

THE UNITY

AUSTRALIAN ANGLO BURMESE SOCIETY INC.

P.O. BOX 277 MIRRABOOKA W.A. 6941

Volume 15 Issue 1

visit: <http://angloburmese.com>

Jan/Mar 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Firstly I would like to thank Colin Johnson for his hard work and dedication as President and welcome him back onto the committee. It is an honour to be asked to take his place.

Yet another year has passed and we finished the year with the annual Children's party that was enjoyed by 17 Children who enjoyed the antics of Waldo the magician. It was disappointing to see the members of not more "Grandparents" brought their grandchildren to boost the numbers. Hopefully we will have a bit more support next year.

The Christmas Lunch at the Pines was a great success and approx 50 members and friends enjoyed a sumptuous buffet and a good time was had by all.

To cap the year off we had a magnificent New Years Eve Dance at Aqualife in Victoria Park which was fully sold out .I thank all those that supported this event as the proceeds will greatly assist our efforts in Burma. I would personally like to thank all the members and friends of the committee that gave freely of their time to make the evening such a roaring success.

On a more serious note I would say that my wife Carron and I have just returned from a bitter sweet experience in Burma along with Connie Linton and Terry Geiles, where we experienced our first experience of how life varies between the town and the country areas.

Whilst we managed some strenuous site seeing the most important visits for us were to see first hand the Orphanage at Hmawbe , and to meet Eric Trutwin at Yanangyaung. We also met with Rebecca and Florence of The YWCA in Rangoon and met with Sister Joanna of St Marys Church Theinlar . I will devote a separate section in this news letter to the various meetings that were held.

So we are all looking forward to a new and prosperous New Year and the committee are planning a full year of food fetes, dances and other functions which we hope you will all support.

I send my best wishes to you all and your families and give thanks to the Lord that we live in an affluent and free country and have the freedom of choice as to where we live and what we eat.

Please spare a thought for those who are not as blessed and pray their misery is short lived.

Best wishes for the New Year

Douglas Bicknell
President

SOCIETY NEWS

The AGM for our current year was held on 1st November 2008.

The following are your Management Committee for this current year.

Douglas Bicknell	President	0419929095
Terry Geiles	Vice President	0407424979
Doug Siva	Secretary	0414973964
Caroline Hunneybun	Treasurer	0416620023
Glen Barrie	Committee member	0439846806
Carron Bicknell	Committee member	94019568
Colin Johnson	Committee member	0412524372
Connie Linton	Committee member	0439901421
Robert Peters	Committee member	92494041
Olive Siva	Committee member	0414877449
John Taylor	Committee member	0400441028

Please feel free to contact any of them should you require any assistance.

Subscriptions are now DUE

Members please note that your annual subscription is now due. Please contact Caroline Hunneybun our Treasurer to finalise any outstanding subscriptions.

SITUATIONS VACANT:

The position of Editor for our Newsletter has become vacant. If you would like to try your hand at producing the quarterly Newsletter please contact Doug Siva on 0414 97 39 64.

PAY AND CONDITIONS: It doesn't pay very well and the hours are not too great either. But if you would like to give it a go then please let me know *retiring Editor*.

Where have all the issues gone?? If you haven't noticed let me bring it to your attention, the newsletter has jumped from volume 6 to volume 15. The reason for this is that the Newsletter has been re-numbered to give it some meaning by reflecting the Society's age. As a Society we are in our 15th year and each year we issue four newsletters. Therefore this is the first newsletter of our 15th year. *Ed*

Bereavements

Mr. Alan D'Mello passed away at home on 27 Jan 2009. We extend our deepest sympathy to Alan's wife Betty and to the D'Mello family

Mrs. Olga Smith who passed away recently, we extend our deepest sympathy to the Smith family.

Mr. Keith Wales passed away in January. We extend our deepest sympathy to Keith's wife Peggy and the Wales' family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all the bereaved family and friends at this sad time.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We would like to wish all our members & friends, who will be celebrating a birthday during the months January, February and March, “*a very Happy Birthday*”.

13 January	Marie Dharani	
28 January	Glen Barrie	
30 January	Glenda Samuels	
2 February	George Bennett (UK)	90 th Birthday
12 February	Cyril Savarese	
18 March	Milton Bird	80 th Birthday
20 March	Peggy Bird	
31 March	Olive Siva	

Anniversaries

8 February	George & Teresa Draper
12 February	Victor & Joy Johnson
15 February	Martin & Mary MacDonald
18 March	George & Joy King

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following 15 new members to our family of members:

Charles & Kathy DeGois
Clair Siva
Denzil & Elenor D’Rozario
Helga Costello-Arlidge
Daniel Siva
Martin & Mary MacDonald
Noel & Fay Hunneybun
Brian Woodley
Derek & Linda D’Mello
Ignatius de Rozario

New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance

The Society’s New Year’s Eve Dinner Dance held at Aqualife Function Centre in Victoria Park was a huge success. The Committee would like to thank all our members, family and friends who helped make this a tremendous success. It was great to see everyone come together to play their part to make this a success, from the sale of tickets, to cooking, setting up, clearing away and more.

The venue was certainly the talking point of all who attended with comments about the air-conditioning being a bonus on such a warm night. Men In Black, our band for the evening kept everyone on the dance floor with their selection of crowd favorites.



A table of party goers, anyone you know?



Men In Black

Check out our website for more pictures.

We would like to thank our generous sponsors who donated prizes for the raffle. They are;

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Patty & Sam Short | Eurogem steam cleaner |
| Indra Virasinghe | 4Life products |
| Harvey Norman, West Perth | hair dryer and curling thongs |
| Douglas & Carron Bicknell | George Forman food steamer |
| Robert & Pat Peters | bottle of port and sparkling wine |
| Terry & Merlyn Geiles | cordless phone |
| Bombay Palace Indian Restaurant | \$100.00 gift voucher |
| Vivian Conn | bottle scotch and wine |
| Cecilia & Peter Anderson | hamper |

The raffle raised over \$1,000.00. The Dance raised a total of \$3,150.00 which will go towards the Society's work.

Also thanks to Martin & Mary MacDonald for donating the pickle and balachung for the dinner.

AABS' own Radio Program

Coming soon to a radio near you!! The Society is currently in negotiation with 6EBA FM the Multicultural Radio Station to host our own radio program. We plan on being on the air waves by mid-February. Watch this space or check out our website for more news or call Doug on 0414 97 39 64

CONNIE'S CHARITIES CORNER

In October/November 2008 Doug & Carron Bicknell, Terry Geiles & myself visited all our charities in Burma and met all the 13 families who are being supported by our sponsors.

I would like to thank a few people who gave me donations for our various charities in Burma. They are:

VIV CON, CAROLINE HUNNEYBUN, LORRAINE DUDEK, DOUG & OLIVE SIVA

Their donations went to Yenangyaung Survival Aid recipients. With their kind donations, we were able to buy & present to all the old & young members of the sponsored families a blanket & a new outfit each.

With their winter approaching Dec-Feb, the blankets were a welcome gift. It a pleasure to see the joy in their faces.

Thanks go to TERRY GEILES & CARRON BICKNELL for their donations which went towards rebuilding the house for the AABS family home.

To JOHN TAYLOR for making up the shortfall towards the Yenangyaung families' quarterly food supplies.

DAFFY WIRTH-USA donation went to Sr.Joanna of Thein Lar Orphanage. Combined with the Society's Quarterly donation, Doug & Carron's as well, Sr.Joanna went home a very happy Nun knowing that at last she could provide decent food for her 25 children some of whom are Nagis Survivors and much needed essentials for the orphanage. She is still in need of a decent & safe kitchen. That's another project to be considered.

A big thank you to WESLEY SAMUELS & FAMILIES for their yearly donation some of which provide 52 boys & girls at Hmawbi Orphanage a lovely meal & small gifts at Christmas. The rest go to our charity account for other projects. OLIVE BARETTO also sent a donation for Hmawbi.

A BIG BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE ABOVE FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS.

A Report by Douglas Bicknell
on the recent trip to Burma
visiting Charities supported by our Society

Hmawbe Orphanage.

Hmawbe is one of the Charities that has been supported by the Anglo Burmese Association since 2006.

We met with Father Victor and Sisters Amy and Christine who help to look after 50 orphaned children. We were taken on a tour of the buildings and saw the children in their class rooms and eating in the food hall. (A meal of basic rice and vegetables).

Before they ate we were treated to a song in English by all the children which was quiet moving.

We noted the various sleeping areas of the boys and girls. They sleep on rush mats on the timber floors and have a single blanket and a mosquito net. Father Victor advised that the mats and blankets and nets were getting quite worn and requested some assistance in replacing them.

We were treated to tea and coffee in the common area and we also noted the floor covering was made up of various pieces of non matching lino that was lifting in places. I will suggest to AABSoc that we could assist with supplying money for a new floor covering.

Whilst at the orphanage we were ably assisted in the translation by Connie and her Brother Leslie Beale who has been helping them in the past with organising various donations from the AABSoc.

Before we left we handed over the quarterly donation made by AABSoc. Father Victor and Sisters Amy and Christine were very appreciative for the cash and thanked AABSoc. for all the assistance that we have given.

From my perspective it is obvious that the money that we send is only a drop in the ocean for what is really needed and is very much appreciated and is well spent.

Eric Trutwin at Yenangyaung

After a three hour bus trip along bumpy potholed roads we arrived at Yenangyaung and met with Eric Trutwin. He has been the prime mover in assisting the AABSoc in its Survival Aid programme and its members in supporting /sponsoring number of individual families. He took us around to meet everyone of the 13 sponsored families and each were given blankets and clothing for the children and adults. We had the opportunity of seeing the exact circumstances that these families live in and it was a very humbling experience. We saw that Eric had a terrific rapport with all the families and children and it is obvious that he is doing a very good job. It is equally obvious that our donations are being appropriately spent and I greatly admire the drive and determination of Eric who spends a considerable amount of time and his own personal funds in helping these people and also the "Aged Vulnerables" these are elderly and infirm who have no family members to help them.

Any increased funding would be greatly appreciated.



Mr Carron Bicknell, Douglas Bicknell, Terry Geiles, Eric Trutwin and Connie Linton in Burma with one of our sponsored family



one of our sponsored family

YWCA

Whilst in Rangoon we visited the YWCA and met with Rebecca and Florence who look after the administration of the organisation in Myanmar. They are a non profit voluntary organisation that assists Women and Girls of all religious backgrounds to achieve a richer and fuller life after experiencing some traumas in their life. They also provide food to the sick and hospitalised poor from the Country on a regular basis. We made our quarterly Donation to assist with their arrangements and they were very appreciative.

Sister Joanne: St Marys Church : Theinlar

We were very moved by Sister Joanne as she made a 10 hour arduous bus journey into the City to meet with us.

She has started a new orphanage for the children of deceased parents following the flooding after the Nargis Cyclone. She and Sister Margareta and a novice are caring for 30 children in the most arduous conditions. At present they have to collect and carry all their water approx 3km . They are desperate for a well /bore and for a kitchen to prepare food. They have managed to start a small smallholding and have two breeding pigs and four piglets and some chickens but live mostly off their vegetable garden and natural vegetation.

Sister Joanne was previously with Hmawbi and has now been transferred to Theinlar. We have recently become aware of her desperate situation and the committee had voted an initial donation of \$750.00 to help her. Daffy Wirth of America donated \$ 300.00

However I believe this is a very worthwhile charity to support especially in these early days of setting up.



Sisters in the kitchen



Douglas, Connie, Sr Joanne and Carron with a friend

Anyone wishing to make a donation to any of the above charities or sponsor a family please contact Connie Linton our Charities organiser or myself.

Connie Linton; 92775801 / 0439901421
Douglas Bicknell: 9401 9568 / 0419929095

TRAVEL - AVAILABLE

DAY TOUR - HISTORIC ROTTNEST LEAVING FROM PERTH DATES DEPEND ON INTERESTED MEMBERS

GUIDED TOUR WITH SCENIC TRAIN RIDE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

Return trip on the Rottnest Express - Available everyday. 2 hr Trains, Guns & Tunnel Tour

Cost:\$88 Concessions card holders w/out lunch
\$113 " " with Pub Lunch
\$93 Adult fare w/out lunch
\$118 " w/pub lunch

YORK-ALBANY-PEMBERTON

6 DAYS - 5 NIGHTS INCLUDES:

5 Star Coach Return. Leave Tues 8am East Perth Station & Return Sat by Coach to Bunbury then by train arriving Perth 5.15pm. Private ensuite accommodation, English B/Fast & 2 course dinner at York-The Grand House, Light B/fast each day in Albany (Comfort Inn-complimentary box of chocs per room with 10% discounts on restaurant meal costs) & Pemberton - Pemberton Hotel Transfers from accommodations

Pensioners Free Pass - \$425 per person Twin share

Pensioners/Seniors no Pass - \$486 " " "

Adults \$564 " " "

Singles pay a bit more. Tours & Taxis (if hired) extra.

I AM AVAIL TO TRAVEL WITH THE GROUP TO ALBANY ONLY IN FEBRUARY OTHERWISE IT WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL AFTER 15TH APRIL.

"If interested in either trip please ring Connie on 9277 5801 or 0439 901 421"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please keep the following dates free. Don't forget to mark it in your diary and tell your family and friends.

Food Fetes will be held on every fourth Saturday of the month at the Australian Asian Association (AAA) hall at 275 Stirling Street Perth from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Below are the dates for the next 6 months:

28 February 28 March 23 May 27 June 25 July

Please note there will not be a Food Fete in April as it would fall on ANZAC Day.

Dinner Dance we will be having two dances during the year along with our annual New Year's Eve dinner dance. Once again mark this in your social calendars.

9 May 2009 at Alexander Heights Community Centre. BYO, from 7pm – Late, ticket prices are \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for non-members. There will be two bands. Tickets will be out by mid – March.

Our second Dinner dance for the year will be held in **September** details will be posted on our website soon and in our next newsletters.

Members' Morning Teas these will be held on the second Saturday of every second month at Mary MacKillop Catholic, Church cnr Pelican Parade and Cassowary Drive, Ballajura. The following are the dates. If you have any suggestions as to where you would like to go e.g.: "Lunches/Functions/Day Trips etc" call Connie on: 9277 5801 or 0439 901 421

14 February 11 April 13 June 8 August 10 October

If you would like to contribute an article to the Newsletter contact Doug Siva on 0414 97 39 64