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collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com



Group: Collins Connect

COLLINS CONNECT WEBSITE

Check out our new website at www.collins-connect.com

Same website address with a new modern look and feel.

YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

 collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Collins Connect acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which we live and pays its respect to the Elders past and present.

COLLINS CONNECT is hibernating....after the success of the last event (Music and Bingo), the team decided to give events a bit of a break. A number of team members are travelling and unable to assist organise another event. However, stay tuned for some events coming up mid year.

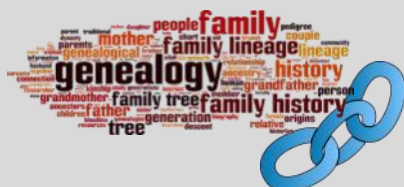


YOUR PRAYERS are needed for OWEN D'SOUZA who is currently unwell. Owen is the son of (Annie) Mabel Antoinette Fernandez and Emmanuel Stephen D'Souza. Our thoughts and prayers are with all Owen's family members too.

Christine (Chicky) Collins daughter of Henry and Dorothy (Dots) Collins (Victor Collins tree) celebrated her 70th birthday on 6 April 2024. Chicky, who is rather shy, resisted the family's intentions to have a big celebration. The family however surprised her with an intimate family gathering cooking her favourite dishes and most importantly bringing her much loved sweet treats and birthday cakes.



HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY CHICKY



The 12th World Anglo Indian Reunion was held in Canberra, Australia from the 10th March 2024 to 16th March 2024. Representing Collins Connect were members Alan D'Cruz, Sabrina Collins as attendees and Barry Collins as musician of the band 'Phoenix'.

Alan and Sabrina attended the School Reunion and Jam Session on Thursday, 14th March, meeting many past students from various Anglo Indian schools. Listening to speakers only reinforced the education they received which enabled them to become academic professionals with highly skilled careers. Many attendees also sought the same education for their children in the years following.



No reunion is possible without music and dancing. Friday, 15th March 2024, the concert included lots of dancing with many talented Anglo Indian musicians from across Australia including Melbourne and Sydney.



The Grand Ball held at The Hotel Realm saw about 280 people attending the finale. Dancing to Melbourne's famous band Phoenix (all Anglo Indians) and Moonshine Drive from Sydney, they kept the show rocking.



The takeaway message from the Reunion, was to promote the traditions, values and Anglo Indian culture to the younger generations, encouraging them to join into the Anglo Indian associations or community groups with the notion of not only what they would get but rather what they can give to the association and community groups. Keeping the Anglo Indian community and essence, the lifestyle and traditions alive for the generations to follow.

A LIFE FULL OF GRATITUDE

May my life be full of gratitude
May it be shown in my attitude
By the way that I act
And with any and all contacts.



Let my appreciation show
Expressing it quickly not to slow
For those who have helped me along
Even when I was stubborn and wrong.

May the kindness that was shown to me
Be kindness that I return so easy
May I always lend a hand
To a child, woman or man.

You see a life of gratitude is one
That makes you appreciate all that is done
You count your blessings every day
From the time you are young until you are gray.





Australian test cricketer Rex Sellers, pictured practising his leg-spin bowling.

Reginald Hugh Durning Sellers, an Anglo-Indian Australian

Reginald was born in 1940 in Bombay, now Mumbai, to Irene Ethel and William Alfred Durning Sellers. Alf was an officer engineer on the Indian Railways and Irene the dutiful housewife. "Rex" and his older brother Basil were raised in the idyllic surrounds of Bulsar, Gujarat, a small Anglo-Indian railway colony 200 kilometres north of Mumbai.

In 1948, on board the RMS Strathaird, Sellers' mother Irene decided to take the two boys Basil and Reginald to the warmest city in Australia, Adelaide in South Australia arriving on the 21st February 1948.

In 1949 Alf Sellers resigned from his job, ending four generations of Sellers service to the Indian Railways. Alf recalled a friend farewelling him in Bombay and asking when he'd return. *"I don't know but first you will see my two sons playing cricket for Australia in India,"* was his reply.

On arrival in Adelaide, Rex found refuge in cricket and his technique and temperament stood out. At the age of eight Sellers played in his Under-13s school team and he went on to captain the senior school XI eventually playing for South Australia. In his first three seasons playing for the state, Sellers played 23 matches and took 39 wickets at an average of 47 runs per wicket

In the 1963-1964 season, South Australia won and Sellers took 8-149 in the match, announcing his new bowling style to Australian cricket. **"Sahib is Back,"** read the headline in the Australian Sport and Surfing Journal.

Sellers duly went on a wicket-taking spree and was soon described as the heir apparent to Australian leg spin guru Richie Benaud. Rex had his career cut short by injury and at age 27 he retired for good, after the 1966-1967 season with a record of 121 wickets at 38.45 in 53 games.

Sellers was awarded a life membership of the South Australian Cricket Association, having served as vice president for 13 years and won the Order of Australia Medal in 2013 for his services to the game.

Before retiring at 74, he oversaw the planning and strategy for the redevelopment of the Adelaide Oval in time to host the highly anticipated clash between India and Pakistan at the 2015 ICC World Cup. For Sellers this was a proud moment and "a perfect time to retire".

Lets not forget about his brother **Basil Sellers**. Basil completed year 12 but became disillusioned with further academic studies. He continued his promising career in cricket with the Kensington Club. At 188cm tall, he became a basketball player and he went on to represent South Australia in basketball.

Basil became an astute businessman and entrepreneur. In early December 2023 Basil was awarded SCG Life Membership status for philanthropy. Basil is 1 of only 45 people with this honour. Basil's philanthropy extends to his birthplace, India. He funded the purchase of a property in Chennai for the education of young girls from the slums. Basil is a Patron of the Learning for a Better World (LBW) Trust which provides education to disadvantaged students in low income cricket playing nations, and is also a Patron of the Chappell Foundation which seeks to help young homeless people in Australia.



Save the DATE



Anyone celebrating a special birthday, anniversary or special occasions, and would like a special mention, please feel free to drop us a line at collinsconnect.2018@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

COLLINS CONNECT MISSION

To delve further into the Collins family tree exploring the many branches to discover our ancestral origins. Introducing the younger generation to the ancestral tree, reuniting annually to socialise, share memories and acknowledge the past, present and emerging generations.

As a family group, we welcome all families to be involved whether its ideas, suggestions and most of all participation. Why not reach out to a team member or drop us a line?

EDITOR—Karen Collins

CO-EDITOR—Corrine Collins

Want to help?

If you would like to contribute to the Collins Connect newsletters, we encourage you to get in contact with any team member.