

MCA

*LES MAURICIENS EN
AUSTRALASIE*



The Mauritian Hibiscus Dancers

(From Left to Right)

*Liza Saminaden, Laurent Vincent, Joelle De Chazal,
Rosemarie Vincent, Eric Chelin, Michelle Chaperon.*

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LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

MEA

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

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EDITORIAL

Sylvio Belcourt.



1. I've been asked to include my picture in the magazine so that people will know who I am. **Here it is.** I was born in '*Quatre Bornes*' and my parents are Roland (deceased) and Lyda Belcourt.
2. In the March Issue, I mentioned about a letter that was sent to MEA regarding complaints on the day of the Grand Fancy Fair in Sydney - Sunday 16th March 1997. As the letter was anonymous, MEA requested that the writer contact the editor again so that the substance of the letter could be founded. As no further communication has been established, MEA has now decided to close the matter.

The Mauritius National Day celebrations organised by La Caravelle in Sydney has many people talking about the **failure of events**. MEA believes very differently. (Refer article on page 13).
3. I mentioned about a CD in the March edition that MEA was preparing in relation to the first official celebration of the Mauritius National Day in Australia. I am pleased to say that I

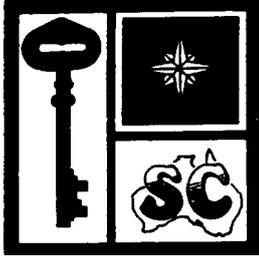
have received many calls on the matter (*all from Melbourne*) and most of them very positive. However, many of the **older generation** expressed their concern about not being able to play the CD, due to the fact that they do not have a computer at home. They would prefer a book instead. So I am working on the possibility of a book on the matter instead of a CD or perhaps both. The book will probably be printed in Mauritius. I will do some research to assess if a market exists for such a product in Australia and overseas before going ahead with the project. Your comments would be most appreciated.

4. I have been trying for many months to publish a **Mauritian Business Directory** (MBD) as part of the MEA magazine. The proposed listing would be very similar to the yellow pages. I have contacted many business people by phone, without much success. I believe it could be due to a lack of advertisement on my part. Anyway, I will not give up, but I do require your help and support. It's FREE to list your business in the **MBD** Listing.
5. MEA will be celebrating its **first birthday** in October/November this year and a cabaret show dinner dance will be held in Sydney on the 22nd November 1997, at the Auditorium, Club Marconi, Marconi Road, Bossley Park. You will be entertained to one of the very best Mauritian Cabaret shows ever staged in Australia. Keep this day free and book early. A dance has also been proposed in Melbourne where the MEA magazine was born. We will keep you informed.
6. A documentary film about "*Les Mauriciens en Australasie*" is now in production and will take over a year to complete. So if you see MEA now filming events instead of taking still pictures, it's all about gathering as many scenarios as possible. The documentary film will be about Mauritian social and cultural habits, the success of many projects, the achievement of many people, the young Mauritians and their future, etc. **From the film**, digital shot images will be extracted and will be used in future editions of the magazine.

STELLA CLAVISQUE CLUB

RELIVING THE PAST.

Sylvio Lebret Part 3. The Hard and Difficult Route to Success.



At the meeting of 5th May 1971, the Executives of the Committee put forward to their colleagues a tentative charter, which would facilitate the working of the Club and its sub-committees: this was mainly a distribution of duties and responsibilities. The project of a proper newsletter with the co-operation of club members was deemed a necessity and was accepted - that became the responsibility of Jean Commins. The diversification of club functions, which had been for a while advocated by Irlande Alfred took a turn for the better - a "slides show" organised by Peter North-Coombes did not appeal to many members, but it was a start. Then a "progressive dinner" took place on the 2nd of October, starting at Lorraine and Carl Pascal's, then went to Aline and Karl Bozelle's, to finish with the main course at East Burwood Hall. As December was approaching, a "new look" Children's Party: was organised where the kids wore fancy costumes and prizes awarded, and after which other Club members joined the parents for a smorgasbord dinner and dance. The traditional "New Year's Eve Ball" at Alan McLean Hall, Mordialloc marked the closure of a year which had seen some improvement in the Club's achievements.

1972 had a promising start: a Mauritian Night was held, in conjunction with the International Epicurean & Cultural Society, at the "English-speaking Union" building at South Yarra. The menu was as typical as possible - *fricassée* of lentils in ginger, tomato and onion served with a choice of *rougaille* of fish and *rougaille* of meat, saffron rice, a variety of snacks with chutneys and sauces, to finish with caramel flan and a *diplomate* pudding. To add to the appreciation of the Mauritian cuisine by the guests, their appetite was aroused by a talk on "Mauritius To-Day" by Mr Alfred North-Coombes, and the result was a big success.

In the meantime, the program of help to Mauritian immigrants was being carried on more smoothly. That help was even extended, through Caritas, to Mauritians at home. The Mauritian community was getting closer, but the Committee was still in pursuit of the participation of the youth element. Two youth nights were projected for the year - in June and in September. However, because of unfortunate incidents caused by disturbances, indeed in brawls, at the mid-year ball at Caulfield Town Hall, the committee took the sad precaution of having to hire two bouncers for the End-of-Year ball at Menzies Hall in Dandenong North. This did not prevent another brawl to take place but the bouncers got the situation in hand. The Committee managed to get rid of the bad elements. However the damage had been done, and gossiping caused Mauritian functions to be associated with brawls. The Committee then had the idea to resort to sport on a regular basis to attract the youth. Consultations with Springvale Council resulted in a soccer ground being made available to the Club. Quite a few young Mauritians showed eagerness in coming to training, but that enthusiasm was not sustained. Another earlier project of producing plays did not eventuate: an appeal for "actors, stage decorators, producers, musicians, and playwrights" remained unanswered.

The Club seemed to have come to a standstill for a good part of 1973 - there was a feeling of uncertainty and insecurity. Two Committee members, Claude Labonté and Urania Armaras, resigned, but the Committee had, some time before, been reinforced by Jean-Pierre Lebret who had emigrated one year earlier. Another committee member, Peter North-Coombes, resigned to form a charitable organisation "The Mauritius Christian Aid Society". The first "new look" newsletter came out in June 1973, and it included an invitation to a Mauritian night for members only. The cooking had been organised by committee members, spouses and friends, but had limited success. In February 1973, Mgr Margéot, the Bishop of Port Louis, paid a visit to Melbourne, and a big project of the Stella Clavisque to offer him a decent reception was overshadowed by adverse circumstances.

At the end of 1970 Rev Fr Moriarty arrived as Mauritian chaplain. He showed great interest in the

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community but wanted to take control and had the idea of achieving this aim through the Stella Clavisque Club. He met with strong opposition from the President, Karl Bozelle, especially when he formally asked for the books of the Club. He retaliated by forming a new Club, the "Victoria-Mauritian Association" and attracting members of the Stella Clavisque, including two committee members Georgie and Philippe Hennequin. It is a pity that since its inception, the V.M.A. regarded the Stella as a rival Club instead of trying to work together for the benefit of the community. A *colloque* organised soon before the visit of Mgr Margéot in February 1973 somehow cleared the air, and the clubs joined their efforts to organise a reception worthy of our distinguished visitor. This good will however fell apart after the visit.

Due to the failure of all initiatives to organise cheap travel to Mauritius, whether by group or charter flights, it became evident that the only way to succeed was to join the "Federation of Mauritian Associations in Australia and Mauritius" formed in 1972. The Stella Clavisque was the fifth club to join that Federation in mid-1973, but the committee was far from suspecting that it had started its saddest episode in the history of the Club. Such were the bad memories of that association that when Karl Bozelle was elected as President in September 1978 to succeed to Jean Commins, he made one condition; that the Club would not be involved again with the Federation and its charter flights. After being subject to a boycott and finally humiliated, the Club resigned from the Federation in 1976.

All these events overshadowed the proper working of the Club and hampered its objectives to help and form a united Mauritian community. A long-belated General Assembly took place on 8 October 1973. The President once again spelled the necessity of having a Clubhouse of its own, but there were financial problems to solve. He also spoke of the contract of the Committee with the Federal National Groups Liaison Officer resulting in that the Club was now registered in Canberra. A new committee was formed: Karl Bozelle was re-elected President for a third term, Carl Pascal as Vice-President, Sylvio Lebret helped as Asst-President, Serge Florent as Treasurer, Paul Lesur as Secretary, and Jean Commins as P.R.O. Jean

Cassar became Senior Adviser, Ghyliane Lesur and Urania Armaras as members. New blood was injected in the Committee with Jean-Pierre Lebret (who had informally joined the Committee a year earlier), Jacques Lebrasse, Orietta Savannah (now Wheatley) and Daniel Fijac.

I never understood the real purpose of my job, though the President had explained its necessity to help him with the pressure of charter flights. The office was scrapped when I replaced Paul Lesur as secretary a year later. The first function of the new Committee has been described as one, which would be remembered for a long time due to its tremendous success. It was a "Wine and Cheese Night" on the 10th of November. The youth element of the Club did a praiseworthy job in decorating the Edinburgh Hall at Springvale and preparing the night. However power restrictions, then in force through a strike, caused a failure, and candles which had been made ready in case of emergency had to be used, creating a wonderfully romantic atmosphere. The band, "Century's Invention", newly formed by Jean-Pierre Lebret, could not do much with the limited electric help they had improvised, but they came out with flying colours. Even the people from "Del Monte Cellars" who had provided the wine expressed their admiration at such a happy crowd.

A Children's party was held on the 9th of December at the residence of Odette and Jean Commins. It is worth mentioning part of the invitation "*Donation: 60cs per child. \$1.50 for 3 or more children in one family. Ladies, bring a plate.*" The party was held around the swimming pool, but a late shower forced everybody inside the house where all had a great time. 1973 closed with the traditional "New Year's Eve Ball" at Alan Mclean Hall, Mordialloc. The menu read as follows: "*Hot Entrée: Beef or Chicken; Smorgasbord: Chicken, Roast Pork, Roast Beef, Corn Beef, Ham, Meat Loaf, Ham Delight, Assorted Salami, Kabana, Tuna, Salmon, Sardines; Salads: Tomatoes, Potatoes, Beetroot, French Cucumbers, Coleslaw rice, assorted beans, cheese & greens; Dessert: Fruit Salad.*" The service must have taken a while to complete, but the end result was the traditional success.

(to be continued)

Pierre Roche
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L'ARC-EN-CIEL MAURICIEN

POINT DE VUE d' Henri Souchon

Part 2. (Continued from March Edition.)

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

(a) Le goupe hindou vient de quatre différentes provinces de l'Inde, parlant quatre langues différentes – le recensement de 1972, qui tenait compte de ece facteur, les dénombre ainsi:

Culture indo-mauricienne hindoue

Hindi	320,000
Marathi	17,000
Tamoul	57,000
Télégou	14,000

Culture indo-mauricienne musulmane

(b) Les Musulmans se composent de trois groupes:

- Les meimans, qui parlent le kutch
- Les soortees, qui parlent le gujarati
- Les calcutias, qui parlent le bhojpuri

La culture sino-mauricienne

(c) Les Chinois sont divisés en deux groupes

- les hankas et
- les cantonnais.

Culture euro-créole

(d) La population générale, qui est composée de noirs, de blancs at de métis.

MARIAGE (ENDOGAMIE ET EXOGAMIE)

Ces communautés pratiquent l'endogamie pour

protéger l'identité de leur groupe.

Les Hinous ont d'abord une endogamie des quatre groupes linguistiques venant de quatre différentes provinces de l'Inde.

Cependant, une exogamie se pratique entre hindis et marathis, qui viennent de l'Inde du Nord et les Tamouls et les Télégous, qui viennent de l'Inde du Sud.

Chez les Hindis, il y a aussi une endogamie de castes. Les brahmanes et le kshatriyas peuvent se marler entre eux. Les vaishyas et les sudras se marient chacun dans sa caste.

Dans les trois autres groupes, le mariage intercastes est possible, car ils privilégient le mariage dans leur groupe linduistique au castéisme.

Chez les Musulmans, les meimans et les soortees pratiquent l'endagamie, au point d'aller chercher des partenaires pour leurs enfants en Inde.

Chez les Chinois, il y a une certaine endogamie entre les cantonnais et les hakkas.

Dans la population générale, la communauté blanche, dite franco-mauricienne, protique l'endogaie et l'on note récemment beaucoup de mariages avec des étrangers de race blanche.

La population dite de couleur est composée d'Africains et de Malgaches. Cependant, un métissage considérable a eu lieu dans se groupe, qui a intégré en son sein les enfants de mariages avec tous les autres groupes du pays. La tendance aux mariages mixtes devrait normalement augmemter ce groupe, au cas où demain le communalisme céderait la place au mauricianisme.

MARIAGE MIXTES

L'endogamie était renforcée par la pression sociale, d'une part, et les mariages de raison, de l'autre. Mais voilà que les mariages "arrangés" par les familles, sont remplacés petit à petit par des mariages d'amour interpersonnels.

Ceci est dû à la libération de la femme dans le monde et le fait qu'à Maurice, les filles travaillent aujourd'hui dans des bureaux, des hôtels et des usines.

Ces mariages mixtes posent des problèmes considérables au point de vue de la culture, de la

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langue et de la religion, et sont, à mon avis, le problème social le plus intéressant de la société mauricienne contemporaine.

L'auteur de ces lignes célèbre régulièrement des mariages mixtes. Chaque cas demande des heures de rencontres et de réflexion entre les individus et surtout les familles.

RELIGIONS

Le recensement de 1990 dénombre aussi la population sur le plan religieux.

Chrétiens	342,548
Hindous	535,028
Musulmans	172,047
Bouddhistes	3,613
Divers	3,424
TOTAL	1,086,660

Fait significatif, seulement 553 Mauriciens sur un million ont déclaré, en 1983, qu'ils n'avaient pas de religion. Socialement parlant, il faut avoir une religion pour appartenir à une "communauté". Et le Mauricien moyen appartient d'abord à son groupe ethnique avant d'être Mauricien.

L'émergence des sectes dans le christianisme et l'hindouisme est très marquée à ce dernier recensement en 1983. Neuf des treize congés publics sont des fêtes religieuses. La ville de Port Louis, la capitale, est émaillée de cloches et de minarets, de temples hindous et de pagodes.

Les adhérents de l'islam et de l'hindouisme viennent exclusivement de l'Inde, tandis que ceux du bouddhisme, de la Chine. Les adhérents du christianisme viennent d'Europe, d'Afrique, de Chine et, à un moindre degré, de l'Inde.

Les relations interreligieuses sont cordiales entre les grandes religions, mais connaissant certaines frictions au niveau des sectes. Les religions sont aidées par l'Etat, selon le nombre de leurs fidèles. Aucune ingérence de l'Etat n'est au niveau des religions.

LANGUES

Pratiquement tous les enfants mauriciens vont à l'école.

L'enseignement se fait théoriquement en anglais et les manuels scolaires sont en anglais.

Le français est un sujet obligatoire. L'enfant, s'il le désire, peut aussi étudier une des langues suivantes: l'hindi, le marathi, le tamoul, le télégou, l'urdu, le mandarin et l'arabe.

Le bhojpuri est la langue maternelle d'un grand nombre de Mauriciens, originaires de l'Inde.

Le créole est parlé par tous les Mauriciens, sans distinction. Il est dérivé du français et connaît quelques variantes de prononciations et de vocabulaire, selon qu'il est parlé dans les différentes communautés mauriciennes.

Le Français et l'anglais ont le prestige de la culture, qu'ils véhiculent et le status de langues internationales.

Le créole a l'immense avantage d'être la *lingua franca* dans laquelle tout Mauricien est à l'aise. Certains appellent même le créole, le mauricien.

L'hindi, langue officielle de l'Inde, connaît un certain essor grâce à l'hindustani des films indiens et au bhojpuri, qui est la langue maternelle d'un grand nombre de Mauriciens, originaires du nord de l'Inde.

Les autres langues, langues intracommunautaires, semblent vouées à la disparation.

Les films commerciaux sont soit en français, soit en hindustani.

La presse est française, Un seul hebdomadaire est publié en anglais, avec des articles en français, d'autres en anglais. Il y a deux quotidiens et un hebdomadaire publié en idéogrammes chinois.

Curieusement, il n'existe aucun quotidien et aucun hebdomadaire en hindi.

Plus curieusement encore, les Mauriciens se débrouillent très bien dans leur île polyglotte. Il n'y a pas ici de tous inachevée, comme ce fut le cas à Babel

LA MODERNITE

Il sera passionnant d'étudier l'impact de la modernité sur la société mauricienne en devenir. La modernité, c'est tout d'abord 100,000 vidéocassettes, qui jouent dans les maisons, les derniers files de Bombay, de Paris ou de Hollywood, y compris les pornos.

La modernité, c'est 90,000 filles mauriciennes, qui

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ont commencé à travailler dans les usines de la zone franche.

La modernité, c'est 360,000 touristes, qui auront visité l'île en 1993, 400,000 en 1995.

La contraception, le travail de la femme, les mariages mixtes peuvent changer de fond en comble le visage d'une société.

L'émergence des sectes et les moeurs nouvelles peuvent bouleverser la morale et la doctrine traditionnelle des grandes religions.

Les médias, qui atteignent de plein fouet l'île Maurice, font du monde un grand village et brisent notre isolation insulaire, protégée par l'océan.

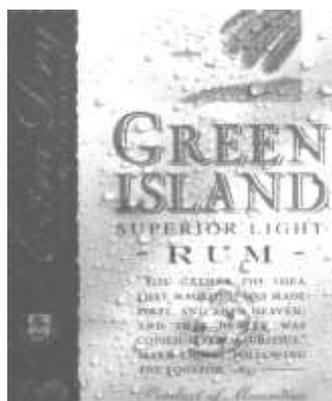
L'île Maurice est un merveilleux bouillon de cultures, où se forge une humanité nouvelle, un merveilleux creuset où races, religions et langues se côtoient ou se mélangent. Il faut y croire, et, pour ma part, j'y crois.

Ça Ène Bon Rum, Ça Mo Noir!!!

Gather a few Mauritians together, play some good 'ségas', put a few 'gateaux piments' on the table and you have a Mauritian Night! Oh.. let's not forget the "Green Island Rum or the Spiced Gold Liquor" now available in Melbourne at all HARRY'S and RITCHIES'S liquor stores and FLAMINGO Liquor World at Chadstone Shopping Centre.

For further details, contact Claude Le Miere on
(03) 5987 1405

MAKING MAURITIUS FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER.



IOR

INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION

Researched and presented by Christian Belcourt.

Part 2. (Continued from March Edition.)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In terms of industrial development, Singapore and Australia are full-fledged industrialised countries and are also technologically advanced.

India's manufacturing base is extremely wide and the range of products is varied.

South Africa too has a fairly developed industrial base and major industries include sugar, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, textiles and fabrics.

Indonesia and Malaysia are currently undergoing a rapid pace of industrialisation with very high rate of growth in industrial production.

Mauritius, the smallest region continues to excel in sugar and textile productions.

POTENTIAL FOR CO-OPERATION

The scope for co-operation lies in the individual strength and solid economic foundation of each country of the region. First, the economy of the region as a whole is developing rapidly. Second, the region is rich in resources, which can be fully utilised with the help of economic and technical co-operation between countries of the IOR. Third, every country is exposed to industrialisation and most of the countries have certain areas of specialised skills, competence and technology. Co-operation would ensure free transaction of knowledge and information and better use of each other's potential. Forth, the region is a vast potential market. Fifth, the abundant human capital of the region provides valuable source for skilled manpower and technical know-how. Sixth, there is a vast existing pool of expertise and state-of-the-art technology within the region that can be easily tapped by the member countries.

Available technologies encompass the broad area of agriculture, industry, communications, computer and electronics, health services, ocean resources etc. Thus, scope for trade and industrial co-operation among IOR countries is unlimited

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and better off countries can play a significant role in the industrialisation program of other countries.

Some of the areas for immediate co-operation could be:

- Development of human potential.
- Vocational and technical training.
- Entrepreneurship development.
- Development of information based technology.
- Infrastructure such as telecommunication, transport, energy, agriculture and rural industries.
- Scientific and industrial research.

Nelson Mandela has blessed the idea of an Indian Ocean Rim of Socio-economic co-operation and other peaceful endeavour of a special relationship that should improve the wealth and well being of developing IOR nations.

IOR CONFERENCE

Early last year, Australia started the ball rolling by hosting an international forum of IOR members in Perth. In November of the same year, Iran staged its own international conference on the Indian Ocean Community and is keen to participate in membership of the IOR-ARC to gain economic advantages.

This is where at the forthcoming meeting in March in Mauritius, Ken Mc Pherson from the Indian Ocean centre in Perth, Max Harriman from the Centre for Maritime Policy in Wollongong and Hasjim Djalal have been asked to help examine whether faraway places such as Iran and Central Asian Republics can be considered part of the Indian Ocean Region under the convention of the Law of the Sea.

The IOR countries are vastly different and Mc Pherson sees huge trade potential for the region in the 21st century. After the burst of activity to bring about the March signing of the Charter of the IOR-ARC, governments are going to be forced to make hard-headed decisions about the region, their role in it and how to take advantage of the great opportunity it offers.

The big issue for Australia and Mauritius is how to respond to the opportunities offered by the IOR, which is likely to set a cat among the commercial and financial pigeons for many years.



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MIZZIE



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Cette photo nous rappelle Mizzie dont nous avons parlé dans l'obituaire du journal de Mars 1997.

REBECCA'S FUNDRAISER

The dance occurred at the Blacktown Bowling Club on Friday 21st March 1997. Rebecca Verrier is a bright star in the Mauritian community and by far one of the most talented young performers in this country. At just sixteen years of age, Rebecca has been able to consistently achieve an outstanding academic record at Catherine Macauley College while keeping up with her life's passion, singing and dancing at the Australian College of Entertainment School, where she has been a student for the past three years.

Last year, young Americans invited students of the college to attend workshops and tour the USA. The selection criteria for this tour was by audition in which Rebecca participated. She was successful and has joined United Voice (the group from the College) on the tour to the USA for three weeks where she and other students will perform at Disneyland and participate in workshop sessions with the Young Americans.



This fundraising, organised by some of Rebecca's friends, (Rebecca left and Nadine right), helped her as a three-week tour of the USA including plane fare, accommodation, meals etc. is quite costly. The drive behind it is not

only Rebecca's outstanding talent, charm and charisma but also the pride she will give to her family and to the Mauritian Community.

Many young Mauritians and their parents attended the dance giving their support to Rebecca who delighted everybody with her beautiful voice.

The Music was from MC Maurice DJ of Sydney Radio 2RDJFM on 88.1.

Guest artists participated in the show performing a modern dance which was very much appreciated by the girls.

Caught in action are Stephen Richter (23), Joseph Zappala (16), Sam Redzeposki (15),

showing that we have a society full of talented prospective stars.

The audience was thrilled with the evening and some paused just long enough for the MEA camera.



Mylene Gonsalves, David Habib, Bradley Pierre, Amanda News-Smith, Anya Yamakanasd.



Asley Gonsalves,



Kate Lakeman, Christian Abakablue, Scott Chong, Denise Habib and Ando Rivet.

Mauritian teenagers as well as other nationalities got together to support Rebecca and a very entertaining evening was spent mixing cultures.

Daphne Bernard, Sandreen Krause, Christian Testore, Sebastien Oliver, Emanuele Testore.



As a minority community in Australia we can be very proud of the talent that is surfacing amongst our families.

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LA BELLE DE CADIX

(Continued from March edition)

'La Belle de Cadix' was staged in Sydney on Saturday 8th March 1997 at the Marconi Club, Fairfield. As we mentioned in the previous edition, over 800 people attended and some criticised the show due to the fact the voices of the actors were mimed.

Jean-Claude Cimiotto explains the reason for the pre-recorded tape with MEA at his hotel the next morning.



The acoustics was one of the main factors. The hall is very large; if the actors were using their natural voice, the audience at the back would have complained as they would not have heard a thing. This magnificent auditorium would have required lots of very expensive equipment to electronically allow the rear audience to hear every spoken word. This was not possible. So by using a pre-recorded tape, we do not have to worry about this problem. Everyone can hear all the actors properly whether they are at the back or at the front of the auditorium.

Secondly, when a professional theatrical group perform a show on stage, they always have backup actors in case one is sick or one's voice is not up to standard due to a flu. Imagine the cost for us to actually have dual actors to backup our show. If one or more actors cannot talk or sing, the show cannot go on.

Thirdly, with the actors voice being pre-recorded, every show is identical. The actors can concentrate on performing to their very best. They do not have to worry whether their voice is being heard properly or not. It really helps us on stage.

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LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

To remind those that were there and for all those that missed out on a great show, MEA has included the following photos. Can you recognise the scenes?



Just to mention a few of the cast; Arianne Antoine, the lead female singer (25 years old) is engaged to Nilton Dantas and getting married sometime next year. She is still studying at University.



Jimmy who played 'Manillo' and Marie-Paule Frédéric were married 20 years in April and have two children.



Actual quote from Jean-Claude Cimiotti:

"For the last five years that I have been involved in theatre, I have never experienced a public as responsive and warm as the Sydney audience."

MEA and all those present on the day would like to thank Danielle Perombelom, president of AMA, for having organised the show and all the cast of CAT for performing so spectacularly. We sincerely hope that the next opérette, 'Le Chanteur de Mexico de Francis Lopez' which is planned for mid next year, will also be staged for the Mauritians in Sydney.

COTA (VIC)

(Continued from March edition)

On 4th March 1997, Paule Collard received a letter from COTA informing her that she was a finalist for the 1997 Senior Achiever Award following her nomination by Mr. Joseph R. Savannah. The ceremony took place on 22nd March at Government house and over 1000 people attended. There were 150 nominees and only six were selected. Paule Collard was one of the six who received the **SENIOR ACHIEVERS AWARD FOR VICTORIA 1997.**



Congratulations Paule (middle) from all the Mauritian communities in Australia and around the world. You deserve it.

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MAURITIUS NATIONAL DAY

(Continued from March Edition)

During the weekend of 15th and 16th March 1997, La Caravelle Social and Sports Club celebrated the Mauritius National Day in Sydney by organising many special functions. Fr Henri Souchon and the professional Mauritian singer Mario Armel flew from Mauritius and landed at Sydney Airport on the 12th March 1997.



Pierre Rochecouste, Fr. Henri Souchon and Dede Tadebois

A dance held at the Whitlam Centre opened the



manifestations. Mario Armel voice and the Mauritian Hibiscus dancers in their colourful costumes thrilled the audience.



The 'judges' gave them full marks.

On Sunday 16th March, Fr Henri Souchon and Fr Ian celebrated mass in the open air at Glenfield Park School grounds. During the mass, there was a



'lever du drapeau'. The Mauritian flag was hoisted in the presence of Hon. Rex Fanchette, Dr Edward Duyker and the presidents of other Mauritian Clubs.



In the March edition, we mentioned about a problem with the food after the ceremony. Everyone assembled in the hall which was just too small for the crowd. As the food was not hot and ready, due to the fact that the kitchen staff was also at the ceremony, (*Why should they have missed out on this great and very important occasion.?*) some started to shout and create disorder. To make matters worse, the microwave eventually caught fire.

MEA left the grounds and came back two hours later and there was no food left. (*I missed out*). MEA overheard that more than 2000 'dhalpuri' and 'gateaux piments' as well as 'napolitains' were sold.

It must have been 'good tucker'. What a huge task to satisfy so many people in such a small hall and within such a short period of time. I think that the kitchen staff deserves some recognition. What a job? Could anyone have done better?

'Yes' commented someone. 'Why didn't they do it in the open rather than in this confined area?'

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE



The kitchen staff getting ready to serve the food.

‘Why didn’t you suggest that to the management of La Caravell and offer your help to man the stand’ was my answer. ‘What! me!’ he replied. ‘Forget it mate! I’m not going to waste my time’.

This response required no further comments.

This was the first time in Australia that the Mauritius National Day was celebrated on such a grand scale. Imagine the long hours of preparation, the numerous phone calls, the sleepless nights, not to mention the stress that was inflicted upon the management committee of La Caravelle to organise such an event – guests from Mauritius, the formal dance, the mass etc. I personally feel that they all deserve a very big applause for trying.

(It is very easy to criticise, but it takes hard work and perseverance to achieve - the editor)

In the afternoon, Mario Armel entertained the crowd with original Mauritian music.



Play good music in perfect weather condition and the Mauritians will dance.

Congratulations to La Caravelle. I am convinced that with more help, the next Mauritius National Day will be a complete success because “L’Union Fait La Force”.

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

MARINE MOLLUSCS OF MAURITIUS

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

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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

JE T’OFFRE MA TERRE. Jeanne Gerval-

Arouff Rs. 110

QUATRE BORNES URBS FLORIDA.

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COMING EVENTS

(NSW) Every first and third Friday of the Month, the Club Mauricien hold Donimo nights at the Blacktown City Bowling Club, Lismore Street, Blacktown. For further information feel free to contact any of the following: Pierre Commarmond 9624 1395, 018 642170, Sylvio Jolicoeur 9626 6685, George Laboulet 9639 3794, Alain Laxale 9639 9283, 018 269858, Harry Louis 9831 3615, Clency Thomas 9888 2941.

(NSW) Prestons Soccer Club plays Soccer on the following Sundays at the Blamfield Park, Liverpool. 11th May, 18th May, 25th May, 1st June, 8th June, 15th June, 22nd June, 29th June, 6th July, 13th July. Mauritian Food and drinks are on sale.

(NSW) Friday, 2nd May 1997 – The Mauritian Hibiscus Dancers will be performing at the Auditorium, Club Marconi, Bosley Park. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased at the Club. Drinks at bar prices. Phone Rosemarie on 9823 6064(AH) or 014 414 369.

(NSW) Saturday, 3rd May 1997 – La Caravell Social and Sports Club is organising a Pétanque game at Glenfield Park School from 1:30pm. Food and drinks will be on sale. The “Juniors” aged between 11 and 13 will try their first match. They need your support.

(NSW) Saturday, 3rd May 1997 – MDP fundraising dance cancelled due to health problems.

(NSW) Saturday, 10th May 1997 – Mother's Day. Venue: Glenfield Park School, Roy Watts Road, Glenfield. Time: 1:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. B.Y.O. rugs, chairs...Mums can relax and spend an afternoon full of fun with La Caravelle who will do the cooking and look after the kids. Please call Marie-Annick on 9829 3283 (AH) to let them know that you are coming.

(NSW) Saturday, 24th May 1997 – The

consecration of the new Church of Our Lady of Mercy at “Penrose Park” by Most Rev. Philip Wilson D.D.J.C.L (Bishop of Wollongong). Programme: 10:30 a.m. Rosary procession to the Grotto, 11:00 Devotion at the Grotto, 11:45 Light Refreshments, 12:40 p.m. Introduction, 1:00 Mass celebrated by Bishop Philip Wilson, 3:00 Lunch, 4:00 Cultural Programme, 5:00 Thanksgiving Devotion and Benediction.

(NSW) Sunday 25th May 1997 - La Caravelle Annual Sports and Fun Day. Venue: Glenfield Park School, Glenfield. Time 9:30 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. Activities: Pétanque, 6 a side Soccer, Volley Ball, Tennis Volley, Table Tennis, Domino, Dart, Children's activities. Make up your team and ring the following members for bookings. Henri 96053917 (AH) for pétanque, mixed, junior and seniors. Primo 0411856364 for domino and dart. Bertrand 96058827 (AH) for soccer. France 98249509 (AH) for table tennis and tennis volley. Marie-Annick 98293283 (AH) for children's activities and Monique 98236226 for Volley-Ball.

(NSW) Saturday, 31st May 1997 – Preston Soccer Club Inc. presents its Annual Autumn Ball 1997 at the James Meehan High School, Harold Street, Macquarie Fields, 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Band is Night Shift and DJ is The Lennons. Snacks and drinks will be available. Members: \$12.00, Non-members: \$15.00, Children: 5-12 yrs \$6.00.

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL – Seats are limited, no tickets will be sold at the door. Contact Dolly Lennon 9832 7282 or Yves Antoine 9607 0145

(NSW) Saturday, 7th June 1997 – Father Laval Charity Group *Gilles Serret's* fund raising cabaret show dinner dance at Marconi Club, Bossley Park, NSW. This dance is organised for Gilles Serret who suffered burns to 95% of his body and is currently receiving medical treatment in a South African hospital. Time 7:00pm. Ticket \$20.00. For more information contact the following: Harry Louis 9831 3615(AH), Dominique Louise 0419 468612, Danielle and Alain Perombelon 9825 1897 (AH) 0419 555421, Marielle and Sydney Decotter 9821 1461(AH) 018 602065, Bianca Raffaut 9774 3939(AH), Jocelyn Empeigne 9823 9466(AH) 0412 294579, Patrick Hope 9897

LES MAURICIENS EN AUSTRALASIE

2006(AH), Sarah Jale Peerbye 9677 0463(AH) 019 127735, Norbert Busooa 9829 5636, Henri Emraz 9605 3917(AH).

(VIC) **Saturday, 12th July 1997** – MSA Dance. Refer next edition for details.

(VIC) **Saturday, 25th October 1997** – MSA Dance. Refer next edition for details.

(NSW) **Saturday, 22nd November 1997** – MEA celebrates its first birthday in Sydney at the Auditorium, Club Marconi, Bosley Park.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'GRAND BAIE' AT NELSON'S BAY

During the Easter period, MEA met many Mauritian holiday makers at Nelson Bay.

Nelson Bay, which is a two hour drive from Sydney, is located on the North Coast of New South Wales.

The apparent reason is that this place reminds many of *Grand Baie* in Mauritius.

After mass on Sunday, MEA met with *Jean Claude, Louise and Jean-Erold Imbert*.

Catherine Ozone (left) was also visiting Nelson Bay but husband *Helwyn* stayed at home looking after the baby.



A second honeymoon? Sure, with whom?



BIRTH ANNOUCEMENT



Clarissa Marchand was born at Blacktown Hospital on 23rd February 1997 at 8:46 p.m. weighing 6 lbs. 12 oz. She is the first daughter of Michel and Lillian and the first granddaughter of Pierre and Ghislaine Commarmond. Welcome to the world little Clarissa.



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