



## Bulletin - October 2008

### Editorial

*“The General Inaugural Meeting of the Union took place at the Pettah Library Hall, on Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 1908, at which a large gathering of members was present”.*

*“The Chairman proposed that the Hon. Mr. F.C. Loos be elected President of the Union. This was seconded by Mr. R.G. Anthonisz and carried unanimously. Mr. Arthur Alvis then moved the election of an Honorary Secretary. He said: “A duty has been entrusted to me, and that is that I suggest to you the name of the gentleman who is considered the fittest person to be our Secretary. I may say the wish is endorsed by each and every one present. I refer to our friend Mr. R.G. Anthonisz. We have on our roll 268 members. I think that out of that number 267 will agree with me in seconding this motion with acclamation. I have pleasure in asking Mr. Anthonisz to act as Secretary.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwin Joseph and carried unanimously.”*

*“The Rev. J.A. Spaar moved the election of Honorary Treasurer and proposed the name of Mr. Sam De Heer. This was seconded by Mr. H.P. Beling and unanimously carried. A Committee, consisting of 45 members, was then elected, of which 15 were*

*members residing at outstations. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chair proposed by Mr. Hector van Cuylenburg and seconded by Mr. Allan Drieberg.”*  
(Extracts from DBU Journal 1 Vol.1)

Although Mr. R.G. Anthonisz was the fifth President of the DBU, he is recognised as the Founder of the Union as it was he who was instrumental in getting the movement together and initiating the Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon. “Founders Day”, therefore, has been traditionally celebrated on 22<sup>nd</sup> October – the birthday of R.G. Anthonisz.

This year, when we celebrate 100 years of existence of the DBU, “Founders Day” has special significance to all of us, and will be celebrated in grand style at the DBU with all members and spouses being invited to participate.

Under the Chairmanship of the President of the Union, Nigel Austin, members will be treated to an evening they will remember for a long time to come! The grand old building which houses our Union, is being completely renovated and “spruced up” for the event and is already looking spectacular. The wonderful old staircase constructed out of Burma

teak which was hidden under layers of paint all these years, has been scraped and cut down to expose the wonderful natural colour and grain of the wood beneath, under the watchful eye of Stephen LaBrooy.

The residents of St Nikolaas Home will be treated to a “Family Day” for residents and members of their families, on 24<sup>th</sup> October, as part of our Centenary Celebrations. Together with the regular Wednesday night gatherings, October promises to be filled with exciting events and activities for all our members.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the DBU on these days!

Cheers,  
*Anne-Marie Kellar*

Contents

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| Editorial                    |
| Original Poetry from the DBU |
| Welfare Report               |
| Mailbox                      |
| In Memory of E.C. Kelaart    |
| Entertainment                |
| Birthday Greetings           |
| New Members                  |

## Original Poetry from DBU Journal 1 Vol. 4

### "Endraacht Maakt Mach"

Union is strength, and shall we unite  
 We who have known the shame dissolution brings  
 Whose hearts oft glow with dim remembering  
 Of days when, yet unvexed by Fortune's spite,  
 Our fathers sojourned in this land of light?  
 Has the long lesson of a hundred years  
 Still to be learnt with bitterness and tears  
 And shall the fatal blindness end us quite?

Ah let us awake from slumber's soft repose  
 To the new promise of a nobler day  
 Proud of ourselves, proud to be kin with those  
 Who won their homes from ocean's grasping sway  
 Who dared unvoyaged seas, tamed ruthless foes  
 And held unbattled France and Spain at bay.

### Never Too Late

It is never too late to live with richness, purpose, joy and love.  
 No matter how much time you feel you have wasted or lost,  
 It is never too late to make the very most of the moment you're in.  
 No matter how many mistakes you may think you have made,  
 It is never too late to start moving in a positive direction.  
 The instant you choose to fully live,  
 The past no longer has the power to hold you back.  
 Where you are now is precisely where you need to be.  
 With gratitude in your heart for the journey that has brought you here,  
 Choose now to make the most of where you are.  
 Starting from this place you can go in any direction.  
 It is never too late to choose the very best direction you can imagine.  
 Dig down and get in touch with the real substance  
 of your most treasured dreams.

## Welfare Report – September 2008

The locally sponsored children now totaling 88, were paid their 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter allowance on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

The Burgher Welfare League of Western Australia have intimated to us that they are increasing the allowance to the 17 Welfare Beneficiaries they support,

and hereafter it will be Rs. 4,000 per beneficiary per quarter and at Christmas time they will be sending each of them a gift of Rs. 5,000.

The Eighty Club of Melbourne have told us that they will be shortly shipping a case of new toys which have been donated by a lady well-wisher, to be distributed

to the children sponsored by the ECOM. I have suggested to them that they also include a few pairs of spectacles needed by the WBs.

*Anthea Muller*  
 Chairperson - Social Welfare

## Mail Room



Dear Anne-Marie Kellar,  
 I have just had a read of the Dutch Burgher Union newsletter and congratulate you on a wonderful job.

I would like to introduce myself – Georgiana Godfrey (nee Keegel) from Melbourne Australia – and my family NGO named after my late mother Kathleen Keegel. Our family of twelve moved from Sri Lanka to Australia in 1966. Thirty

eight years later, in 2004, my sister Olivia and her husband Fred Bartholomeusz returned to Sri Lanka with the mission of opening an orphanage or in some way helping the needy there.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (which would have been Mum's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday) we officially opened St. Anthony's Boys' Home in Hewadiwela. Currently we have one child in our care and are trying to get more children. We also have another project which is an Agricultural Training Project at Balangoda.

Please visit our website ([www.kkcf.org](http://www.kkcf.org)) to find out more about the work being done.

We are keen to get the word out about our organisation and to gain support for the work being done. It would be great if

you could include an article in your next newsletter about KKCF. Please contact me if you need further information. I look forward to your positive reply.

*Kind regards,*

From Georgiana and the team  
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## In Memory of Ernest Colvin Kelaart

It is with a sense of deep sadness that we say goodbye to one of the finest sportsmen that ever graced the sporting fields of Ceylon. The name Kelaart was one of those Burgher names synonymous with sport in Ceylon. Ernie did more than his bit to enhance that name and could justly be called the greatest all-round sportsman the Kelaart clan ever produced. The clan's cricketing history became in 1879, when grandfather, Collie (the crusty Colts Captain, who once led his players off the field and returned only when the Bishop of Colombo intervened) and his brothers, James (aka Banda) and the legendary Tommy strode the cricket stage.

Ernie was a born champion in whatever sport he competed in – yet he was the most amiable of opponents. He played to win but he played as a gentleman, accepting victory and defeat in a gracious and affable manner. He was a genial man and modest right down to his fingertips. In all the years I have known

Ernie I have never heard him swear or show anger to anyone.

Ernie Kelaart excelled in every sport; cricket was his forté. He was a gifted right hand middle order batsman at either 4 or 5 and an accurate right arm swing bowler and off-spinner. He was an excellent specialist slip fielder too. Hockey – a dashing centre half, rated as one of the three best hockey players ever produced by Ceylon. He played in 3 tests against Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. At Rugby Union – he was a superb fly half. At Athletics too he excelled – with the quarter-mile his chosen distance. He also represented the Royal Ceylon Navy at Soccer. He reached the pinnacle in Cricket and Hockey when he was chosen to represent his country – Ceylon.

Now let me tell you what made this champion man. Cricket - At Royal College he won his colours for cricket, rugby and athletics and represented the college in the annual Royal-Thomian matches on three

occasions. 13 international appearances in cricket – for All-Ceylon against Pakistan, West Indies, India and against the MCC for a Combined XI drawn from Ceylon, India, Pakistan and Australia

Without doubt his selection in the Combined XI to play the MCC in Colombo in 1952 is the memory he would cherish most of all. This star studded XI included such greats as Neil Harvey, Keith Miller and Graeme Hole (of Australia); Fazal Mahmood, and Imtiaz Ahmed (Pakistan); Vinoo Mankad and Polly Umrigar (India). Another treasured memory was playing against the West Indies in Colombo in 1949, a team that boasted the legendary 3 Ws – Worrell, Weekes and Walcott. Ernie was one player in that All-Ceylon team that look on the mighty West Indies.

Ernie was a stalwart of the Burgher Recreation Club and as Captain was instrumental in winning two Club championships in 1952-1953 and 1955-1956.

## Entertainment at the Upstairs Bar/Lounge

### Members Evening

15<sup>th</sup> October – Music provided by Dharshika

### Members Evening

29<sup>th</sup> October – Music provided by Kismet

**9pm to 1am**

PLEASE NOTE THE BAR TIMES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED to 12 mid-night on the above nights!



## Birthday Greetings

Mrs Moira Colin-Thome, Mrs Jean Daniels, Mrs Dorothy Anne De Zylwa, Mrs Pauline Jansen, Ms Vanessa LaBrooy, Miss Niloufer Vandergert, Mrs Oosha Wijeyesinghe and Messrs. D.N. Bartholomeusz Jnr, Lawry Coenraad, Jimmy Deen, Rathven de Livera, Braebourne Edema, Desmond Fernando, Eustace Ian Herft, Ronald Hatch, Romesh Ilangakoon, Cedric Patrick Jansz, Alston Joachim, Rodney Koelmeyer, Stephen LaBrooy, Brian Lourensz, Ellis Melder, Neville Overlunde, Placidus Outschoorn, Peter Prins, Christopher Poulier, Timothy Speldewinde, Jeffrey Schucroft, Giles Scott, Peter Thomasz, Michael Thompson and P. Wadugedera.



## New Members

Mr. Prabash Sanjeev Wanigatunge

## Membership Drive!

Do take advantage of the special concession granted to young Burghers this year to join the DBU as members, without having to pay the admission fee! Subscriptions too will be on a pro rata basis for those who apply for membership before the year is out. Bring in all your children and their friends as members of the DBU – and make them proud of their heritage! It is an offer not to be missed!