



Bulletin - July 2008

Editorial

I had some interesting mail recently from Davenell Flanderka, who lives in Australia, telling me about the 'old days' at the DBU, perhaps in the '50s and '60's I believe, when the young Burghers would all meet at the DBU hall on Friday evenings for a very popular session of dancing and socialising; some would bring along their guitars and sing along with the rest, whilst their parents often met upstairs for drinks until it was time to go home around midnight.

How nice this must have been – parents had nothing to fear, knowing their offspring were safe and sound and in the company of others of their own age, often the children of fellow DBU members! Compare this with today, when there is danger lurking around every corner as it were, gunfights and brawls the order of the day in nightclubs which our young ones frequent, and parents anxiously watching the clock until they come safely back home. It would be so wonderful if we could revive the 'gatherings' Davenell speaks about – the only difference I would surmise is that there are very few Burgher youth today in Sri Lanka! At the

rate our folk, particularly the younger generation, are leaving our shores for other pastures, it is evident that it will not be long before the Burghers will be 'extinct', and will only be spoken of by elders who remembered knowing that unique and colourful bunch of people.

So, this is an appeal to all of you out there to rally all our young folk together as members of the DBU – let's give them a pleasant, safe environment to meet their peers and perhaps get together as the 'Comrades' of old did. If we have the numbers, we could easily organize weekend dances in our hall and other activities for our youth.

In order to encourage young adults to join as Members, we are waiving off the Membership Admission fee of Rs 5,000 for all Burghers in the age group 18 to 30 years, as a special concession in this, our Centenary Year! Do your part as a DBU member and bring in our youth under the DBU banner – to a place they would be proud to call their own, and bring their friends too. Membership application forms are available at the office or can be downloaded off our Website.

We regret we have had to postpone our planned event for this month due to the SAARC conference and possible travel restrictions and road closures during that period. However, it will be held as planned, in August instead, the focus being Retro music and a truly 'different' kind of party for the younger ones in our midst and their guests too!

By the way – don't forget our Bar will now be open till midnight on Wednesdays, and the band will play on till 1am.

Cheers!
Anne-Marie Kellar
 Editor

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Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Dr Bede Muller on the passing away of his beloved sister Daphne Fonseka.

Welfare Reports

The locally sponsored children were paid their 2nd quarter allowance on Saturday 21st June.

The Eighty Club of Melbourne has indicated that the beneficiaries sponsored by them will receive a mid-year bonus

of Rs 3,000 per head in July. This is in addition to the quarterly payment of Rs 6,000 per head.

The 1st and 2nd quarter allowance for the children sponsored by the Burgher

Association of Australia is to be paid on Saturday, 5th July.

Anthea Muller

Chairperson - Social Welfare

Older Than Dirt

(I received this on E-mail recently and changed it around a bit to suit us here in Sri Lanka – I'm sure a lot of you can identify with it all, and it will take you down memory lane!)

Hey Uncle, one of my nephews asked the other day, 'What was your favourite fast food when you were growing up?'

"We didn't have fast food when I was growing up," I informed him. "All the food was slow." "C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?," he asked.

"It was a place called at home," I explained. "Mum cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate I was allowed to sit there until I did like it."

By this time, the kid was laughing so hard I was afraid he was going to suffer serious internal damage, so I didn't tell him the part about how I had to have permission to leave the table. But here are some other things I would have told him about my childhood if I figured his system could have handled it:



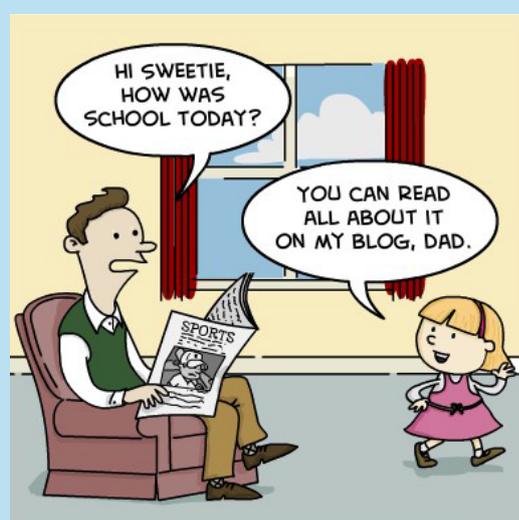
Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, travelled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to sports practice. I walked or rode my bike.

I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed – slow.

We didn't have a television in our house until the late 70s, and that too, only a privileged few had them. People would often gather at the neighbours who had one to watch the few programmes shown. It was, of course, black and white, but some people bought a piece of coloured plastic to cover the screen. The top third was blue, like the sky, and the bottom third was green, like grass. The middle third was red. It was perfect for programs that had scenes of fire trucks riding across someone's lawn on a sunny day. Some people had a lens taped to the front of the TV to make the picture look larger.

I was an adult before I tasted my first pizza. We never heard of McDonald's, KFC or any of those fast food places – we did not even have 'take-away food' – except the hoppers and stringhoppers we bought from the nearby 'kaday'! The only restaurants we had to 'dine out' at were the Chinese restaurants like the 'Golden Gate', 'Chinese Lotus', 'Park View Lodge' and 'Nanking' – and



they served Cantonese cuisine unlike the Chinese restaurants now which serve spicy Szechwan food. The popular dishes were 'Sweet and Sour Prawns', 'Fireworks Prawns' and 'Crab Claws in Ginger Sauce'.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone in the house was in the passage, with a mechanical dial you twisted with your finger. Mobile phones were not even dreamt of!

Pizzas were not delivered to our home. But milk and soft drinks were.

If you grew up in a generation before there was fast food, you may want to share some of these memories with your children or grandchildren. Just don't blame me if they bust a gut laughing.

Growing up isn't what it used to be, is it?

Older Than Dirt Quiz

How many do you remember?

Count all the ones that you remember, not the ones you were told about. (Ratings at the bottom)



1. Elephant House Icy chocks at the Movies
2. 10 cent popsicles and ice palams
3. Candy cigarettes
4. The 'Godhamba Roti' cart and its tinkling bell announcing its arrival at dusk
5. The 'Bombai Mutai' cart (Candy floss) where the man would fling some coloured sugar into the machine in front of you and spin it into gossamer fine floss which tasted divine



6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles with foil stoppers
7. The 'Thrombol Man' with his magical box full of fascinating things like coloured glass bangles and baubles, thread, camphor balls, pins, needles etc.
8. Newsreels before the movie in cinemas
9. 'Balcony' and 'Box' seats at the cinema
10. Blue flashbulbs



11. Telephone numbers with 5 numbers
12. Peashooters
13. Playing hop-scotch and marbles
14. 78 RPM records
15. Metal ice trays with levers



16. Ice cream delivered by Elephant House in metal cans immersed in a wooden tub full of ice
17. Ice cream sold in cardboard "cups"
18. Using hand signals for cars without turn signals
19. Bread delivered early in the morning
20. No air conditioning in cars



21. Ignition switches on the dashboard
22. When it cost Rs 10 to fill the car's tank with petrol
23. Real ice chests
24. Pant leg clips for bicycles without chain guards
25. Tailors who came home and sat on the floor and sewed around 3 ladies' dresses in a day

- If you remembered 0-5 - You are still young
- If you remembered 6-10 - You are getting older
- If you remembered 11-15 - Don't tell your age
- If you remembered 16-25 - You are older than dirt!

“ I might be older than dirt but those memories are the best part of my life. ”

Entertainment at the DBU

Member's Evenings

02nd July – Music by Dharshika

09th July – Music Kismet

16th July – Music by Nimal Jayamanne

23rd July – Music by Dharshika

30th July – Music by KISMET

EXTENDED HOURS FROM 8.30PM TILL 1.00AM

Saturday, 12th July – Sing-along for Members and Guests

We look forward to your participation when we members get together with guitars, piano, tambourines etc to sing all the old favourites. You could also bring along your guests as usual, according to club rules. Anyone who can play a musical instrument is invited to do so. We will be starting at 8.30pm, so do join in the fun!

No cover charge – All are welcome!

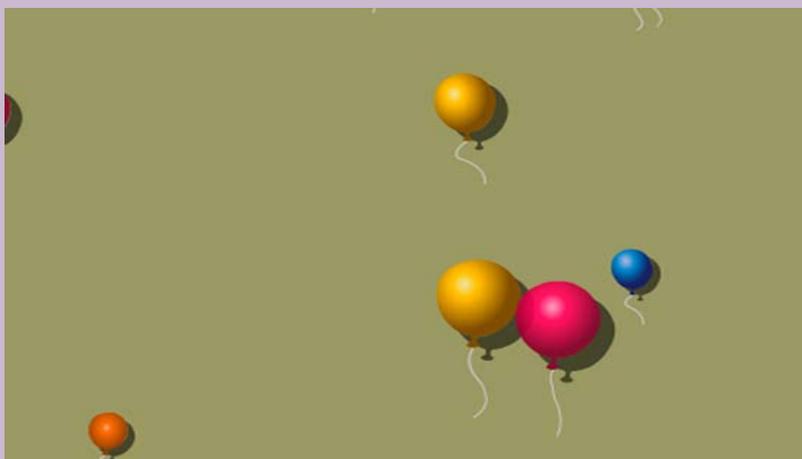
**PLEASE NOTE THAT BAR TIMES HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO 12 MIDNIGHT!
SO! KEEP THESE DATES FREE AND COME ON OVER TO THE DBU!**

Kem Martenstyn

Chairperson – Entertainment/Events

Birthday Greetings

Ms Michelle de Kretser, Ms Mary Helen Koelmeyer, Ms Catherine Mack, Ms Eugenie Mack, Ms Nadira Madurapperuma, Mrs Rosemary Outschoorn, Mrs Heather Pompeus, & Mrs Trudy Reza, Messrs. Stuart Chapman, Michael Daniels, Scott Dirckze, Patrick de Silva, Jaliya Devendra, Hubert Foenander, Darryl Isaaks, David Jansze, Jr. L. Jayawickrama, Dylan Kelaart, Fidel Moldrich, Tony Roger Martenstyn, Peter Prins, Terrence Pendigrast, Christopher Raymond,



New Members

Mr Emil Kronenberg

Overseas Members

Ms Pamela Ann Ferdinand

Ms Loretta Caryl Koch (Davies)

Mrs Cheryl Delia Pompilio, nee Gauder

Ms Sherin Ann Brook

Ms Naima Macan Markar

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)