

THE Prattler

ABN 6475226350



Oct/Nov/Dec 2012



Bolly beat memories

The International Anglo Indian Day was celebrated by our association by organizing a Bollywood night on (11 August) at the Bowman's Hall at Blacktown. Our association showed how important it is to cling to our roots.

The Bollywood night showcased to the young and old the glamour of the Indian culture and music which was filled with colour and style.

OUR BOYS

Our very own DJ Gerard and good old 'one man band' Irvy livened up the evening with popular Bollywood tunes. This kept the crowd in the mood and they were all prepared to impress and enjoy the night with their bright colourful Indian traditional costumes. The best dressed and most active on the dance floor were judged and awarded prizes. The Masala and Bangra beats added to the vigour much to the enjoyment of the crowd keeping in tune with the Bollywood dance theme. The food was authentic and delicious and appreciated by everyone. The very versatile Irvine Coehlo and the evergreen DJ Gerard Jansen made sure the evening pulsated with music to please all tastes.

All in all it sure was a night to remember, filled with fun and enjoyment.
—Clive Jones



There is always one exuberant male who manages to attract a bevy of beauties!
Below: resplendent Bollywood couple looking every bit like a raja and rani.



Calcutta beckons



Buddi Girl

Say Hello to the Reunion's top secret mascot. 'Buddi Girl' (below) an Indian elephant celebrating the Land of our Origin. She has just been designed and launched by the 2013 Reunion Committee. The AIANSW association was the first to be sent this picture of her cuddly outline! You will now see this picture on the website. She will remain an all important presence during the celebrations, eg:- chains, impressions on various objects, like coffee mugs, etc. She will be a souvenir and will feature at all



TO date we have 600 delegates "coming home" and 100 plus already registered in India. We expect the number of Indian delegates to shoot up in the last two months before registration closes. We are looking at a figure of 1000 delegates. All events and venues are being handled by separate event committees who are working very hard to coordinate, tie-up and make the programme as complete and celebratory as possible.

Most of the delegates booked for the Grand Ball, but the Organising Committee has made it mandatory that at least one other event should be booked as well.

HEART OF THE REUNION

The events are not only about song and dance but also about being aware of the core community - its growth, its aspirations, its youth, its comfortableness in Indian society, what is being done to uplift those who have fallen between the cracks - that is why the Symposium is so important - we consider it the heart of the Reunion.

While "Those were the Days" is a trip in nostalgia, the Superstar Contest will highlight the talents of our young people - while the Pub Quiz will educate quite a few in the customs, food, idioms and generally Anglo-Indian culture. So much to remember, so much to share so much to learn - and all delegates want is to kick up their heels at the Grand Ball!

CHANGES

The community of

India have changed from the 1970s and are more studious and industrious and integrated into the values of the mainstream just as those who have migrated have done the same in their adopted lands.

To many who are returning after long years, perhaps it will be a cultural shock, but the warmth and hospitality of Kolkata and India and the togetherness and camaraderie of the Reunion will strengthen the bonds of our micro community, helping us to appreciate the strengths, education and values we experienced and imbibed in the land of our birth. Yes - it is a time to COME HOME - a time to CELEBRATE - the land of our birth - and all together to be PROUD TO BE AN ANGLO-INDIAN.

Philomena Eaton

Convenor Reunion Organising Committee

For those coming back home from abroad, it would be a nostalgic trip down memory lane, the reunion is meant as a celebration of the community and its culture," said MLA Michael Shane Calvert. Calvert has organised to sponsor 200 economically backward delegates from the community in Calcutta for the reunion.

The last World Anglo-Indian reunion was held in Perth, Australia. Of the 200,000 Anglo-Indians in India, 40,000 are from Bengal alone, making it the largest Anglo-Indian community.

The event will be formally inaugurated by chief minister Mamata Banerjee at the Science City auditorium (7 Jan)

There will be a panel discussion on the Anglo-Indian community and its past, present and future, touching upon the exodus of members of the community in the past and the integration of the community at present and their future here.

- Extract Telegraph Kolkata



Regrets, I have just a few...

YOU will remember I (Bev Pearson, left) asked for forgiveness in the last *Prattler* because our website was still incomplete. My excuse was a catastrophic computer crash—quite true— but I now have to, once again, ask for more time.

Some of you may know that I was injured (16 Aug) in the car park of my local shopping centre in Seven Hills. I was knocked down by a reversing car and suffered multiple bone fractures in the right foot. An ambulance took me to the Blacktown Hospital and was put in to a plas-

ter cast for two weeks. I was then promoted... to wearing a large evil looking black boot (*see image right*) that weighs a ton, for another four weeks. The boot is called a Cam Walker. It looks lethal enough to become a weapon of destruction!

For my sins—age and diabetes (type 2)—the healing process is now painfully slower and, as further punishment for my transgressions for not obeying doctor's orders, I now will remain booted until the end of October. That makes 10 weeks! Meanwhile I am not allowed to walk or drive. You may have noticed my absence. Bearing in mind the AGM is early November and assuming there will be changes, I ask permission to tackle our website end November latest. God willing.



Calendar

2012

- 10 Nov 2012 - AGM @St Marys Senior Citizens Hall, Marayong
- 1 Dec 2012 - Kids Christmas Party @ Erskine Park Community Hall
- 31 Dec 2012 - New Years Eve Ball @ Blacktown's Bowman Hall

Any Questions: call Deanna on 9621 3316 or Melroy on 9625 2492 (0411 312 835).



It doesn't mean anything to us until we see a woman put on our clothing and decide it's worthy of paying for



As a student in the late 1990s, fashion designer Ryan Lobo (*above right*) admits he might have entertained fantasies about stunning the fashion pack with his instant success.

In those days, he says, he and fellow designer Ramon Martin (*above left*) were a couple of "typical attention-seeking boys in a gaggle of girls" studying fashion at the University of Technology, Sydney. With that youthful combination of ego and inexperience egging them on, they sealed a pact to launch a label together.

FIFTEEN YEARS LATER

Fifteen years of hard work later - in Australia and overseas - they finally did it; helpfully shedding those illusions of getting famous fast somewhere along the way.

The first collection of understated, quality "essentials" under their TOME label was launched from their base in New York last year. Now Lobo is back in Sydney promoting their second collection as they build the new label step by patient step.

"We're not flashy, fashion people - we're jeans and T-shirt kind of guys, and I think that's obvious in the clothing," Lobo, 33, says.

What Lobo's and Martin's designs aspire to is every woman's dream - clothes that look just as good when you put them on as they do on the rack. It's about producing clothes that really suit women, not shoehorning women into styles dictated by trends.

CRAFTED PIECES

But it's not about "head-to-toe" dressing, he says. TOME doesn't want to fill a woman's wardrobe; it wants to offer beautifully crafted pieces that fit seamlessly with what's already on the shelves and hangers.

Lobo is promoting the label's autumn-winter collection, which goes on sale in Japan, Australia, the US and the Middle East in August. Australian stockists will include Land's End in Paddington and Grace in Melbourne.

Despite their Australian roots, Lobo and Martin see their label as American. Based in Manhattan's Lower East Side, it embodies an American sports aesthetic inspired by Halston, Cal-



vin Klein, Donna Karan and Helmut Lang, who lived in New York later in life, among others. Other influential heavy-hitters from the US include Phillip Lim, Proenza Schouler and Opening Ceremony.

Lobo says TOME is about reinventing and elevating the "glue" of an American woman's wardrobe. By that he means essentials from T-shirts to jeans and overcoats to shirt dresses.

FORMIDABLE WOMEN

"It's a formidable woman we want to dress," he says. "It's a strong woman; she knows her own style, she knows her own aesthetic, she's interested in buying clothing that suits that, not the other way around."

The designs combine a military, masculine edge with an '80s silhouette, rich fabrics, metallic treatments and oversized Japanese shapes, all in a warm palette of green, copper, blue, black and white. This meld of influences reflects the designers' respective tastes - for Lobo that includes Giorgio Armani, Ralph Lauren and the late-'70s-to-early-'80s Japanese aesthetic, whereas Martin prefers '50s and '60s couture and delicate handwork.

ALL OR NOTHING

"The high and the low, the precious and the urban, the soft and the hard, the utilitarian and the delicate - all of that is very obvious in the brand," Lobo says.

Despite how closely they now work, Lobo and Martin didn't hit it off immediately as students. But once they did, it was all or nothing; their pact to one day launch a label included a specific clause to do it together or not at all.

In the years it's taken to get there, locally and internationally - Martin as a designer for Alberta Ferretti, Jean Paul Gaultier and Derek Lam; Lobo as a buyer for designer boutiques in Australia, as an editor of online magazine pagesdigital.com and as a stylist for *Oyster* magazine, *Marie Claire* and *The Sunday Times*.

WISER APPROACHES

The experience taught them that rather than focusing on occasional or seasonal dressing, a

wiser approach would be to concentrate on "something very real and unfussy and uncluttered". Even the name of the label - meaning a volume of a greater work - reflects a sober, clean-cut philosophy.

This focus on simplicity means the two-man team don't have to compromise on quality or muddy their long-term vision. The response to their first collection - for spring-summer 2012, launched in September - has been particularly instructive.

SLOT EASILY

"We love the idea that women will pick up our pieces and think that they'll slot really easily into their wardrobes," Lobo says.

"It's really important that TOME is not a head-to-toe label because it's not how we design it and it's not how we intend it to be worn."



Eventually, they hope to sell TOME worldwide and of course, they would love to dress some "dream people".

The label has also rated gushing mentions in *Russh* magazine and on websites such as Style by Kling and style.com

CLOTHES ON BODIES

But the most important things are still the basics, he says, explaining that - despite all the clothes, look-books, videos and pictures that go into building a new collection - there is just one fundamental measure of success: "We finally have [our] clothes on bodies," he says.

"It [all the work] doesn't mean anything to us until we see a woman put on our clothing and decide it's worthy of paying for." - *smh.com*.

Ryan Lobo was born in Calcutta and educated at the Emmaus Catholic College in Erskine Park, Sydney. He was Dux in his HSC year. AIANSW members Gerard and Colleen Lobo are very proud of their son

Pictures above are taken from TOME AW12 LookBook—Ryan Lobo and Raymon Martin's New York based label

Tome AW12 Lookbook



Left: X-Factor
Sam performs

Right:
Kevin,
Samantha
and
Jacqueline

Samantha Jade, X-Factor finalist (above), is the daughter of Kevin Gibbs (Bombay) & Jacqueline Gibbs (Scotland) who reside in Perth.

Samantha Jade Gibbs was born on 18 April 1987 and grew up with two younger brothers Thomas and Alex in Perth, Western Australia.

She began modelling at four and at nine she won a talent show after singing "Amazing Grace". She attended Hampton Senior High School.

L.A. MOVE

In 2003 the Gibbs family moved to Los Angeles in order for Jade to pursue her singing career. That year, a song she co-wrote, "Secret Love", for the soundtrack of the 2004 film *Shark Tale*.

In 2004 Jade signed a multiple album recording contract with US record label Jive Records.

In 2006 Jade recorded the title track "Step Up" for the 2006 Universal Pictures *Step Up*. chart. Jade

begun recording her debut album *Dolphin*. The film was released in 2009. Jade notably recorded a track—"One Love"—the following year.

Jade parted ways with Jive Records but continued to work on music independently with Australian record label Affinity West Entertainment.

ACTING DEBUT

That same year Jade made her acting debut in the film *Beneath the Blue* a sequel to *Eye of the*

Dolphin. The film was released in 2009. Jade notably recorded a track—"One Love"—the following year.

KERRIANNE

In July 2009 Jade released her third single "Secret" in Australia which failed to chart. In August 2009 Jade performed on Kerri-Anne to promote the single.

Jade relocated to Perth and began working at her father's mining factory canning stock after her music career fell through. In an

attempt to return to the music Jade successfully auditioned for the fourth season of the X Factor (Australia) in 2012.

She sang "Breakeven" in which judge Guy Sebastian notably teared up. Jade eventually made it to the top 12.

If you attended the 2010 Perth Reunion Samantha performed at the Concert.

As we go to press Jade is still in the top 10. Keep voting.

Immediate risk of harm

Joanna Das has gone from her tidy cubby in Ashfield to the frenetic streets of Phnom Penh and Joanna is loving every minute of it.

The Senior Project Officer

(Operations Systems) and social worker has traded suits for jeans and is volunteering in Cambodia's capital for a year as a Monitoring and Evaluation Support Officer for Friends International-

al (FI).

"I'm inspired by FI's philosophy which includes building a world where no child or young person has to live or work on the streets," she says.

CONFRONTING SITUATIONS

"It's been a little confronting as I've come across some serious situations like seeing how street children live and fend for a living by begging and scavenging. Also challenging is meeting mothers living on the street who are addicted to drugs like crystal meth and heroin.

"The concept of child protection is very different here as is the legal sys-

tem and the approach is very much working with the families and looking at social reintegration as opposed to removing children due to what we call immediate risk of harm.

"Because the poverty is so huge here and the structural challenges of a developing country are so prominent, it becomes very challenging to look at ways to help these children, young people and their families. Cambodia is also a country recovering from a war-torn era and civil unrest, which undoubtedly adds another layer of complexity to our work."

Joanna says the concept of foster care is also very new. FI and other organisations are now establishing 'transitional homes,' which aim to reintegrate children with their families.

Joanna is helping FI to improve their monitoring and evaluation tools and training staff in their



Operation System's Joanna Das (left in pic) with Sebastien Marot, Friends International's founder and Executive Director. Far right: Joanna again.





“ I always wanted to be a chef. I used to watch my mum and grandma cook...I would get in and help from the age of five ”

CORDON BLEU ATTITUDE

Michael Lopez

Michael Lopez always knew that he wanted to be a chef. Even as a kid he was in the kitchen with his mum and grandma. Born in Mumbai, he and the family migrated to Australia in 1984.

His dad, the late Ronnie Lopez—(pictured right), was a great influence encouraging him to achieve his goals. Dad is looking down at us with a happy smile he said. It was also Dad who bought him his first chef tool kit...treasured to this day. Mike dedicates his profession to Ronnie

Mike was fortunate to work overseas in the Fiji and Malaysia and loved every moment, but



nothing beats coming back home to Australia. His cooking skills took him to the Blacktown Workers, Huntley Hotel Parramatta, Compass group, Royal Australian Air force, Sydney Uni, ANZ Stadium and Royal Agricultural Society.

He is a family man with partner Rhiannon and two special kids—Brandyn (10) and Milliam (3)

CHILLI...CHILLI...CHILLI!

He loves cooking at home for family and friends. Chilli is an important ingredient and no matter what he eats it must have chilli. If he's sweating while eating it's a sign he is enjoying his food.

Mike's chef skills have given him an International Fine Foods Medal for live cooking. Winning medals at clubs for fine food awards 8 gold, 12 silver 5 bronze over three years. His biggest regret was missing out on Club Chef of the Year by one point!

GIVE ME ASIAN

He admits that Asian Cuisine (after recently returning from Malaysia), it was so exciting to see how people cook with fresh home grown ingredients it goes to show it doesn't have to be expensive to taste good it just needs to be fresh.

He strongly believes that the right attitude will always bring success.

BIG WIGS!

Mike has cooked and fed Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister John Howard, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Bill Gates and Kerry Packer. Good on you Mike.

He is a Member of Lions Club Parramatta and volunteers for fundraisers, raffles, cooking, and helping Westmead Children's hospital.

He loves cricket and played for several clubs over the years including Sydney Uni, Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith.

Mike is Executive Chef at Rooty Hills RSL

application. She is assessing their existing tools for effectiveness and consistency and making recommendations for changes to address some gaps.

AUS.AID INITIATIVE

She got the FI job through the Australian Youth Ambassador for Development program, a youth stream of Australian Volunteers for International Development.

The program is an AusAID initiative that sends skilled volunteers to work in developing countries as part of their overseas aid program.

Joanna wanted to volunteer with FI because it's known for its child-focused, high standard of services for street children and youth and training them to become productive citizens for the future.

When she's not working, Joanna is immersing herself in the Khmer culture, meeting people and learning more about the Cambodian way of life. She says the food is amazing and people are so friendly, but she misses her mum, home-cooked meals and colleagues!

Joanna—born in Chandigarh—is the younger daughter of, AI Association Member, Barbara Das of Kingswood.

Interested in FI?

Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4qUnAG4j1M>



Dr Charles Dias (above) is the Secretary of the Kerala Central Board of Anglo-Indian Education which manages 11 aided schools including 2 High Schools. Kerala is the only State to have such a Board.

Listed below are some initiatives Dr Charles Dias was instrumental in establishing:

The Union of Anglo-Indian Associations, Kerala State, which comprises 36 member Anglo-Indian Associ-

Youth Movement'

ations spread around Kerala. Later on he became the Gen Secretary of this organisation.

The Anglo-Indian Educational & Charitable Society Kerala State, which provides annual merit and means scholarships to anglo-indian students as well as providing financial help to aged anglo-indians for medical expenses. The Australian Anglo-Indian Association Benovolent Fund in Perth, Western Australia has provided financial support to this organisation. He retired in 2005 at the age of 55 and was nominated as the MP representing the Anglo-Indian community in the Indian Parliament.

ACHIEVEMENT

His first major achievement as an M.P. was to organise a conference of Anglo-Indian leaders in India, chaired by Neil O Brian, President of the All India Anglo-Indian Association. This was the first time such a conference of leaders of Anglo-Indian Associations from across India was being held.

His achievements as a parliamentarian included moving a resolution in the Indian Parliament to set up a

Desk for Anglo-Indians in the Minority Commission to address grievances of the community. He also successfully moved a resolution for the government to issue a Mother Theresa's coin and stamp. As an MP Dr Charles was able to obtain funds from the Prime Ministers & Presidents Relief Fund to provide financial help to Anglo-Indians across India who have to meet medical expenses for treatment of critical illness.

A National Anglo-Indian Youth Convention scheduled to take place in Nov 10 & 12, 2012. State ministers, MPs, Mayor of Cochin and Anglo-Indian MLAs from various state parliaments will be participating and cooperating for the success of this convention.

Charles Dias visited Sydney during the weekend of our Encore Chaat Night. Charles had many appointments to meet AI associates and we were unable to invite him to the Chaat Night as he was previously booked.

Our apologies to Charles.



Blacktown Council elections

Susai takes Labor seat

Susai Benjamin (above), long standing member of the AIANSW, considers himself a man of the people.

He got the chance to extend his duties after Blacktown's Labor Party branches preselected him to run for Ward three in September's council election.

TIME FOR CHANGE

He ousted long-time councillor Kathie Collins. "It was just time for a change," he said.

As a lawyer, Mr Benjamin does more than 20 hours of unpaid work each week at the Toongabbie Legal Centre. "Sometimes I can just cry for some of the people that come in so I have to help them," he said.

ROBOT ENERGY

"At the end of the day I have a job to do and look to pay the bills for my three kids. I'm a robot man with a lot of energy."

"You have to earn it, earn their respect," he said.

"My wife is an Anglo-Aussie. I will represent everybody."

Christmas Cake the secret way!



Don't dare call it plum pudding. You will be horsewhipped

Inspirational Florence!

Celebrating 100 years of life

Colonel Flora Watkins is the recipient of the Florence Nightingale Award, the highest international award for dedicated service to mankind



Earlier this year Florence Watkins (above and right) celebrated her 100th birthday: an unforgettable event in Jabalpur, India.

A massive turnout helped Florence to experience the love displayed by the military nursing services, the Jabalpur Diocese religious and laity, the H.Q. Madhya Bharat Area, the All India Anglo-Indian Association Jabalpur and the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

At 5.00 pm sharp the military band was heard along with the Military Nursing Sisters escorting the living legend Col Miss F. C. Watkins. She was given a standing ovation.

Tributes were sent from Buckingham Palace, International Red Cross Organisation, Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh, Neil O'Brien, President-in-Chief The All-India Anglo Indian Association, Ronald Forbes, President Canadian Anglo-Indian Association. The children of the Cathedral English choir sang "Congratulations".

Just who is the wonderful centenarian? Flora was educated in Burma, Madras, Bombay and Lucknow. Started her nursing training in 1931 and completed her midwifery in 1934 at Lady Curzon Hospital in Bangalore. She joined the

Army as a Staff Nurse in 1940. Her work and dedication was astounding.

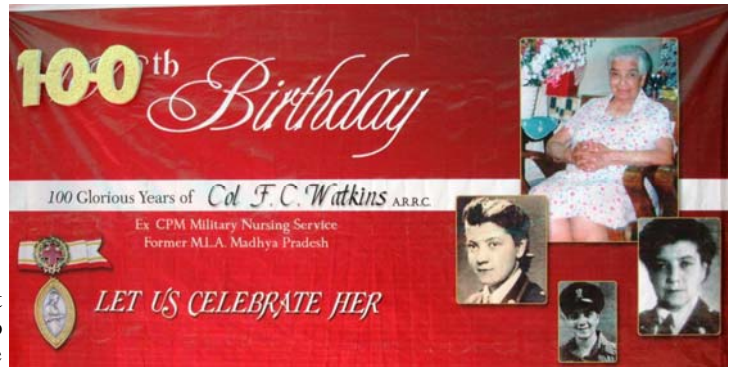
Her career moved to the Middle East and a Medal from the Royal Red Cross was presented to her for treating and saving 52 heat-stroke patients. Her work took Florence to Calcutta, Delhi and Shillong (during the Chinese aggression) where she received the Florence Nightingale Award.

In '69 Florence retired and moved to Jabalpur. She became the first Anglo-Indian MLA for Madhya Pradesh serving two terms.

Her love for her fellow Anglo-Indians led to the Presidency and Treasurer of Jabalpur Anglo-Indian Committee and had the distinction of attending all the Joint AGMs from 1969—2003.

Colonel Flora Watkins continues as Vice President Emeritus of the Jabalpur Branch—she is still the longest serving on committees among the AIAIA' 63 branches in the country.

- DUNSTAN GAMBLE, JABALPUR



Christmas Cake recipes (handwritten in pen and ink) amongst the AIs were jealously guarded and seldom passed to anyone except immediate family. Here's one that slipped across to the Prattler. What do you reckon?

½ lb raisins: ½ lb mixed peel: ½ lb cherries:¼ lb sultanas: ¾ lbs each almonds, walnuts, cashew nuts: 1½ lbs butter: 16 eggs: ¼ lb flour: ¼ sugar: ¼ semolina: 1 small glass Brandy: ½ bottle Vanilla essence: 2 tsps Almond essence: a little mixed spice (cardamom, cinnamon, cloves) equal to ½ tsp: ½ tsp each of mace and nutmeg: 3 heaped tbsp of Blackcurrant Jam. Mix yolks of the eggs with all the butter, add sugar, flour, semolina, mixed fruit and then add the rest.

Last of all beat the egg whites until stiff and then fold in to the mixture.

Put mixture in to cake tins (about half way) and cook in oven (160 C)

Cook for one hour, reduce temp to 150C and cook for another one hour and then test with skewer. If skewer comes out clean, cake is ready.

A-I MATRIMONIAL BUREAU?

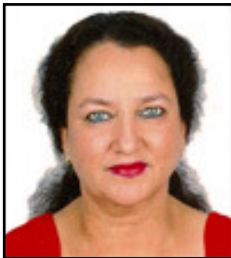
Website to help fading Anglo Indian community

BANGALORE: Concerned with their dwindling numbers, members of Anglo-Indian community, the Anglo-Indian Guild Bangalore (AIGB), have come up with a tech-savvy solution to keep up their count. They have designed a **matrimonial website** (see below) which encourages youngsters to marry within the community.

FATHER'S ONLY!

Initially, the website will include only profiles of youngsters from Anglo Indian community, in particular those born of Anglo Indian fathers. Youngsters born to Anglo Indian mothers who have married outside the community will not be included at first.

"Our idea is to promote same-community marriage. Because our numbers are diminishing at an alarming rate, it would help if youngsters married within the community, and in turn, help the community retain its size," said Ursula Fosberry, (right) president.



Members came together for a meeting with Charles Dias, Anglo-Indian representative of the community in the Lok Sabha, they discussed the feasibility of establishing this central matrimonial bureau. They talked about better co-ordination of Anglo-Indian organizations and form a Federation of the Association.

DIPPING

Over the past few years, the Anglo Indians' count in the city has taken a dip, and now stands at 3,500 families. In the country, the Anglo Indian community count stands at 4.5 lakh people.

Sixteen people from Bangalore are registered users of this website. Community seniors are not too keen on sharing the website details either. "It's not so popular and we will ensure that only interested people come forward and register themselves here," said Fosberry.

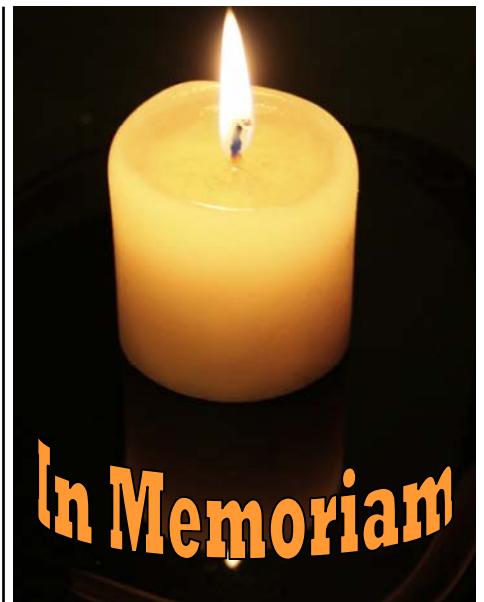
OUTSIDE COMMUNITY

It is learnt that youngsters of marriageable age who have moved out of the city or country from Bangalore have often married outside the community, something that has not gone down well with the seniors. Once this website gets popular, users can log on to it to search for their prospective life partners.

AIGB boasts a membership of over 3500 members (750 families). Now that's quite a number. Most similar associations abroad are lucky to pull together 300 members. AIGB has been in operation for over 32 years...now that's another achievement.

➔ angloindianguild.com/marriagebureau.html

The new website has only one entry at this time...a bloke who is 48—'looks thirtyty'! - Check it out. Ed



Hazel Coral Rebello

1920 - 2012

Hazel, dear mother of members Arlene Crouch and Carol Christopher, passed away on 27 July, sadly but peacefully, at Royal North Shore Hospital.

Her appeal to all she met was evidenced by over 100 friends, family and relatives who attended her funeral.

Hazel was a gentle, loving, caring person who always placed others' concerns before hers, even during her final days of pain and inconvenience.

Born 23 September 1920 in Dacca, she married George Rebello, Post Master General, West Bengal.

They migrated to Australia in 1968 with three daughters Arlene (husband John), Carol (husband Bev) and Maxine (husband Rod Hamilton).

Hazel enjoyed the ultimate experience of the birth of her four grandchildren and four great grandchildren who adored her.

R.I.P. Gone, but never forgotten



Indian take away!

Ford India's EcoSport looks like a production ready car waiting to be hitting the roads anytime soon. Ford had tested the Fiesta on the length and breadth of the country for over ten lakh kilometers prior to it hitting the Indian showrooms. May be the Ford EcoSport engineers will follow the same route. If this is the case, then you will have to wait for sometime before you get your hands on this attractive looking SUV. Looking at the EcoSport as a make or break model as far as Ford India is concerned, the company is not enduring to take any gambles with a short cut to the assembly line.

'Mountbatten' of the Southern Railways!

A.L.J.E. Moore (*pictured right*) an Anglo-Indian devoted the key years of his life to a career as a railway train guard - ensuring that every train - on his watch - made it on time.

He is also the oldest Anglo-Indian in the city to serve on the railways.

A.L.J.E. Moore*, who served the railways for 38 years and eight months of his life, is now retired. He reminisces back to the time of his joining Indian Railways.

"When I finished high school, I went straight to sign up for the railways. They had a special quota for Anglo-Indians at that time. I just walked into the railways office in the city and joined.

He was posted in eight different places mainly in the south and before retiring, he

was made an 'A' grade guard, the highest rank you can reach as a railway guard.

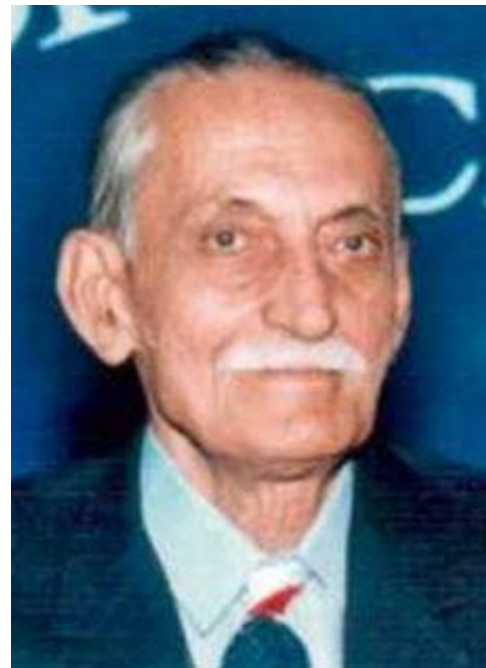
A.L.J.E. used to be well known for his unique style of whistling in Coimbatore and till today many people remember that.

His officers used to affectionately call him the Mountbatten of Southern Railway. "When you serve in the railways, you should be prepared for transfers every three years.

If there was one posting that I really loved, it was in the Nilgiris. It is such a scenic route to the top.

I always ensured that my trains made it to their destinations on time and that is why I got the post of an A grade guard."

A funny moment in his life was when he won a special prize of Rs 25. "I was given that prize for my punctuality - for always bringing



in trains on or before time - and I am actually proud of it," he says.

"I spent most of my time at work, even holidays. When I retired, I was given Rs10,000 just because I never used to take leave. It was an erratic schedule - that was very tough, not having much of a personal life".

by Conan Mendoza
- Jan 2012 Deccan Chronicle

* A.L.J.E. Moore passed away earlier this year (February)

Barbara, A.L.J.E. Moore's daughter, was a guard in the Railways, says that for 'Railway kids', "the station was part of our lives".

They went to school by train, often jumping into either the metre gauge train from Pol-lachi or the broad gauge one from Palakkad.

"We had such competition, wondering which would reach Coimbatore faster," she laughs. Many a time, she says, while travelling in the upper berth, the station's unique cobblestone platform helped her figure she was home.

"It had such a quaint, old-world charm about it." She recalls her mother, the late Gladys Moore, telling them the railway junction was Podanur's beach - the one place everyone headed to.

McAloo Tikki Burger!



McDonald's said its restaurants in India do not sell beef or pork, and that the kitchens are separated into sections for cooking vegetarian and non-vegetarian food. They have menu items that cater to local tastes, such as the Maharaja Mac, which is a Big Mac made with chicken patties instead of beef. It also offers a McAloo Tikki, a burger made with a spicy breaded potato patty, red onions, tomatoes and a "special vegetable sauce."

They are believed to sell for 20 rupees each! (That's nearly three for our dollar!)

For religious reasons, beef is not eaten by Hindus, who make up the majority of India's population of about 1.2 billion people.

McDonald's has more than 33,500 locations around the world, but only about 250 are in India.

In 2002, McDonald's agreed to donate \$10 million to Hindu and other groups in the US to settle lawsuits that accused the chain of mislabelling French fries and hash

browns as vegetarian. The vegetable oil used to prepare the fries and hash browns had contained traces of beef for flavoring purposes.

McDonald's India is opening its first vegetarian-only restaurant to cater to India's large vegetarian population.

The first vegetarian outlet will open its doors mid-next year near the Golden Temple in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar in northern India where religious authorities forbid consumption of meat at the shrine.

GROWING CONSUMPTION OF FOOD HIGH IN FAT IS SPURRING CONCERN THAT INDIA IS IMPORTING WESTERN OBESITY, CREATING A TICKING PUBLIC HEALTH TIME BOMB.



Next editorial deadline

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