel. Pour d'autres, elle était "Ma tante" car elle avait donné une place dans son cœur si noble et si généreux.

Au revoir Mizzie....

Nous te reverrons un jour – Prie pour nous.

Nour t'aimons encore plus car, si le temps passe les souvenirs restent... Ton sourire restera gravé dans nos cœurs.

**Rosemarie Vincent**

## MAURITIUS NATIONAL DAY

### GUESTS ARRIVE FROM MAURITIUS



On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1997, Fr. Souchon along with artist Mario Armel and his wife Patricia arrived from

Mauritius, in transit from Melbourne. The Ansett flight landed at 11.15 a.m., and at the airport to greet them were committee members of La Caravelle, friends of Mario and MEA magazine.

*(The president of La Caravelle, Marie-Line Labour, could not be at the airport as she was in Canberra.*

*At 11:30 a.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1997 at the Embassy of the Commissioner, Mrs Tania Shand, Chief of Protocol of Australia, opened the "vin d'honneur" toast to the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Cassam Uteem. The Honourable Rex Fanchette responded with a toast to the Queen. There were about 80 people present).*

After leaving the airport, everyone stopped at a Rockdale coffee shop. "I want a tomato juice. Have you got that in Australia?" asked Fr Souchon. "Yes we've got that" replied the young waitress. "with Tabasco. Have you got that also?"

Much discussion went on at the café after which, Fr. Souchon was escorted to Pierro Rochecouste's residence where he stayed for most of his time in Sydney. *(Ed, I had the greatest honour to join the Rochecouste family and Fr. Souchon for lunch and we were spoiled with a most delicious meal).* After lunch, Fr. Souchon spent the afternoon resting.

*(Refer CD ROM for full recording of Fr. Souchon at the airport, the café and at lunch along with exclusive photos. You will be impressed!).*

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1997.



A meeting was arranged from 6:00 p.m. at the Mother Mary Church Hall, in Glenfield, for Fr. Souchon to meet many young Mauritians. Due to this short notice, it was just about impossible to contact Mauritian families, and because of the fact

## LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

*The young Mauritians with Fr. Souchon after the meeting.*

that many would not finish work and arrive home until 6:30 p.m. or later, and considering the distance to get to Glenfield, only a few young ones arrived. It did however please Fr. Souchon very much indeed as this was exactly what he was looking for; an opportunity to meet some young Mauritians to give him an idea of their culture in Australia.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 1997.

The formal dance was organised by La Caravelle Club and presided over by the High Commissioner of Mauritius, the Honourable Rex Fanchette. The dance was held at the Whitlam Centre, Memorial Avenue, Liverpool. Guest speakers were the Honourable Rex Fanchette, High Commissioner of Mauritius, Dr. Edward Duyker, Honorary Consul of Mauritius and Mr. Paul Lynch, M.P.

Marie-Line Labour and Fr. Henri Souchon also presented their speeches.

A variety of Mauritian artists, including Mario Armel and Patricia, along with France Jemon entertained a crowd of over 400.

*(Ed, Thank you France, for your courage to entertain all of us this evening, considering that your wife died only a few days ago. We know she would be very proud of you to have sung at the show. It was really a great performance.)*

The dance went very well and congratulations to La Caravelle for another great evening.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 1997.  
Mass started at 10:30 a.m. at Glenfield Park School grounds, where a special stand was erected as can be seen in the picture on the right.

*Fr. Souchon with Sister Jacqueline Serret.*



Over 400 people turned up and the temperature was perfect at 28° with no rain. The raising of the Mauritian Flag followed the mass. (Refer CD details on page 11). After the official ceremony was over, the crowd gathered in the hall to buy Mauritian snacks. This is when

some problems started. From what MEA has been told, the food was not ready, due to the fact that the kitchen staff attended the mass and the Flag Raising ceremony.

Trying to feed a few hundred hungry Mauritians all at the same time is not an easy task. So, some started to shout and complain that they had purchased their food tickets and were not being served. So MEA went to the kitchen to investigate and there was food everywhere that needed to be heated and served. Some staff was saying "Just wait a moment, it's coming", but that did nothing to calm the hungry Mauritians.

MEA left the grounds a few minutes later to attend another Mauritian function and came back after 2 hours. By then, all the food was sold out.

We'll keep you informed. (Continued next edition.)

*Pierro Rochecouste trying very hard to organise*



*and calm the hungry Mauritians.*

### Un prix Mauricien.

Un Mauricien entre dans un magasin pour acheter des produits chez un autre mauricien.

Acheteur - Alors, faire moi en bon prix.

Vendeur - Mais missier, en très bon prix qui mo faire ou.

Acheteur - Non, li trop cher.

Après plus d'une demie heure de marchander, le vendeur en a mare et offre a l'acheteur le produit a prix coûtant.

Vendeur - Bon missier, mo donne ou a prix coûtant. Mo pas faire ditou profit.

Acheteur - Très gentille, parce qu'entre mauricien nous bisien aider. Maintenant donne moi en ti discount. Faire moi en vrai prix mauricien.

Vendeur - @#%\$M&e#@\$r(#d\$e