

THE ROUGAILLE CONNEXION

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ELECTIONS GALORE IN AUSTRALIA



Ricardo Balancy

Election fever has hit Australia. On 27 November 2010, Victorians will be casting their votes for the Victorian Parliament. Similarly, Federal elections will be held on 21 August 2010 for the House of Representatives and the Senate. Mauritian born Ricardo Balancy is contesting the Federal seat of Holt in the Melbourne electorate. This is likely to be a first for a Mauritian born Aussie to be chosen by a mainstream political party for contesting a federal parliamentary seat. Well done Ricardo.

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Special points of interest:

- Air Mauritius voted best airline
- Ricardo Balancy contesting federal seat of Holt
- Subscribe to Rougaille
- Budding young Mauritian Masterchefs

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What's the best way to keep up with the latest news and events within the Mauritian Community in Australia and in Mauritius ?

Subscribe to the **Mauritius Australia Connection—Rougaille mailing list** at www.cjp.net . Click on the link and register your email address to start receiving the latest news, events and other information about the Mauritian Community in Australia. Mauritius Australia Connection mailing lists will give you access to in excess of 3000 subscribers. The lists are of course moderated to filter out spam and other unsuitable postings. You can also unsubscribe at any time. Do join us now at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rougaille/join>

Mauritian Community Milestone by Clancy Philippe

Most of the Mauritian Community in Melbourne would know by now that Ricardo Balancy is the Liberal Party candidate for the seat of Holt in the Melbourne electorate, contesting the Australian federal elections to be held on 21 August 2010.

If I am not mistaken, he would be the first Mauritian born candidate to be chosen by one mainstream political party in Australia to contest a federal seat for the Australian National Parliament. This is a proud achievement for the Mauritian Community in Australia. Mauritian expatriates in their countries of adoption are proud ambassadors of Mauritius. Many have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and pursuits. Ricardo, you are one of those privileged Mauritians and you have now set a precedent for future budding politicians within the Mauritian Community in Australia. Whilst I am now advocating for any political persuasions, Ricardo deserves our undivided support and we all wish him the very best in his endeavour.



Clancy Philippe is the Editor of the "Rougaille" Mauritius Australia Connection Newsletter and webmaster of the Mauritius Australia Connection website <http://www.cjp.net>

The views expressed in this newsletter and its contents are issued in good faith. We would appreciate your feedback and suggestions for future contents. Contributions from readers for inclusion in future editions are invited. However, we cannot guarantee that all or any submissions will be published.

Searching our roots - Mauritian Genealogy

During the recent presentation of the Mauritian migration DVD documentary "Venus d'Ailleurs ... From so Far" by Alain Gordon-Gentil in Melbourne, great interest was shown by many attendees on retracing their ancestors.

"Where to begin ?" was the main question asked.

Interested parties are invited to join the "Cercle de Généalogie Maurice - Rodrigues" from where they can begin the search. This newsgroup has been created by amateur genealogists passionate about the genealogy of families, mainly from Mauritius and its dependencies, but also other islands of the Indian Ocean, towns, villages in the country of settlement.

The Cercle aims to:

- 1 - establish a free genuine genealogical service based on mutual help and volunteering.
- 2 - promote exchanges between members,
- 3 - promote the Mauritian and Rodrigues family genealogy.

This group is open to all amateur genealogists who have family ties, present or former, in Mauritius and Rodrigues, and all those who are likely to help trace the genealogy and family history of the island.

You may join by accessing their website at <http://fr.groups.yahoo.com/group/lmaugen/>

The website of Henri Maurel <http://henri.maurel.pagesperso-orange.fr/plan.htm> also contains very valuable information on Mauritian genealogy.

Mauritians & Rodriguans in Australia are also invited to join the Gen_AusMau · Mauritius Australia mailing list at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Gen_AusMau/



Madeleine Philippe Cancer Foundation (Aus) Inc
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Air Mauritius wins Indian Ocean's Leading Airline Award



Air Mauritius has won again the 17th World Travel Awards (WTA) in the category Indian Ocean's Leading Airline. The airlines which were nominated in this category are Air France, South African Airways, Air Seychelles, Air Austral and Air Madagascar. The award was presented to Donald Payen, Executive Vice President Commercial and Communications, of Air Mauritius by David de Montfalcon, Vice President of the World Travel Awards at the Gala Ceremony held on Wednesday 7th July 2010 at the Sandton Convention Centre, located in 'The City of Gold', Johannesburg, South Africa. It is gratifying that the ceremony, attended by 1200 senior industry leaders, has been held while the world's attention is focused on South Africa for the World Cup.



Donald Payen and Carla da Silva of Air Mauritius pictured with David de Montfalcon of World Travel Awards

World Travel Awards is the most prestigious, comprehensive and sought after awards programme in the global travel and tourism industry. To be voted a World Travel Award by a process involving 183,000 travel tourism and hospitality professionals across the globe is the highest accolade a company can receive.

Ms. Manon Han, Executive Vice President, World Travel Awards commented : "Air Mauritius is this year's winner of the Indian Ocean's Leading Airline award. Since the inception 17 years ago World Travel Awards objective has been to encourage world-class competition, stimulate innovation, and creativity, as well as ensure that travelers receive exceptional value. As a national carrier of an island that relies so crucially on tourism, Air Mauritius has posted positive operating results despite all the challenges facing the airline industry. Its continued dedication in tourism success is exemplary and we congratulate Air Mauritius on being named Indian Ocean's Leading Airline 2010."

Mr. Manoj R K Ujoodha, G.O.S.K., Air Mauritius CEO said : "Air Mauritius is proud to be once again acknowledged by the travel industry worldwide. Our team is greatly encouraged by the continued recognition of Air Mauritius as a leading airline brand in this part of the world. I would like to dedicate this award to all our shareholders, in particular the Government of Mauritius for their support to the national airline; to our customers and travel/tourism partners for their trust in our brand; to the Air Mauritius team for their hard work; and to all Mauritians as they remain loyal to the national airline."

Air Mauritius: www.airmauritius.com

Melbourne: Level 7, 246 Bourke Street, Vic 3000 03 9251 5047 Email: mkmelbourne@airmauritius.com

Sydney: Level 18, Suite 1805, Australia Square Tower, 246 George St., NSW 2000 Email: mksydney@airmauritius.com

Perth: Level 3, 178 St George Terrace, Perth, WA 6000 Email: mkperth@airmauritius.com



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History: Champ de Mars & the Mauritius Turf Club

Soon after the conquest of the island by the British in 1810, British Army Colonel, Edward Alured Draper, arrived in Mauritius which had been under French occupation for about one century. Edward Draper aimed at earning the esteem and cooperation of the French population, and it is, with this goal in mind, that he thought of organising horse racing in Mauritius. He believed that a cooperative spirit could be developed if both parties, which were traditionally rivals, were brought together in such an atmosphere of leisure. The initiative was backed by Sir Robert Farquhar, the Governor of the island and The Mauritius Turf Club was founded in 1812. On the 25th June of the same year, the Champ de Mars racecourse was inaugurated and, on that day, was held the first organised race meeting in the history of the island. Well situated at the end of a prestigious avenue in Port Louis, the capital city, which, in racing circles, is still called "La rue du Gouvernement", the Champ de Mars racecourse is ensconced in a natural depression at the foot of charming hills. Today, the M.T.C rightly prides itself as being the oldest horse-racing club in the Southern Hemisphere, and among the oldest in the world.



Colonel Edward Alured Draper

In line with the spirit that guided its foundation, the Mauritius Turf Club has greatly contributed to the social life of the country over the years. Its meetings are highly praised by the various social classes as it is an opportunity for everyone to get together in a relaxed ambiance. Moreover, special meetings are organised traditionally to commemorate marked events in the country. For example, such meetings were organised in 1927 for the visit to the island of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, while they were still Duke and Duchess of York, for the Bicentenary of the city of Port Louis and for the celebration of both victories in the two world wars. Other distinguished visitors, namely Mrs. Indhira Gandhi, Mr. Léopold Sedar Senghor, officially attended race meetings during their visit to Mauritius.

In the IXth century there were no permanent stands at the racecourse. Each year, temporary boxes were built and they were hired "on the spot" for the race meetings, except for the ones that were reserved for the Governor of the island, the Mayor of Port Louis and the Club's officials. Early in the XXth century the infrastructure of the Club started to develop.

In 1906, the Club bought a colonial house situated at the 26, Pope Hennessy Street, Port Louis and the Mauritius Turf Club Hotel was born. This elegant house served as the Club's headquarters for almost forty years. In 1909 there was another major development at the racecourse - permanent stands were built. Owing to a growing attendance, the stands were upgraded in 1927 for the visit of the Duke and Duchess of York and again in 1939 and 1954. In 1986 new stands were built on the hillside, in order to accommodate larger crowds.



Budding Mauritian Masterchefs

The success of Masterchef Australia has led to many young food lovers to start showing an interest in the preparation of good food and cooking in general.

We have here, Annabelle, Brandon and Joshua proudly displaying their interest in cooking. Being Madeleine Philippe's grandchildren, they have had the privilege to enjoy good foods and in particular, have developed a palate for Mauritian cuisine.

All three pride themselves in their ability to prepare some of their favourite Mauritian dishes, with grandma's guidance and encouragement.



From left to right: Madeleine, Annabelle, Brandon & Joshua

Visit Recipes from Mauritius web site at <http://www.cjp.net>

Recipes from Mauritius – Fish Vindaloo (Vindaye Poisson)

Fish Vindaloo

Ingredients:

1. 1 kg fish fillet (fresh)
2. 6 cloves garlic
3. 2 tablespoons freshly ground mustard seeds
4. 1 tablespoon turmeric powder
5. 3 medium onions coarsely sliced
6. green chillies (sliced lengthwise)-quantity to taste
7. Salt and pepper to taste
8. 2 tablespoons white vinegar
9. 1/2 cup vegetable oil



Method:

1. Cut fish fillets into serve sizes according to your own preferences. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Lightly dust with corn flour. Heat oil in deep frying pan in batches until golden brown. Drain and put aside.
2. Slice each garlic clove lengthwise into three to four slices. Slice the chillies lengthwise into two halves.
3. Heat the same oil in which you fried the fish to simmering point. Add the sliced onions, garlic slices and chillies. Fry until the onion slices become transparent. Add two tablespoons of the freshly ground mustard seeds, white vinegar and the turmeric powder. Mix well and add the fried fish pieces. Carefully blend in the fish with the spices. Reduce the heat to medium low and cook for a further one minute.
4. Remove carefully from the pan and place on a serving dish.
5. Allow to cool and serve with rice and black lentils or bouillon bredes. Can also be eaten with fresh bread.

Bouillon Brêdes

Ingredients:

1. Water Cress or Green Chinese Vegetables (Choy Sum)
2. 1 medium onion finely sliced
3. 1 teaspoon crushed garlic
4. 1 teaspoon crushed ginger
5. 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
6. 3 cups water or more as desired
7. salt and pepper to taste

Method:

1. Clean green vegetables (bredes) and cut into 7-10 cm (3-4 inches) pieces.
2. Heat oil in deep saucepan to simmering point. Add the sliced onions, crushed ginger and garlic. Cook until the onion slices become transparent.
3. Add three to four cups of water (quantity can vary according to taste). Bring to boil. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Put in the green vegetables (bredes) and cook for a few minutes only. The green vegetables must be just slightly cooked and still retain their bright green colour. Be careful not to over-cook.
5. Remove from pan and put in serving casserole dish. Eat hot with rice and fish vindaille, steak or as an accompaniment to carri poule and rice.
6. Enjoy.

MAURITIUS AUSTRALIA CONNECTION

Mauritius Australia Connection
PO Box 8605
Carrum Downs
Vic 3201
Australia

Phone: +61 3 8707 1946
E-mail: clancy@cj.net
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