

# Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon

1908  
to  
2008

Bulletin - January 2008



The President and the General Committee of the DBU wish members and their families a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year

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## President's Message

Dear Member,

As we herald in the year 2008, we also welcome The Dutch Burgher Union centennial and it would be appropriate for me to quote the following poem extracted from the DBU Journal Vol.1-No.4-page 189

***"Eendracht Maakt Macht  
(Original Poetry)***

*Union is strength; and shall not  
we unite—*

*We who have known the shame  
disunion brings:*

*Whose hearts oft glow with dim  
Remembering,*

*Of days when, yet unvex'd by  
Fortune's spite,*

*Our fathers sojourn'd 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 wake 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 embattled France and  
Spain at bay."*

We have many plans for celebrating the centennial, commencing with our function on the 18<sup>th</sup> January, the day on which the General Inaugural Meeting was held and the Office Bearers were elected 100 years ago! Awesome and Inspiring!

Wishing you Health..... so that you may enjoy each day in comfort, Love of friends and family and Peace within your heart and home!

*Kem Martenstyn*  
President

## Editorial – Compliments of the Season!

A very happy New Year to you all! Here's hoping that the year ahead will see peace and harmony in every home, which in turn will bring peace to the world.

The Christmas season saw a flurry of activity at the DBU, beginning with the Christmas Fete, where Burgher delicacies sold out in no time, and continuing with St Nikolaas Day, where the children of the DBU members mingled with the children of the Welfare beneficiaries, to greet St Nikolaas and to receive their gifts, whilst having pony rides, playing on the Bouncers and being treated to lots of food and drink. The amazing talent in these children came to the fore when a group of young teenagers performed "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Merry Christmas Everyone" for all of us present, with incredible skill!. The entire performance had been choreographed and arranged by themselves, and was truly impressive. They danced and sang with big smiles on their faces, and the thought crossed my mind that these kids could go really far if they had the right connections and backing. Our thanks to The Eighty Club of Melbourne for sponsoring the party.

The St Nikolaas Home had a grand party on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, where the

Ladies resident there had a great time, dancing away till late at night to the music of DJ Aaron, and being visited by Santa Claus who brought them all gifts. With plenty of delicious food and drink, and even Christmas Cake for all, it was indeed very late at night that the ladies finally found their way to their rooms for a well deserved rest! Our thanks to Patrick Loos for sponsoring the caterers, and to Lucian Pereira and Emil Cronenburg for their contributions.

Thanks to Mrs Joyce Boks's, (who calls herself "resident of SNH for life"!) generous donation towards the cost of painting the Home and other expenses, St Nik's was given a "facelift" before the party and was looking quite smashing for the party. Unfortunately the weather gods decided to pour down some showers of rain on us that day, and the party had to be moved inside the building - although the downpour outside did not dampen the spirits of the Ladies in the least!

A traditional four course Christmas dinner with Turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and all else, was served out in grand style at the DBU on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with Carols by candlelight, music for



dancing, and truly beautiful Christmas décor (courtesy of President Kem). Tickets were sold out far ahead of the closing date and many were disappointed, unfortunately.

We ended 2007 and saw in our Centenary Year with a fantastic party on New Year's Eve, which finally ended at 5.30 in the morning!

2007 saw lots of fun and activities for Members and their guests at the DBU, and we promise we will continue to provide the same for you all in 2008. So, here's hoping to see more of you in this our Centennial!

Cheers!

*Anne-Marie Kellar*  
Secretary

## Welfare Report – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

The 4th quarter payment to the locally sponsored children was made on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2007. There are now 88 children being sponsored on this programme. Present with me that morning were Mrs. Mystica Flamer Caldera and Mrs. Rosemary Outschoorn.

I regret to announce that during the period under review, one beneficiary passed away. The Eighty Club was informed and a new beneficiary selected.

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 2007, the Eighty Club combined with the locally sponsored children from the Christoffelsz Fund celebrated St. Nikolaas' Fete. A few DBU Member's children also participated. It was a morning of fun and frolic with a

Bouncer and Pony rides, games and competitions and plenty of food, ice cream and soft drinks. St. Nikolaas who was present to distribute the gifts from under the Christmas Tree, made his appearance down the staircase amidst the sound of bursting of balloons and loud cheers from all the children.

Gracing this occasion were our President Mrs. Kem Martenstyn, Secretary Mrs. Anne-Marie Kellar, and Mr & Mrs. Rodney de Kretser Snr. Vice President of the Eighty Club of Melbourne.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2007, both the locally sponsored and Eighty Club sponsored beneficiaries had a joint Christmas Party in the morning in the DBU Hall. Also present that morning were Mr & Mrs. Rodney de Kretser.

There was a guitarist to keep everyone on their toes with Carols being sung lustily. There were games with cash prizes awarded to the winners and crowning of the Beauty Queen. A lucky draw was held and there were prizes of Hampers, Breudhers, Pocket Radios and Boxes of Biscuits. Practically all present received a prize. All of them in addition received cash bonuses and had a spread of delicious eats and soft drinks and I have no doubt enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

Payment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th quarters to the sponsored children by the Burgher Association of Melbourne is scheduled to take place on Saturday, 12th January 2008.

*Anthea Muller*  
Chairperson - Social Welfare

## Launch of Sri Lanka's first Audio Book

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007, all those present at the Sri Lanka National Library in Colombo witnessed a historic event in Sri Lanka's publishing history with the launch of the country's first audio book. The book chosen was "The Burghers" authored by J.B. Müller. It was chosen because J.B. Müller made a point in his book that brought all Burghers within the fold of that Community without distinctions as to being of Portuguese, Dutch, or British descent. He also made the point that the Burghers are fully and completely coequal citizens of Sri Lanka and proud to be Sri Lankan—flying in the face of chauvinism and bigotry that has brought so much misery to so many. He believes in a common and

overarching Sri Lankan identity and plainly states that Sri Lanka is the Motherland of the Burghers—their only homeland.

J.B. Müller's audio book was introduced to the audience in a dramatic fashion by Master of Ceremonies Errol Alphonso, himself a Burgher. It was completely non-traditional dispensing with the usual rituals that attend such occasions. The Keynote Address was delivered by eminent academician Dr. K.D. Paranavitana of the Department of Humanities of Rajarata University, Mihintale, who spoke with authority about the Burghers, providing perspective to this event. In conclusion, he said: *"The Burghers remain as a charming community in the Island with*

*an identity of their own. With the blessings of all may the venture of JB and his sponsors reach the zenith of their success in a short spell of time."*

More and more young people today would rather listen to the narration of a story than read it in the pages of a book; then, there are people who are blind or have their sight impaired and cannot read because of that impediment. NetSeequal is catering to these consumer segments by starting this new, digital trend in book publishing in Sri Lanka. It may even revolutionize book publishing with authors seeking to put their books on easy-to-listen CDs and it could be done in Sinhala, Tamil, and English.

## New Year's Eve Party at the DBU!



More than a 100 members and guests saw the old year out and the New Year in at the DBU on New Year's Eve with a super party. The tables were laden with tinsel garlands, whistles, noisemakers, caps, streamers and confetti for all, and when the Big Ben chimes were played by DJ Aaron heralding the dawn of 2008, everyone screamed out the countdown along with compere Nathan, and the air was filled with the sound of fire crackers and the throwing of confetti, party string, whistles blowing and heaps of noise whilst everyone sang Auld Lang Syne and wished each other on a crowded dance floor!

Soon after, everyone flocked outside to watch the fabulous fireworks display lit by the DBU staff. Lots of cameras were clicking away and loud cheers were heard from everyone! A

super buffet dinner was served at 12.30a.m. followed by breakfast of Bredher with Kiribath and Lunumiris at 4a.m.

Every table of 10 was given a bottle of Smirnoff Vodka, and heaps of prizes were given away for a host of fun competitions and games all through the night, in between the dancing to non-stop music by DJ Aaron who did a great job. Everyone competed excitedly for the best prize of all, an all-expenses paid Weekend for Two at a fabulous exotic resort on the Fihalhoi Island in the Maldive Islands - which was eventually won by Brinsley and Mary Atton. When a prize was called out to the person who had traveled the furthest to be there that night, we had people rushing in screaming "USA", "Canada", "El Salvador",



"Italy", "Australia", "London" etc!! Prizes were given for the "Man with the hairiest legs", "the girl with the shortest skirt", "longest ear rings" and others which invoked lots of laughter and fun. Guests varied in ages from 86 years of age to 5 years!

Our sincere thanks to Niroshan Jayasinha, General Manager Fihalhoi Resort Maldive Islands for providing us with the holiday in the Maldives. Also, our thanks go out to Darrel Soertsz, District Manager Emirates Airlines Maldives, for the 4 gift packs, and to Devika Ellepola, Sales Manager

Emirates Airlines Colombo, for the gift pack. Thanks also to Sandy Kellar of Emirates Maldives and Universal Resorts Maldives, for his part in obtaining all the above prizes for us. Our super Comperes for the evening were Radio DJ Nathan (of Gold FM fame), and Dominic Kellar (of E FM)

who kept the party going with their hilarious quips and humour, and who did this free of charge for the DBU! Everyone present had a blast, (all this for the cheapest price of Rs 1,500 per head), with the last few party goers leaving the DBU at 5.30 in the morning! Many were the

compliments paid on the organisation of the party with the best one of all coming from a gentleman who came to the DBU for the first time, when he said "I had such a great time that I've already told all my friends they have to join me on New Year's Eve 2008 at the DBU"!!

## Birthday Greetings

We wish all our members celebrating their birthdays in January good health and happiness.

Mrs Zorina de Alwis, Mrs Gladys Anthonisz, Ms Shirin Abeyesinghe, Mrs G. Bogtstra, Ms Christobel Chapman, Mrs Cheryl de Fonseka, Mrs Jeanne de Vos, Mrs Jenifer Gunasekera, Mrs Mavis Kerkoven, Mrs Annemarie Garnier, Ms Jennifer Van Rooyen, Messrs. Victor Rohan Anthonisz, Vernon Abeyesundera, Praveen

Abhayaratne, Wilhelm Bogtstra, Anthony David Claasz, John de Niese, Malcolm de Zilwa, Ranjith Dharmapala, Jerome Fernando, Lalith Ganlath, Brinsley Gomez, Travice Holsinger, Russel Juriansz, Chitrasena Jayawardene, Jerome Koch, Patrick Loos, Roger Martenstyn, Ralph Moldrich, Dale Rabot, George Stork, Mahinda Seneviratne, Chaminda Tilakumara, Beverley Vandergert, Thevarayan Velraj, Glen Wambeek & Edward Wijesuriya.



## Snooker & Darts Tournament Results



### DARTS

**301 Winner** – David Martenstyn  
*Runner-up* – Jerry Anderson

**Round-the-clock Winner** – Dallas Martenstyn  
*Runner-up* – Dorian Gray



### BILLIARDS

**Winner** – Upali Seneviratne  
*Runner-up* – David Martenstyn

### SNOOKER

**Singles Winner** – David Colin-Thome  
*Runner-up* – Mahinda Seneviratne

### Doubles Winner

Monty Holsinger & Anvar Moosajee  
*Runners-up*  
Dallas Martenstyn & Yanick Martenstyn



President Kem Martenstyn handed out the awards to the winners. Seen receiving their awards in this selection are 1. David Martenstyn 2. Upali Seneviratne 3. Mahinda Seneviratne 4. Dorian Gray 5. Dallas and Yanick Martenstyn 6. Jerry Anderson



## Mail Box



Thank you for the December Bulletin. I wish I could have attended some if not all of the Christmas festivities at the DBU. I send you, the Chairman, the Committee and the members of the DBU my very best wishes for the season and I wish each and everyone of you a Peacefull, Healthy and Happy New Year.

*Cubby VanderGert  
United Kingdom*

We received a copy of the DBU Newsletter from a friend and it was excellent. You do a fantastic job.

*Tammy Ferdinands  
Melbourne, Australia*

Dear Anne-Marie,  
Apropos a note in the last DBU bulletin, I believe the correct spelling is "Broeder" not "Breudher". I have a Dutch-English dictionary published in 1727, in which one of the meanings of the word

"broeder" given is, in English, "pudding". The word "breudher" is not listed in that dictionary. Our usual pronunciation of the word "broeder" is correct. Best wishes for the New Year.

*Scott Dirckze  
Sri Lanka*

Congratulations on an excellent production!

*Doyne Caspersz  
Australia*

## Welcome New Members



***We warmly welcome the following new members –***

Mrs Dorothy Anne de Zylwa, Dr. Mario Gomez, Mr. Douglas Carl Fernando, Mr Carl Rohan Obeyesekere, Mr Sean Richard Pompeus, Miss Wendy Sanchia Brown, Mr Wayne Alister

Brown, Mr Olof M. De Weerd, and Temporary Members - Ms E. Hekman, Mr. Martijn Hekman, Ms Anke Heitkamp, Mr. Johan Cremens, Mr. Herman Reindert Jacob Kviper, Ms. Miriam Mueumans, Mr. Michael Julius Alexander Zuyderdwjn, Ms. Evelyn Zuyderdwjn, Ms. Susanne van Lieshout

## Thank you Members!

To all Members who contributed generously towards the "Treat to the less-advantaged - 2007" and to the numerous donors who provided special meals to the Residents of the St. Nikolaas' Home and cash gifts towards renovations at the Home. A special Thank You to Ms Caryll Jansz of Australia for her generous donation to St Nikolaas' Home.

## From the DBU

- ◆ Lamprais (chicken or mixed meat Curry) Rs.235 per packet
- ◆ Beef Smore 450gr. Rs.350
- ◆ Pork Badun 450gr. Rs.415
- ◆ Home-made Ginger Beer - Rs.125 per bottle



Carols at the DBU Christmas Party – more images next page

**Reminder! Your annual DBU membership subscription is due by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2008!**

## DBU Photo Album

DBU Christmas Party – Below



St. Nikolaas' Home Christmas Party – Below



## Book – Burghers of Ceylon – Worldwide

by Ivor Kelaart

### ABOUT THE BOOK

It has 398 pages with 40 in colour. Segments include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>[1] A Calendar of Events [21 pages]<br/>Some interesting historical facts about Ceylon from early times, the European overlordship of the island [some 500 years] and the Troubles that has beset the island in recent years.</p> <p>[2] The Regiment de Meuron - a Swiss mercenary regiment employed by the Dutch to garrison the Cape of Good Hope and Ceylon. [10 pages]</p> <p>[3] Details of the European conquests and occupation [10 pages]</p> <p>[4] The Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon [7 pages]</p> | <p>[5] The Church of our Forefathers - The Dutch Reformed Church at Wolvendael [5 pages]</p> <p>[6] The Eminent Burghers - Men and Women of Yesterday and Today with pen pictures and photos [112 pages]</p> <p>[7] Genealogy of the Abraham Joseph family [20 pages]</p> <p>[8] Joseph/Lawrence Wedding pictures - from 1888 to 2007 [45 pages]</p> <p>[9] Trivia - Emigration from Ceylon [20 pages]</p> |
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The book is indexed with the names of the main people appearing in the Joseph genealogy.

The book comes in a hard laminated cover - cost A\$90.00 + p&h, however, a professional hand bound copy can be arranged for those who desire it at an extra cost of A\$50.00 per copy.

Click on link to contact [ivokelaart@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ivokelaart@optusnet.com.au)