



Bulletin - September 2008

Editorial

What a delightful evening it was! The opening of “The Christine Wilson Collection”, an exhibition and sale of the work of living legend, Christine Spittel Wilson, at the DBU hall on 5th September. The lady herself graced the occasion, looking absolutely lovely and elegant at 95. Christine walked around and made sure she met everyone present, before sitting quietly looking almost ethereal, whilst being welcomed and thanked for her wonderful gesture in a speech by the President, Nigel Austin.

Mike Anthonisz, who was the man behind the exhibition, then spoke on the work exhibited explaining the different styles used by the artist over the years. Invitees walked around admiring the work of this quiet, unassuming artist, who never exhibited her work in her homeland before this, and hence it was such a treat for art lovers. Needless to mention, almost all the work was snapped up immediately!

It was easy to see how the influence of her father, the renowned Dr R.L. Spittel, affected Christine’s work, in the numerous scenes she painted of wildlife, nature and landscapes. The entire

collection was gifted magnanimously by this amazing lady to the DBU, to be sold and the proceeds to go entirely to the St Nikolaas Home for Elderly Ladies, which was built and donated to the DBU by Dr. Spittel over 50 years ago.

It was such a privilege and pleasure to meet with Christine Wilson at her lovely home next door to Wycherley—which was their family home where Christine grew up with her famous Dad—nestled in a garden full of colourful flowers and trees. I had the privilege of sorting through boxes full of her most exquisite porcelain paintings, to select some pieces for the exhibition. The artist herself considers these some of her best works. And truly they are! Lovingly executed on fine porcelain, there are delicate flowers, birds, exquisite 22 carat gold edged plates, tiny coasters with fine scenes of wildlife and landscapes in Kenya, vases exploding with the vibrant colours of our own “Crabclaws”, “Bird of paradise”, Pansies, and a whole host of other amazing work. These too, this gentle lady has donated to the St Nik’s Home!

To those of you who did not have the pleasure of visiting this wonderful

exhibition, do go to our website where you can view all the paintings, although nothing can compare to seeing them in real life. A true feast for the eyes and soul. THANK YOU, CHRISTINE!

The Christine Wilson Collection” was part of the DBU’s Centenary celebrations, with a number of other events being planned for the months to come. This includes of course the big day on 22nd October - Founder’s Day - when we will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary. The celebrations will conclude in December with a Grand Ball which will be held at our own DBU Hall.

Cheers,
Anne-Marie Kellar

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Welfare Report – August 2008

The Eighty Club of Melbourne has now increased the number of Welfare Beneficiaries from 192 to 200, and the rule hereafter they want the DBU to adhere to is that an applicant who fills up an application for assistance must be visited by me prior to submitting the application. They should also not be living too far out of Colombo and should not have children or close relatives living abroad.

Four new Welfare Beneficiaries were visited during the period under review.

ECOM sponsored WBs were paid their 3rd quarter allowance together with a mid-

year bonus of Rs 3,000 each on Tuesday, 12th August.

As an innovation, I got a special 'Thank You' card drawn up and got all the WBs who called to collect their money, to sign on it with their respective number and this is being sent to the ECOM to show our appreciation of their 'Caring for the Less Fortunate'.

The ECOM sponsored children were paid their 3rd quarter allowance on Friday, 15th of August. Present with me were Mrs. Rosemary Outschoorn and Mrs. Mystica Flamer Caldera. A few interviews were also held on the same morning,

and as usual a report on my findings was submitted to the ECOM copied to the DBU.

Jamie Wright who took part earlier in a Beauty Contest and was the 3rd Runner up, took part in the Derana "Miss World Contest held during the month of August. She was one of the 12 finalists, but was selected as the 4th on the final day.

The Locally Sponsored children are being paid their 3rd quarter allowance on Saturday, 20th September 2008.

Anthea Muller
Chairperson Social Welfare

DBU Welfare Beneficiaries

On 26th August 2008, Chairperson Welfare Kem Martenstyn and Fleur Mack were on hand to disburse the 3rd Quarter allowance for this year to 50 welfare beneficiaries that are sponsored by the DBU. Most of the beneficiaries were present and those few who were not were requested to come on the following Saturday.

An additional allowance will be paid to those beneficiaries in need of medical

assistance out of the Burgher Memorial Fund when payment is made for the 4th Quarter 2008.

We need more sponsors to keep this programme afloat and we would kindly request our Members and well-wishers to sponsor a less fortunate person of our Community. The amount of the sponsorship is a mere Rs.1,500 per quarter, which sometimes is their only source of income!

May be you would like to do this in memory of a loved one? If so, please contact the DBU Secretariat (Phone 2584511) for more details.

Kem Martenstyn
Chairperson – Welfare

A.E. Christoffelsz Child Educational Fund

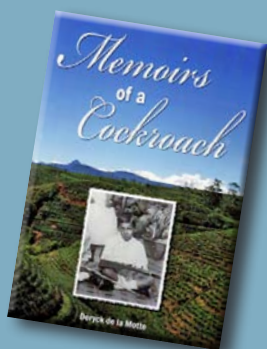
On 30th August 2008, Chairperson Kem Martenstyn and Fleur Mack were present to pay 47 children their 3rd quarterly allowance from the A.E. Christoffelsz Child Educational Fund. A few of the

children received this allowance for the last time as they had sat for their A/L Examination in August 2008. These children were given application forms to apply for funds to the A.E. Christoffelsz

Fund (PSET) to follow courses of their choice.

Kem Martenstyn
Chairperson – Welfare

New Book by Burgher Author in Australia



Deryck de la Motte, a Sri Lankan born Burgher who migrated to Australia many years ago at the age of 26, has published a book about his youth in Sri Lanka (then Ceylon) titled 'Memoirs of a Cockroach'.

The blurb reads:

"Deryck de la Motte was a 'cockroach' of French-Dutch Burgher descent. A cockroach or lunchi was the name given to foreign Burghers by the

indigenous people of Ceylon in the 1930's. Rich in legend, the island provided this young boy with an exciting childhood, culminating in his becoming an under-fireman on a steam train in the high mountainous interior, before emigrating to Australia at the age of 26."

Deryck de la Motte was born in 1928 and raised in Sri Lanka – Ceylon as it was then,

while governed by the British. His father was a manager on several tea and rubber plantations in different locations around Colombo and Kandy. Deryck attended Kingswood College, Kandy and St Joseph's College, Colombo. In 1942, Colombo was expected to be bombed by the Japanese, so the boys spent the entire year on Dungolla Estate, Polgahawela, which their father managed. The children, Deryck's brothers and sisters ran wild in the jungle countryside, created their own games and initiated a lot of pranks! Schooling in Colombo was a disaster as

the children were boarded with a 'highly unsuitable woman'!

School in Kandy went better. Deryck did well in both bookwork and sport and was advised to stay on and go to university. However, he had been fascinated by trains from an early age and couldn't wait to join the railways. He spent two years in the Railways in Ceylon, and his adventures on Puffing Billy's are a glimpse into the past, as is the atmosphere of World War II, although Ceylon was virtually untouched and Deryck was too young to join the

forces as both of his brothers did. He also had a couple of office jobs in shipping and engineering firms, before migrating to Australia in 1953.

Readers will find much to amuse and interest them in this book, enhanced by Deryck's line drawings to introduce each chapter. If anyone is interested in purchasing a copy, please contact either his son Marty (wulf21@gmail.com) or Deryck himself (dermar33@gmail.com). The book is 170 pages with a group of photographs in the middle.

Tour of Old Colombo!



The DBU, in collaboration with Quickshaws Tours proposes to take a group of DBU members (and guests) on a very interesting tour of "Old Colombo" in the near future. Participants will be treated to a splendid selection of hardly known Dutch Heritage sites, as well as to a highly restricted area within the Harbour, to view the "Padrao" left behind by the Portuguese in the 16th Century!

A knowledgeable guide will accompany the tour, in order to explain everything to us. The tour is a one-day tour, and will be linked to our Centenary Celebrations in October.

What we need from you is immediate feedback on if you are interested in participating as we need to have the numbers in order to go ahead with organising it. Do please E-mail the Office at dbu100@slt.net.lk or telephone Etienne on 2584511 as early as possible, giving us your contact details.

- 1 Boulder with the earliest Portuguese crest, the Padrao, in the Colombo Harbour
- 2 Maritime Museum in the Ancient Dutch Warehouse at the Colombo Harbour
- 3 South Indian Church, Gintupitiya, the church of the Colombo Chetty community
- 4 St. James Church, Mutwal
- 5 Henricus murals at St. James Church, Mutwal
- 6 Dutch envoy at the Court of Kandy at the Dutch Museum in Pettah
- 7 The tranquil Dutch Museum in Pettah belies the hive of activity of human and vehicular activity just outside its doorstep



Entertainment at the Upstairs Bar/Lounge

17th September – Music provided by Dharshika

21st September – Bingo and Lamprais lunch

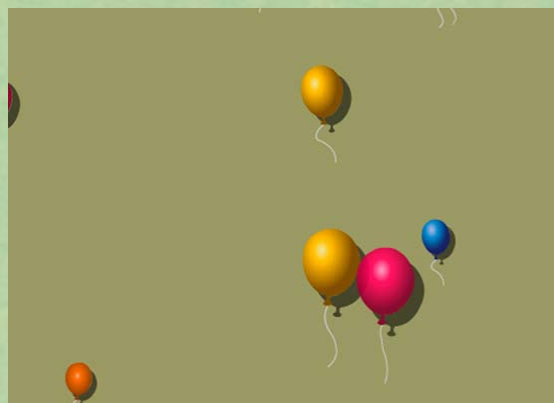
24th September – Music provided by Kismet

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



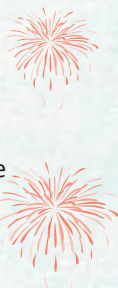
Birthday Greetings

Mrs Cleonie Amarasinghe, Mrs. Pia Dayananda, Mrs. Yvonne Gulamhussein, Ms. Tracyanne Holsinger, Ms. Vasanthi Harasgama, Mrs. Marina Iddamalgoda, Ms. Litza Jansz, Mrs. Beverley LaBrooy, Mrs. Deanne Munasinghe, Ms. Rosemary Mortier, Ms. Naima Macan Markar, Ms. Carol Prins, Mrs. Amelia Thiedeman, Mrs. Annette Ukwatte. Messrs. Michael Anthonisz, Stephen Bartholomeusz, Ward Beling, Winston Bowen, Jehan Canageretne, Keith Abel, Graham de Kretser, Carlton de Kretser, Jeremy de La Zilwa, Kenneth Honter, Kevin Koelmeyer, Bevin Mack, Ryan Ohlmus, Allan Outschoorn, Gordon Poulrier, Dinesh Peiris, Cornel Perera, Stefan Schumacher, Senake Samarasinghe, Terrence Van Sanden, Geoffrey Vanden Driesen, and Gehan Weerakoon.



New Members

Mrs Annette Ukwatte
Mr Shakir A. Lukmanjee
Mr Rathven De Livera
Mr Gerard George Ondaatje
Mr J.S (Bunchy) Gunasekera
Mr. Orville Fernando



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!

Bar & Lounge Dress Code Reminder

A gentle reminder to Members and their guests about the dress code in the upstairs Members Bar and Lounge after 7pm is "smart casual".

No Rubber Slippers (At any time)

No Shorts

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

For Sale from the DBU Kitchen daily

Lamprais – Rs 300
(Mixed Meat or Chicken)
Pork Badun (250g) – Rs 380
Beef Smore (250g) – Rs 330
Ginger Beer – Rs 135

Hire of DBU Hall



The Main Hall downstairs is available for hire by members for their family weddings and private social functions only, at the special rate of 50% off the normal charge. No discount will be given if the hall is booked by members for their Office and Welfare Society functions, Past Pupils get-togethers etc. Inquiries should be directed to the Manager (Tel 2584511 and 5331661)

Recent Events

St. Nikolaas' Anniversary – 22nd August



Christine Wilson Exhibition – 5th September



Bad Taste Party – 30th August

