



AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOC. INC.

"Alone we achieve little ... together we can make a difference."

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020

Patrons: Hector Soans, Noel French | Honorary Life Member: Marina Soans

Dear Members,

Every year, the Christmas season brings together friends and family like no other holiday does.

With Christmas comes faith, hope, and love. We wish all these things for you and your family during this season.

May the New Year be full of all the excitement and surprises that hatred and fears have no time to occupy.

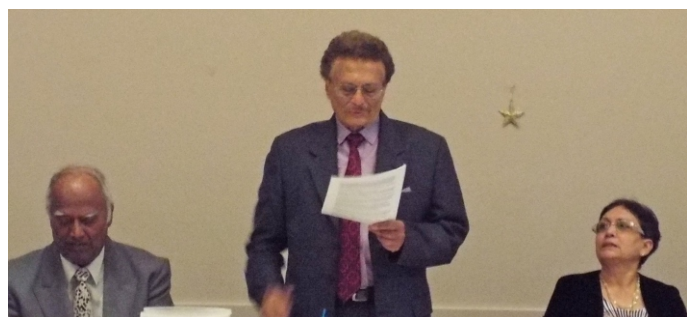
*Merry Christmas & a Happy
New Year to you & family*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year the AGM was vibrant combined with an atmosphere of friendliness as time swept by on the Councillors past years performances and plans for the coming year.

The meeting opened with prayer led by Basil Cardis and silence maintained in memory of many valuable members who departed in the past year.

Max French, ARAIA's Chairman welcomed the delegates to the 23rd Annual General meeting, especially those who make these AGM's an annual pilgrimage.



Sitting beside him was Hector Soans, whom he described as 'the Rock' on which ARAIA was built. Till today he recruits members into ARAIA. Every function of ARAIA over these 23 years has his name on it, not only as an attendee with friends and family, but also as a donor. That AGM signature book at the entrance contains every conference signature of this person.

Hector was given a standing ovation.

The Chairman also extended a special welcome to Wendy Bailey, the member, who looks after ARAIAs

Facebook. All expectations have been exceeded last month with over 18,000 hits.

Important changes are that in future Life Members should apply for Chartered status according to Article 5.2.

The meeting stressed that every member of the Community is important to ARAIA. Chartered members who have shown no commitment will be approached on their views and reasons to help assess the directions of ARAIA towards the membership.

June DeSouza surprised the gathering with her oration as she presented the Trustees report.

Recalling the number of ways funds could be raised she invited suggestions and ideas from members so that the Trustees can move forward with increasing our fund. She is open to any ideas for funding. Please email: j9de@icloud.com



The resolution she moved for purchase of a property with the Trust Funds were approved and a special general body meeting is to be summoned for acceptance of the investment. This would likely be called mid-year 2021 or earlier.

The Councillors elected and at their first meeting their portfolios are recorded:

Max French	Chairman & Welfare Committee
Noel French	Vice Chairman & Public Office
Hector Soans	Joint Vice Chairman
	Mission & Vision
Coral Dillon	Hon Secretary

Marina Soans	Welfare
Arthur DeSouza	Social Committee & Chairman's Nominee on Trust
Bruce Soans	Treasurer
Vernon Bocarro	Assistant Treasurer & Sports
Joe Dillon	Migrants Committee

Duties are doubled up due to 3 vacancies.

Permanent Invitees to the Council: Sports President Dominic Carr & Committee member Candida Carr.

Membership Secretary: Christine Conquest will continue to look after membership.

'**Anglo-Indians be PROUD**' was the text of the Chairman's address as he outlined the best years of the Anglo-Indian community in his address that follows:

CHAIRMANS ADDRESS

Max began by expressing to the delegates that they were above ordinary members as their presence here is due to a powerful passion for our Community. He said our ancestors were the roots from which sprang the British Empire.

He opened by paying tribute to the ARAIA stalwarts whom we lost in the previous year.

He reminded the delegates to be **proud of our blood lines**. We are mainly descendants from soldiers, Europeans, born or domiciled or mixed – the army accompanied by doctors, nurses, merchants, writers, teachers, engineers, priests, and administrators of the Honourable East India Company, HEIC better known as Johnny company amongst our ancestors.

The largest irregular private army, more than any other European power – twice the size of Britain's military which was busily engaged in war with Europe and American Independence.



**HEIC Soldiers
17th Century**

Britain treated India as a place to trade only. Decisions were made by front line HEIC soldiers.

Ruling large areas of India, exercising military power, seizing administrative functions to rule. A country divided by many rulers; Johnny company united the country – to administer effectively.



The Company was in control of India for 250 years. Britain only 90 years from 1858.

Spirited young men always ready for a fight, generous and honest; God, King and Country were foremost.

Their motto: loyalty, honesty, dedication, and no better satisfaction than achievement.

The European soldiers loved India, many married local women and the culture was a mix of Eastern and Western including food habits and lifestyle. We were part of this ancient culture where Brahmin priests were called upon to bless the soldiers before the battles. A period without racial discriminations.



Generous community undoubtedly by the large number of Churches, orphanages and schools built. A virtual treasure trove.

Anglo-Indians were the roots that built the Empire, not recognised by Britain or the world.

They were the Anglo-Indian communities' best years.

Responding to friends on personnel matter his involvement with ARAIA, the chairman replied that the exodus of the Community was huge between 1965 to 1975.

His work on Indian Railways involved visits to several Railway towns in South India, and a year in a railway manufacturing hub in Bengal, not far from Calcutta.

His research and articles written on two Anglo-Indian societies opened his eyes to the wealth and generosity of the Community.

"I have seen Anglo-Indian Railway Institutes close overnight. My contacts with the military and paramilitary colonies also exhibited the same vast exodus. Only the retired high ranked Anglo-Indians refused to leave unless forced by family reunification. Many settled in Whitefield, Bangalore."

Reviving the Railway community activities, I founded the All India Anglo-Indian Association Bangalore City Branch in the railway colony. (Founder Members Aileen Vardon, Archie Fernandes in photo).



Regular visits to the AGM's in Delhi, friendships were built with the legends Frank Anthony & Albert Barrow.



Also deeply involved with a group in Bangalore to restore assets the Community were losing. The result was a large number of children in and around the railway colonies of Bangalore City benefitted.

I came to Australia to put the past behind me. However, brother Noel, who dexterously been part of that destiny, convinced me to be active with ARAIA.

Viewing ARAIA's constitution to build and having leaders with capacity that formed ARAIA, their genuine love and commitment, I returned to serve the community.

Founder Members - Bruce Soans, Mark Young, Peter Van Ross, Marina & Hector Soans, Noel French, David Auld, Jenny & Basil Cardis.



Continuing, Max made special mention about the volunteers, naming them, who helped members in the "High Risk Group" during this turbulent period. He appreciated their efforts to cover the suburbs, even Queensland. These are signs that Anglo-Indians care for their Community.

ARAIA has built into place the elements to succeed.

Large Membership – built due to the diligence, commitment, love and dedication of past Membership Secretary, **Winifred Conquest.**

The family of Win & Don were deeply involved. David, her son, was Chairman of ARAIA for 3 years and Christine her daughter continued the work as Membership Secretary. They have set the stage for ARAIA's expansion in building our own facilities.

"Remember Don" Featured in our Newsletter of 2016 - An IAF Pilot during the Indian Pakistan War - He took off leading four aircraft on the morning of Dec. 4th, 1971, made two runs over "the large oil tanks". People of Karachi awoke amidst a raging fire and thick black columns of smoke.

On return he was quickly refuelled to assist Sherwin Tulley in the battle of Longewala. It was an awesome sight with several Pakistan Patton tanks on fire and some still smouldering.

The Battle was the turning point in the war.

The growth of ARAIA is in large measures due to the sacrifices of several families in ARAIA. **"Proud Anglo-Indians"** who are working to achieve our objective.

Honouring our philanthropist & our dedicated workers.

For dedicated services and the stability of ARAIA the following were honoured



as Patrons, Noel French, Hector Soans and Marina Soans as an Hon. Life Member.

The **"Build a Brick Scheme"** was not meant to substantially build the resources. It was introduced to spread the word that we are building a place of our own. It is heartening and gives us great satisfaction that many donors in the "brick scheme" are the next generation in the sporting arena. Thirty percent of these donations are from this sector.

If One percent Anglo-Indians in NSW donates \$1000 or Ten percent \$100 the project could begin taking shape.

ARAIA Facebook page is explosive. Our events, programs, and messages published on our Facebook page, under Wendy Bailey's watch, has had nearly 18,000 hits this month.

Purchase of Property. Another step forward is a resolution from the Trustees to invest the Trust amount in a property instead of the low interest from banks.

The Chairman in closing reminded the Community of our best years.

This fighting spirit led to the formation of ARAIA with specific objectives in the constitution to build a place for the Community in New South Wales, Australia.

Remember the definition of Anglo-Indian over the 250 years of HEIC rule. It applied to anyone employed by the HEIC.

In Australia and the world over, we have Anglo-Indians proud of their blood lines as descendants of soldiers and followers of Johnny's company,

Lisa Wilkinson in Sydney, reputed and loved commentator on the Australian TV channels was proud of her great grandfather an HEIC soldier born in Madras. She feels she has inherited his attitudes to achieve.



Basil Sellers in Sydney, from sports-mad Railway Colonies in India, has every honour the Queen and Country can bestow upon him. Ranked in the worlds BRW 200 rich list in the eighties, is a philanthropist in the arts and sports world.



Gough Whitlam in 1972, after the Australian Labour Party had suffered nine successive defeats, led them to victory. His words till now echo through our country.

It was 1975 and a sombre day for Gough Whitlam who had just been dismissed as Prime Minister. His dismissal speech resonates in the ears of every Australian. "Well may we say God Save



the Queen, because nothing will save the Governor-General."

Gough Whitlam, often stated with pride about his great grandparents Henry George Whitlam in 1847 a HEIC soldier served in the Bombay area and in the Punjab campaign lived in India with his wife Adelaide (née Patterson).

Caroline Chisolm married Captain Chisolm of the HEIC Madras Army. Known mostly for her support of immigrants, female and family welfare in Australia. To honour her a number of buildings, roads are named after her and is featured on postage stamps and twenty-dollar bank notes.



I am, he said, a descendant of a HEIC soldier from the 18th Century who led the troops in the storming of Tipu Sultans' fortress, the Moghul Emperor, killed in that battle in the town of Seringapatam.

Genealogist **Neville Thomas** wedded to a descendant living in New Zealand has identified over 600 descendants, all over the world – eight generations. This is only the tip of the iceberg Did he hear someone say the community is vanishing – will be forgotten?

Many Anglo-Indians renowned around the world, with Britain's white policy, have hidden or unaware of their identity. However, changing times, changing years, they talk now about their youth or ancestors in India. Cliff Richards, George Dorsey, Sir Richard Branson, to name a few.

Australia is a place for us, a country of similar culture. A place we love.

In closing, Max appealed to get your donations into the Trust Funds, propagate that we are building.

"We have great challenges and great opportunities, and with your help, we will meet them and make this next year the best year in our history!"

God bless the Anglo-Indian community. God Bless ARAIA.

Members arriving



Meeting in Session



Special Thank You to Donors of the Evening:

Joe & Coral Dillon \$ 100; Mark Young \$ 100; Marina Soans \$50;

Max French \$100 and other smaller donors.

Grateful for the presence of Members and the vibrancy of the meeting.

Changes to Annual Subscriptions

Annual Subscription

With effect from
1st January 2021.

Annual Subscriptions.

\$20 per family

\$10 per individual

\$250 Life Membership

**Life member now for Only AUD
\$100 instead of the usual
\$250!!!**

**This offer is on until the 31st
December only.**

Pay into

Account Name: ARAIA

BSB: 611000

Account No: 900077602

Please put your name and
'life' as reference. We will
send back a 'Life
Membership' Card.

***"Alone we achieve
little***

***together we can
make a difference "***