



# The Dutch Burgher Union

*Bulletin – September 2007*

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## President's Message

Dear Member,

It has given me much pleasure to see the fruition of a pledge made by me at our 98<sup>th</sup> AGM and we now sponsor 34 deserving elderly folk of our community. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2007 was paid on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and each welfare beneficiary was given lunch with the compliments of the Burgher Association of Australia. Thank you BAA for your thoughtful gesture.

We also conducted interviews for ten new welfare beneficiaries who were selected and added to the list. Two cases are etched in my memory – One is a lady who cares for her sister who is suffering with stomach cancer and the other is a gentleman who has suffered a stroke and is bed-ridden. His two elderly sisters aged 68 and 72 are caring for him as he lost his wife a few months ago. I am very happy to inform you

that we were also able to provide this gentleman a wheel chair for his use.

Through the A.E. Christoffelsz Child Educational Sponsorship Project we now pay 48 children for their education. A sum of Rs 72,000 was distributed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2007. We hope to increase these numbers by the end of the year.

A further sum of Rs 161,550 has been paid to five students for their higher education and the breakdown is as follows – Student (1) Rs 100,000 – 1<sup>st</sup> year Chartered Architecture; (2) – Rs 22,000 for a Banking course; (3) – Rs 20,000 for a General English Course at the British Council, Colombo; (4) – Rs 7,550 for a Computer course; (5) – Rs 12,000 for an Airline Ticketing course.

With all good wishes,

*Kem Martenstyn*

President



## Editorial

The August holidays are over, and schools are about to start for the final term of 2007.

A lot of our members were perhaps on holiday with their families in August, away from Colombo, and thus the attendance at our functions was not as huge as other months.

However, August's "Glitter n' Glamour" Dinner Dance was quite a success with the well-known Dance band "Pearl" in attendance and a delicious



dinner buffet catered by Perera and Sons Caterers. All the ladies were attired in glamorous outfits in keeping with the theme, and Helen Arnolda was selected as the "Most Glamorous Lady". Quite a change from last month's rip-roaring "Country and Western Night", this event

was elegant and refined, with strict tempo dance music and a fabulous exhibition of Latin American dancing by Romesh and Jay. As always, everyone danced the night away and had a good time till 2 a.m.

The ladies at St Nikolaas' Home celebrated the anniversary of the Home on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a delightful party. The lovely garden was festooned with little coloured fairy lights and the ladies and guests sat out in the cool evening air, enjoying the choral music performed by the Choir of the Christian Faith Assembly followed by a sing-song led by a professional musician on the guitar, playing and singing all the old favourites, which surely must have brought back a lot of memories to everyone present. The evening's programme started with a prayer by the Rev Charles Jansz, and the cutting of the cake by the oldest resident of the



Home, Peggy de Silva, aged 98, and ended with the ladies singing and dancing till late in the night! The Matron Christine Perera had laid out a huge spread of all the traditional Burgher short eats, which was relished by all. There were lots of smiles around, and plenty of happy faces!



This month, September, is going to see a change in the style of entertainment—to make sure we keep our youth happy as well, the DBU is putting on the Party of the Year, with the fantastic "Wildfire" providing the music for dancing. There will be food and drink stalls, super décor and everything necessary to make this truly a "happening" night!

We look forward to seeing you all there on the 21<sup>st</sup>, when the old timbers of the DBU will shake with the booming sounds of Wildfire and the young and (young at heart!)

Cheers!  
*Anne-Marie Kellar*  
Editor



## Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the family of Mr. O. Murray Da Silva Cosme, (Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple London, Former Legal Adviser Inland Revenue Dept and Commonwealth Secretariat) a long standing member of the DBU, who passed away recently. ■

## Welfare Programmes

The Eighty Club of Melbourne (ECOM) sponsored children were paid their 3rd quarter allowance on 4<sup>th</sup> August and the ECOM sponsored Welfare Beneficiaries were paid their 3rd quarter on 17th August 2007.

Pocket Radios also gifted by ECOM were given to some of the beneficiaries. Mr Dimiitri Harris and his wife Sarah from the Eighty Club of Melbourne were present and witnessed the proceedings and took some photographs.

The Welfare Beneficiaries now stand at 189 and the Spouse allowance has been increased from Rs.1,800 to Rs.2,250.

Mrs. Sherin Brooks, a lady from the UK with Burgher connections, called at the DBU recently and stated that she was keen to visit needy beneficiaries and she was given the name and address of a needy elderly couple. She then visited them and was appalled at the way they lived as despite residing in their own small home, they had no funds even for a square meal. This couple has no children and is unable to trace any relatives.

Sherin was deeply moved by their plight and discovered that the couple had not collected their quarterly allowances from the DBU. She also found that they both had Alzheimer's disease, and thus could not travel to the DBU. They had also lost the Deeds to their home to an unscrupulous person who had taken advantage of their condition.

Sherin then took the money due to them and handed it to them herself, and even went around searching for a Home which would take this couple in. She eventually was able to admit them into the Netherlands Welcome Village in Gonewela, (which is a non-fee-levying Home) where they are very happy now.

All this Sherin Brooks achieved during her short stay here in Sri Lanka! Our heartfelt thanks go out to her for her wonderful gesture, for which she will be truly blessed.

*Anthea Muller*

## Facelift for DBU garden

Work on landscaping the DBU garden has just commenced and any Member who wishes to donate any plants (potted or otherwise) could contact Dallas Martenstyn on 0777 336699 to facilitate the transfer process

## Special incentive to young Burghers

Reminder that until the end of October 2007, Burghers between the ages of 21 and 30 will be accepted for membership in the Union at a specially reduced admission fee of Rs 1000!

## Burgher cuisine on national T V

The national TV broadcaster Rupavahini, recently aired a programme on multi-cultural cuisine in Sri Lanka, one in a series of programmes aimed at fostering racial harmony.

Previously, the programme, which is conducted in Sinhala, Tamil and English, had featured literature, dance etc and its objective is to discuss and reveal links between the different ethnic groups in Sri Lanka and the influences on each other through cuisine for example.



Anne-Marie Kellar, the Secretary of the DBU was invited to represent the Burgher community and to showcase some of the cuisine that Burghers are famous for.

Anne-Marie spoke on the colonial influences on Burgher and local cuisine and presented the group with Fougette which she had prepared beforehand. While Lamprais is perhaps the most famous cuisine associated with the Burgher community, the less known Fougette drew considerable interest among the other participants.

Chef Publis Silva, Culinary Director of the Mt Lavinia Hotel, spoke on Sinhala and indigenous cuisine, and Mallika Joseph, on Tamil cuisine.

The English host of the one and a half hour live programme is Noeline Honter. *David Colin-Thomé*



*Rev Charles Jansz began the celebrations with a prayer*



*Terrence Vansanden, Chairman Sub-Committee, St Nikolaas' Home, addressing the residents and guests*



*Choral music performed by the Choir of the Christian Faith Assembly*

Images from St Nikolaas' Home anniversary celebrations



*Birthday girls Anne-Marie and Peggy cutting the cake*





## Danielle de Niese – *biography*

Soprano Danielle de Niese's career got off to a prodigious start with early operatic debuts at the Netherlands Opera, the Saito Kinen Festival and the Paris Opera. But it was her portrayal of Cleopatra in David McVicar's production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (conducted by William Christie) at the 2005 Glyndebourne Festival that brought international acclaim and led to an exclusive recording contract with Decca.

The American soprano has captivated audiences since childhood. Australian-born to parents of Sri Lankan and Dutch heritage, Danielle de Niese grew up in Los Angeles, where she hosted a weekly television arts showcase for teenagers, winning an Emmy.

Trained in dance and piano as well as music at the famed Colburn School in Los Angeles, she participated in the Tanglewood, Aspen and Marlboro summer programs before studying at the Mannes School, New York.

Soon after her Metropolitan Opera debut (aged 19) came several important European performances: Cleopatra for Netherlands Opera and Paris Opera (opposite David Daniels) conducted by Marc Minkowski; Rameau's *Les*



*“A performer of charismatic good looks and stage presence, she won the audience equally by her singing of the Egyptian queen’s varied sequence of arias. (Opera News)*

*Her singing is utterly delectable and completely assured...Sheer ‘joie de vivre’ and mastery come spilling across, to the eyes as well as the ears.” (The New York Times)*



*Indes Galantes* under William Christie in Paris and, in the Netherlands, a contemporary work by Robin de Raaff staged by Pierre Audi.

Her Italian debut was in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* in Naples and she sang Monteverdi's *Poppea* in Zurich with Nikolaus Harnoncourt, and *Despina (Cosi fan tutte)* with Opera de Lyon.

Other key appearances include Monteverdi's *Poppea* and *Tytania* in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chicago Opera Theater); Handel's *Rodelinda* with the Canadian Opera Company; and with the Netherlands Opera, *Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Despina (Cosi)*.

In early 2007 she returned to Paris as *Ginevra* in Handel's *Ariodante* (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées) and returned to the New York Met as *Cleopatra*. This season sees her debuts at Lyric Opera of Chicago and Brussels' *La Monnaie* as *Cleopatra*, and she returns to Amsterdam for *Poppea* and *Glyndebourne*, where she will star under Emmanuelle Haïm.

Danielle is the grand daughter of the acclaimed Burgher singers/vocal music teachers Douglas and Estelle de Niese.

Source: IMG Artists  
([www.imgartists.com](http://www.imgartists.com))



## “Blood Brothers” at the Lionel Wendt

The Workshop Players, who have staged several huge theatrical productions in the past such as “Cats”, “Evita”, “Les Miserables”, “Lion King”, “Oliver” and several others, is staging the renowned play “Blood Brothers” at the Lionel Wendt from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

In the leading role is Dominic Kellar, as the narrator. 22 year old Dominic is a member of the DBU, and has been involved in theatre for quite some time, playing the lead role in the sell-out “Charley’s Aunt” in 2004, the “Reverend” in Jehan Aloysius’s hilarious “Bengal Bungalow” in 2005 and as “Mr Bumble” in the Workshop Players’ “Oliver” in 2006, as well as ‘Stanley” in “Streetcar named Desire” in 2005.

Dominic owes his initial introduction to the Stage and Theatre to Mary-Anne David who trained his voice from the age of 5, and with whose “Merry-an Singers” he has performed several times as a child.

Dominic is currently in the final year of a degree in Business Management at the Australian College of Business and Technology.



More pictures from Glitz n' Glamour Night



## Birthday Greetings!

We wish all our Members celebrating their birthday in September good health and happiness

Pia Dayananda, Yvonne Gulamhussein, Tracyanne Holsinger, Marina Iddamalgoda, Litza Jansz, Beverly LaBrooy, Carol Prins, Amelia Doreen Thiedeman, Vasanthi Harasgama, Mike Anthonisz, Stephen Bartholomeusz, Ward Beling, Winston Harris Bowen, Graham de Kretser, Carlton de Kretser, Jeremy de la Zilwa, Kenneth Honter, Kevin Koelmeyer, Bevin Mack, Ryan Ohlmus, Allan Outschoorn, Gordon Poulier, Stefan Schumacher, Terrence van Sanden, Geoffrey Vanden Driesen, Jehan Canagaretna, Shehan Peiris, Senake Samarasinghe, Gehan Weerakoon,

## Welcome!

We also warmly welcome the members who joined in August 2007...

Eustace Ian Herft, Jonathan Damian Martenstyn  
Hans John Beekmeyer, Desmond Fernando  
John Attygalle

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Dutch Burgher Union

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with

wildfire



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DBU Colombo

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