

Australian Residents Anglo-Indian Association Inc.



News Letter July 2023

ARAIA

ABN 39 071 862 336

PATRONS: *Hector Soans OAM*
Noel French

Honorary Life Member:
Marina Soans

Newsletter - August 2023 Volume 52

Dear Members,

ARAIA belongs to the whole Anglo-Indian community, not to any individual or family. Anglo-Indians have a certain inherent community sense which in the final analysis will ensure continuing cohesion and identity, and as observed by Bishop Heber, **a surly community pride.**

ARAIA will continue to pursue the Vision of the Founders and build a strong community. Hector Soans, the President at the First Conference at the Masonic Club, Parramatta 19th July 1997, laid out our future, quote.



“ARAIA has envisaged acquiring suitable land/ building to stabilize our operations, offering our community a Club Hall for Socials, Dances, Meetings & other Functions, akin to our Railway Institute Halls in India, and a second project to Build/acquire a Home for the Aged”.—Unquote.

LOST GENERATION. The future is in our hands. Our functions aim to restore a generation we have left behind. This is our priority as we speed up our building program for a permanent place to have our estate and businesses. ARAIA moves in this direction and pleads with the community for support to assist in building the future

Fortify our Future and Heritage.

We are the Roots of the British Empire, the largest Empire ever in the world.

Do not give up on who you are. Help build ARAIA resources.

Send these Newsletters to Anglo-Indians on your database.

“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

COLLEEN MARGARET SHUNKER



22/12/1937 to 22/4/2023

From the Railway Colony at Gooty, She studied in beautiful, picturesque St. Georges Homes, Ketti, in a valley on the western Ghats. She rose to be the Head Girl.

Summing up a Quote from Rebecca Wright, Secretary, HMSI Sydney. “Colleen was an active committee member of the Home Missionary Society of India (HMSI) Sydney for many years.

She was involved in raising funds for the Anglo-Indian girls of Mountain Home School, Coonor.

Colleen will never be forgotten.

PAM PETERS,



12/02/1936 to 18/06/1923

Quote: Secretary/Sydney Aux: Rebecca Wright. email to beckyw007@hotmail.com

” HMSI regrets the loss of HMSI member. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family. .

The only truly dead are the ones who have been forgotten. **Pam will always be remembered for her work for the needy children of the community in Mountain Home School.**

A unique fundraising stalwart, living in the Peakhurst Suburb.

Sydney Auxiliary maintains many children in Mountain Home

Wing Commander

NOEL JOESPH SOANS



09/12/1931 TO 01/07/2023

ARAIA extends their deep sympathy to the family.

Wing Commander Noel Soans served 23 years in the Indian Airforce and was a member of ARAIA.

He regularly attended the functions of ARAIA, quiet and conservative, blessed with a harmonious voice, he loved music and dancing. He was always pleasant, cheerful, and fun to be in his company.

He will be greatly missed.

Sports Committee

Dominic Carr, Vernon Bocarro, Sonia Bocarro, Candida Carr, Blayne Rodrick's and others.

A NEW GENERATION EMERGES

The Easter Club Nite 2023.

Spear headed by **Dominic Carr**, of the sports committee as Host was an event best remembered by the large number of young people in attendance.

Members were thrilled with the Music provided by ARAIA's own band "**Silva Stars**" where vocals of **Lisa Jacob** brimmed with confidence and her movements energised the crowd.

The climax of the night was the exhibition of Alfred Vaz as Elvis



Presley. Dressed in glittering costume, perfected by his wife Helen. Astounding to visualise and hear the sounds and antics of Elvis.

A CALL OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS

Join our Team of volunteers that play a vital role in supporting the Anglo-Indian community.

Throughout the year we have need for additional hands for festivities and events which can be provided by a helping hand.

Meeting our elderly and everything in between. If you maybe interested please reach out to the membership secretary. Members get added to our volunteer group by simply supplying your contact details

ALL ARE WELCOME.

TRUST BOARD

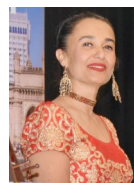
The theme of Premier Function on Saturday the 5th of August had a catchy theme.

"GYPSIES AND THIEVES"



Gifted "**Glynnis Soans**", loves her community and in large measure helped develop the funds. Single-handedly running this premium function yearly with class and style.

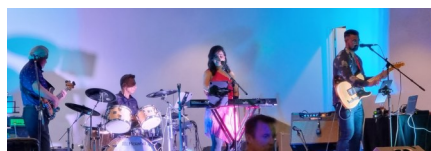
The largest donation that ARAIA has ever received in its 25 years. An endearing thank you to "**Melissa Monterio**".



Donor "**Graham Turnbull**" and his family arrived in Australia from the middle east, Graham served in Australian Banks before branching out and forming his own company.



The hall was filled by the person known as the "Pied Piper" of Sydney namely "**Sylvie Jacob**" and the following of ARAIA band "**The**



Silva Stars" - 6 band members and also guest artist "**Terry Morris**".



No function is complete without the donations by "**Elaine Roach**", the gifts for all the competitions.

ARAIA's donors led by "**Hector Soans**".

Special Thank you to all.

ARAIA introduced the "Buy a Brick Scheme" to escalate the fund. Statistics show most donors are the younger members that helped us cross the six-figure mark.

All we need in NSW is one percent of Anglo-Indians to donate \$1000.

Deposit in ARAIA Trust Fund.
Glynnis email: gsoans1@gmail.com

FUTURE EVENTS

1. **NEW YEARS EVE.** The flyer will be out shortly.

A GENERATION LOST

ARAIA's concentration is to restore the lost generations.

FREE TICKETS. For all Children up to High School and University.

Seniors \$20

Adult \$25

Profits, if any, generated to subsidise the attendance of ARAIA members of the younger generation at the World Reunion.

2. THE WORLD REUNION

The World Reunion of Anglo-Indians is to be in Canberra in March 2024

Start Date: Sunday 10th March 2024

End Date: Sunday 16th March 2024

Set these dates on your calendars.

Details have been passed on to you.

Please inform the ARAIA Membership Secretary of the events you have booked so that members & Sydney patrons are kept together.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. Meet old friends', make new ones and converge as one big Happy Family!

3. EASTER CLUB NITE

Our regular annual feature will be held on Sunday Easter night.

More details will be supplied by the sports committee.

4. Roots of the Community.

The source of the material for the period of the 18th century is from Anglo Indian authors, namely Alfred Stark, Frank Anthony, William Dalrymple

The founder and galvanising force of the British Empire at this stage was Robert Clive.

ANGLO-INDIANS

The **Blood Lines.** 'Roots' of a Unique Community.

Know your Roots. Eighteenth Century. 1700 – 1800 Part 2

Robert Clive -At just 17, Clive joined the HEIC as a humble "writer" or clerk in December 1742. It was here in India that he would fulfill his ambiguous destiny. Just two years later, the French took over Madras, and Clive found himself a prisoner. Clive and three colleagues escaped by disguising themselves as Indians.

Clive enlisted in the company's army. William Dalrymple states, "It was at this point, under the tutelage of **Major Stringer Lawrence**, that they started training up their own Indian sepoy—at first, Telugu



speakers—drilling them to fight in infantry formations with field artillery. Lawrence A. Bluff, portly John Bull, known as "the Old Cock," was the founder of the Sepoy armies. His military experience against the French and English goes back to the Scottish Jacobite rebellion. On a pedestal in Westminster Abbey is a panel containing a relief-sculpted perspective of a city and an encampment, inscribed "**Trichinopoly**," which town Lawrence defended. In



memory of Major General Stringer Lawrence, a testimony of their gratitude for his eminent services under the command of their forces

Clive earned the praise from Major Stringer Lawrence: "This young man's early genius surprised and engaged my attention." "He behaved with courage and judgment, much beyond what could be expected from his years." Clive's greatest exploit was when he and Stringer Lawrence,

in 1752, beat off a threatened attack on Madras by the French. They went on the offensive and managed to win around the Carnatic, securing Arcot and Trichinopoly and their tame Nawab, Muhammad Ali.

Vital Bulwark **Welcomed as equals.**

Frank Anthony says that by about 1750 the number of Anglo-Indians exceeded the number of Britons in India. This increase was welcomed by the company as it gave them the man-power to draw upon.

Bound to the British by ties of blood, language, dress and habits the Anglo-Indians formed the vital bulwark of the power of the HEIC.

In the words of Herbert Stark - The brunt of the fighting fell upon the Anglo-Indians. All Anglo-Indians who were physical fit were enlisted in the companies forces in every branch. In times of emergency they were always called up or volunteered for active service and gallantly fought under Clive at Arcot, Sriramgaon, Trichinopoly and at Wandiwash under Eyre Coote.

The French began to run out of money and failed to pay their Indian troops. On June 13, 1752, the French commander surrendered outside the magnificent temple of Srirangan. Seven hundred and eighty-five French soldiers and 2000 French sepoy were made prisoners of war. This was a crushing blow to **French Governor Duplex's ambitions.** Soon afterward, he was sacked, arrested, and sent back to France in disgrace.

Clive, in contrast, returned to Madras as a hero and was appointed by the company as a quartermaster, a post that earned him a huge sum of 40,000 pounds in commission over a very short period." Madras State was secured. Clive married in St. Mary's Fort St. George in 1753 and left for England.

With no wish to return to India, paid his family's debts, entered politics, but his political career was wrecked.

Frank Anthony says while the HEIC is growing, its territories expanding and its wars being fought, the Anglo-Indians were treated as equals. The covenanted and commissioned ranks of service was opened to them and also the combatant ranks of the army. They suffered no disabilities, either social or economic. If their fathers could afford it they were sent to England for their studies and also entered the covenanted ranks of the civil service or HEIC army.

Anglo-Indians fought their way by capacity, work and character to the highest civil and military positions in the country. Anglo-Indians were treated by population not only with respect but even with difference.

However, **Clive returns to India in 1755** as a Lieutenant Colonel in the East India Company (HEIC), and faces a troublesome period. It was up in Bengal where a crisis was about to explode. A new ruler of Bengal, Nawab Siraj ud-Daulah (b. 1733), took exception to the HEIC presence and marched on Calcutta in June 1756 and the city fell.

Obviously the HEIC had to respond, further fuelled by an infamous incident which lived long in the British psyche and history books. The terrors of the "**Black Hole of Calcutta**". According to one survivor, he and other soldiers who had defended Calcutta were imprisoned in a single cell with two small windows. Suffering extreme heat and dehydration, only 23 men of the original 146 survived the Black Hole. Understand that the cell contained a large number of Anglo-Indians, William Dalrymple's relative among them.

A short siege by British Naval vessels sent on fake information, to prevent large French military ships reaching India, helped to retake city.

BATTLE OF PLASSEY

William Dalrymple says, Mir Jaffar is the demon, a traitor. He and Clive working for the same Financier Jagath Seth, They and many Indians

Continued Blood Lines of the community.

especially the ruling and middle class hated Siraj ud-Daulah, a cruel ruler.

He continues to say that, in the end, the company's edge was because its shares were like a world reserve currency. Financiers understood the importance of commercial contracts, which could be enforced in court. They knew the importance of repaying loans with interest. And for this reason, there was a great deal of collaboration, and the company was first tempted into Indian politics by the Jagat Seths, the bankers of Murshidabad, who were incredibly powerful and also the richest bankers in India. Thereafter, other Hindu bankers, from Banaras and Patna, competed to lend money.

HEIC INDIAN ARMY - Borrowed money from Indian financiers to pay over 200,000 Indian troops to conquer India, The army larger than any European army, twice the size of Britons army.

Had the Indian financial community not collaborated with the HEIC, had it cut off funds, history would not have rolled out as it was.

Siraj ud-Daulah, who still had a massive army, supported by the French in control of Chandernagore just up the coast. The battle of Plassey was won before it started. Mir Jaffna was bribed by Indian Financiers. The Guns roared, and Mir Jaffna walked away with his over 30,000 soldiers, among the nearly 50,000 soldiers lined up against Clive's army, consisting of 3,100 soldiers. This was enough for the rest of the army, afraid of Clive, to be on the run. Bengal fell into the hands of HEIC. Mir Jaffna was their puppet. .

BATTLE OF BUXAR - On October 22, 1764, the Battle was fought between the forces of the Mughal Empire, Bengal, Awadh, and the HEIC. It was a turning point in Indian history, as it marked the beginning of HEIC rule in India. The Mughals were decisively defeated. Clive delayed giving the information to Briton and ordered his stock brokers to sell whatever he

had and buy the company shares. This increased his assets, which we would condemn today as insider trading.

India had 40 percent of the world's GDP. The largest lucrative trading centre in Bengal has over a million textile workers trading in silk, fine cotton, embroidery, diamonds, gems, and jewellery. This was in demand in European markets.

Clive asked King Charles for Briton to take over India. His reply was that Briton was largely occupied by fighting wars on the European continent and wanted no part in the sub-continent.

Frank Anthony says, "Thomas Pitt, born in 1653, while still young, went to India as a free trader dealing in diamonds and jewels. Later on, he returned as governor of Fort St. George. His period was regarded as the golden age of Madras. Pitt did a great deal to improve Madras and also strengthen fortifications.

He married an Anglo-Indian, Jane Innes, in Calcutta. Their grandson was Britain's greatest statesman.

Clive approached his grandson, William Pitt, then Prime Minister, to take over India. He stated that it would be difficult to deal with him if Charles saw the wealth.

Clive was promoted to Governor of Bengal, where he introduced reforms reducing corruption and salaries and was known as the Baron of Plassey. He returned to England in 1767, the richest self-made man in Europe.

The final instalment of the 1700s contains in the next newsletter:

1. India racked by famine due to Monsson's failure, millions died.
2. HEIC-affected Bank of England rescues.
3. Briton's interference in the companies policies.
4. Betrayal of the Anglo-Indians .

ROBERT CLIVE

Founder, British Empire.

Laid the foundations for HEIC rule.

Robert Clive born into a modest gentry family, on 29 Sept;1725. An upstart, not a good student, naughty school-boy, brought up by an uncle as his parents were ashamed of him. He rose from



an Ensign to Lt. Colonel - there after the Governor of Madras and later Governor of Bengal.

He was kind, he gained the loyalty of the Indian soldiers by sharing their living quarters, exposed himself to enemy gun fire to inspire his soldiers, his improvised tactics, instinctive military genius by employing the Indian method of bribery of enemy commanders.

He accepted over 2 million pounds from Indian financiers for the defeat of the enemy in the battle of Plassey. Clive helps himself to the treasury and fills 40 barges to Calcutta with loads of treasures

In politics, was elected a Member of British parliament in 1754, 1761 & 1768. Accused of corruption in 1773, tried and found not guilty

Later hauled before parliament, the richest self made man in Europe, for his actions, he said, "My Lords I was astonished at my own moderation". MP's cheered.

He felt that he had accomplished something, and there was nothing more left. Robert Clive passed away in 1774, committing suicide by cutting his throat with a knife.

It was years later, England realised that he was the founder of the Empire and erected a statue of Clive in London in memory of him.

