



THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS - THROUGH MY EYES -JOAN MISPLON

There are many islands that form the Mascarene group in the Indian Ocean but one gem stands out and that is Mauritius which has been a haven for me since 1989. Not only for the friendliness of the people but also my interest in the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation ably assisted by the Durrell Wildlife Conservation in Jersey.

Mauritius was formed by a volcanic eruption 8 to 10 million years ago. The island has a surface area of 1860km/sq and rises to 828m at Piton de la Petite Riviere Noire, the highest mountain on the island. Following its formation there was no life on Mauritius. Over the millions of years that followed plants and animals reached the island from Madagascar, Africa, India and Asia by the wind or by the sea. These plants and animals became isolated from their relatives and slowly changed to become completely different from species found anywhere else in the world and is what drew me to becoming involved.

The island became independent in 1968. English is the official language but spoken only by a small percentage. Creole is the main language of the locals although French tends to be used in education and the media. Other languages you may hear are Hindi, Tamil, Marathi, Urdu and some varieties of Chinese. Education is free in primary and secondary school. It is also now the wealthiest country in the Africa grouping.

The first year I stayed on the island I became aware of such a diverse spectrum of people who seemed to mesh into one big family despite contrasting cultures and religions. This is what makes the island so special. I have over the years enjoyed many friendships with the local folk and been accepted into their homes for delightful tasty creole dishes and extraordinary fish cuisine – all delicious. Although there are many religious festivals the Divali festival is a glorious occasion with light and love shining the way with hundreds upon hundreds of candles and awesome firework displays with the very pretty young sega (dates back to the 18th century) dancers adding vivid splashes of colour as they perform on the beaches or around the hotel pools. Little parcels of sweet cookies or flowers are passed to each other's homes culminating in a very satisfied conclusion to the evening.

The town of Port Louis is now very modern with a vibrant busy atmosphere and is the economic hub of the island – impressive is the avenue bordered by giant palm trees and has a rather colonial feel about it. It is called the Place d'Armes and leads up to Government House. The waterfront shopping area is a must see and browse around with a strong leaning within the fashionable dress shops, to French haute couture. But one cannot miss the market with its awesome selection of silks, rows and rows of pashmina scarfs, selections of fruit, vegetables, and the aromas of the spices adding the final attraction – the flavours are so exotic.

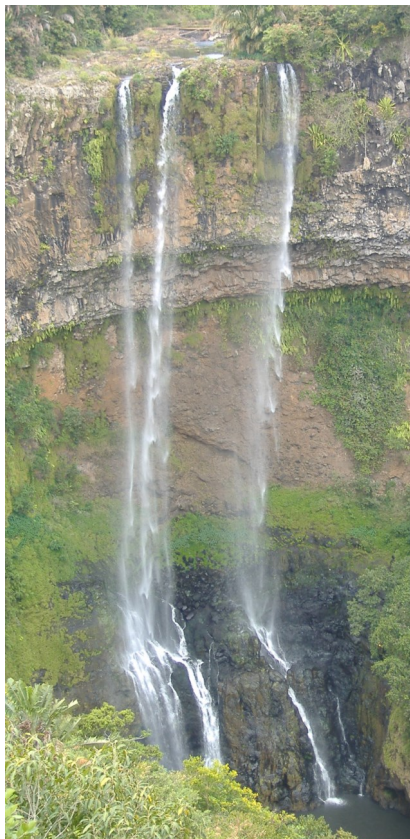
There are many extraordinary temples to visit - a person can get tempted out but one that impressed me was seeing the giant Lord Shiva at the Gand Bassin Hindu Temple at a height of 33 metres . Notre Dame Auxilia trice also known as The Red Church is a peaceful tranquil place to visit in Cap Malheureus (meaning “Unlucky Cape” – name given by the French in 1715) just North West of Grand Baie, the very popular village of that area. So many fascinating places to visit which includes – the volcanic seven coloured earths, tea and sugar factories, botanical gardens and the Black River Nature Reserve with its majestic trees and waterfalls. The many, many hotels snake around the fringes of the island welcoming people with their warmth and hospitality. Each one great hosts especially when it comes to entertaining the children. When I did my first trip in 1989 you travelled along a very narrow winding road to reach the North from the airport in the South in not very comfortable transport, now there are two main highways sweeping across the country making travel to and fro from the International airport much quicker and the taxis are modern, clean and in good condition. Also very easily available for trips into and around town.

One can take a trip on one of the many well equipped catamarans to islands nearby where the day involves barbecues on the beaches indulging in fresh lobster and prawns - the snorkelling and diving in these areas is truly exceptional. There was always a tot of rum waiting for you after spending many lengthy moments enjoying the underwater crystal clear vista of tropical fish and coral. The underwater beauty is exceptional in the areas less frequented by tourists which I have been fortunate to experience.

During these past years my trips have involved spending many amazing moments with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust on the two small islands just off the mainland, Ile Aux Aigrettes and Round Island and through sheer hard work and determination the decline of species to extinction has stopped and degraded ecosystems rebuilt. Mauritius is one of only a handful of countries where the state of globally threatened species, is overall, improving. When I talk about species it refers to small reptiles and birds of known origin to the island – to name a couple the beautiful pink pigeon, colourful parakeet , varieties of skinks, geckos of all sizes and colours, gentle boa snakes (until recently the rarest snake in the world), giant tortoise and many other. Sadly the Dodo was never to be brought back from extinction. “All small but Mighty.”

As you can see my journey and love of Mauritius over the years has been with the conservation and the people and as Gerald Durrell once said – let us do something BEFORE ANOTHER SONG ENDS.







Clubhouse

We are pleased to report things are starting to move ahead, even though plans have not yet received municipal approval:

Rescom and EPI/ELV management and the project teams will be meeting before the end of February, to progress final design and planning details.

ELV management have started making contingency plans for access to the office, and essential services while the building is out of bounds during the works.

Finance

Head Office and Unit insurance cost appeared in resident's levy charges in 2022 and 2023. There has been much debate about the appropriateness of these charges, with both ELV and Rescom holding differing views.

Rescom has now written to ELV, on behalf of residents, setting out our reasons for disagreeing with the ELV position.

Rescom hopes to meet with ELV management soon to finally resolve the issue and move on in the interests of all parties.

If you would like a copy of Rescom's Heads of arguments please email your request to me.

The gate at night

Here is a useful tip for anyone coming home late at night when the outer gates are locked.

Keep the Gate House number in your cell phone favourites - 021 137 2690

As you drive into Homestead Avenue, call the Gate and alert them to your imminent arrival.

Alan Baxter

Chair Bergvliet Rescom



1st Laubi Walters

2nd Vivienne Docherty

4th Roger Scheibe

10th Myrle Mawman

10th Buddy Mockford

11th Trevor Honeysett

11th Leslie Mortimer

15th Paddy Fordyce

23rd Colin Osbourne

27th Melanie de Smidt

30th Inez Gretton



Wishing

2nd - Penelope and Roger Prideaux

21st - Patricia and Martin Baylis

29th - Jenjen and Buddy Mockford

30th - Peta and Colin Noble

a Happy Anniversary

The Wine Buffs

by Mike Payne

...GOOSEBERRIES...
...ROSE PETALS...
...SMOKY OAK...
...VANILLA...

...OLD SOCKS...
...ROTTEN FISH...
...BLUE MOULDY CHEESE...
...ENGINE OIL...



Mike Payne

The Wine Buffs

by Mike Payne



Mike Payne

The Wine Buffs

by Mike Payne

NO ARTHUR!
WHEN I SAID I
FANCIED SOME
"BUBBLY"
I DIDN'T
MEAN F***!!
ALKA SELTZER!



Mike Payne

The Wine Buffs

by Mike Payne

I TOLD MY WIFE THAT
A HUSBAND IS LIKE A
FINE WINE...



NEXT DAY SHE LOCKED ME
IN THE CELLAR!

Mike Payne

I'M GETTING WOOLLY
BLANKET, TENNIS BALL
AND A HINT OF
MONGREL!



FRIDAY 3rd MARCH WILL SEE US HOLDING A BRING AND BRAAI
BRING ALONG YOUR OWN MEAT, DRINKS AND CHAIRS
THE COMMITTEE WILL SUPPLY SALADS, GARLIC BREAD AND MAGNUMS

Cost R80 pp - time 6pm

Please book at reception

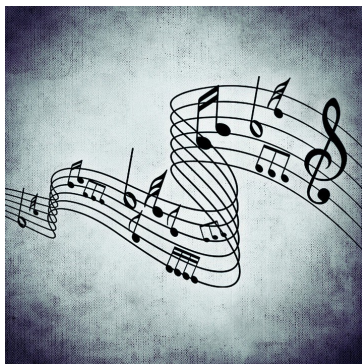


THE MONTHLY MUSIC EVENING WILL BE HELD ON
MARCH 14TH AT 7PM

THE PROGRAMME IS AS FOLLOWS:

The much loved Mozart Clarinet Concerto
followed by Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Please book at reception by 7th March



A BINGO EVENING IS TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 10TH MARCH AT 6PM

A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE SERVED - R80 pp

BOOK AT RECEPTION BY FRIDAY 3RD MARCH



WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR MONTHLY CANASTA EVENING

ON SATURDAY 18TH MARCH AT 7PM

BOOK AT RECEPTION BY NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 10TH MARCH

FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN LIQUID REFRESHMENTS



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

A QUIZ EVENING WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY 23RD MARCH AT 6PM

A LIGHT MEAL WILL BE SERVED - R70pp

BOOK AT RECEPTION BY THE 16TH MARCH

FEEL FREE TO PROVIDE YOUR OWN

LIQUID REFRESHMENTS

MOSTERT'S MILL

Mostert's Mill (Afrikaans: Mostert se Meul) is a historic windmill in Mowbray, Cape Town, South Africa. It was built in 1796 and was the oldest surviving complete windmill in South Africa. It was gutted in a wildfire on 18 April 2021. The mill was built in 1796 by Gysbert van Reenen who inherited the farm on which it stood from his father in 1794. Van Reenen was 33 when he built the mill and he sold the farm to his son-in-law, Sybrand Jacobus Mostert, in 1823. The private mill was built on a farm called "Welgelegen" about 1796, the year after the Battle of Muizenberg when the British took control of the Cape. The Mill was built according to new standards that would help it to survive the strong winds for which the Mother City is notorious. It is, no doubt, this quality that has helped in the windmill's survival over the centuries, and it stands tall as a testimony to the constructive history of South Africa.

In 1657 Jan van Riebeeck granted land at "'t ronde doorn bosje", now Rondebosch, on the mountain side of the old wagon road to the forest, to more free burghers under the leadership of Steven Janz Bothma. Right at the top of one of these farms, Welgelegen, adjoining the modern De Waal Drive, stands Mostert's Mill. In the early days of the settlement Jan van Riebeeck and his officials had to provide all necessary services - including the grinding of wheat. For this reason a so called horse-mill was built. When the free burghers were established, one of them, became "free miller and brickmaker" and was permitted to operate the Company's horse-mill under certain conditions. As there were no horses, the mill was worked by oxen, but in 1659 the Khoe-khoen tribes stole all the oxen and the miller was assisted by the government to build a windmill.

The farm Welgelegen on which Mostert's Mill is situated, originally belonged to Steven Botma. After that it changed hands frequently and during the regime of Willem Adriaan van der Stel it was for a time owned by one of the Governor's strongest opponents, Jacobus van der Heyden. In 1756 it became the property of Jacob van Reenen whose energetic son Dirk Gysbert inherited the farm towards the end of the century. Because of the date 1796 that appears on one of the beams, it is generally assumed that Dirk Gysbert van Reenen built this mill. His daughter married a Mostert, a great grandson of the Cape's first miller who eventually became the owner of the mill, and this is how it came to be called Mostert's Mill.

The mill is of a type known in the Netherlands as a "boven-kruier" (over-shot) wheat mill. It was restored in 1936 by the South African Government with the collaboration of the government of the Netherlands who donated the sails. The mill and the adjoining threshing-floor have been proclaimed as a monument.

It was proclaimed a National Monument in 1940, now a Provincial Heritage Site .



Cape Town Cycle Tour

It is now one of the world's leading cycle events, but when Bill Mylrea, John Stegmann and Louis de Waal first proposed the Argus Tour, it was meant to be a protest ride to 'encourage' the city council to think about bicycles as part of its urban planning, and look after cyclists on the (by 1978 standards) busy roads. As such, the event failed spectacularly for decades, but what a wonderful deviation from those goals it has become as the biggest timed bike race in the world.

The irony is that cycling has become so big in South Africa, thanks to the Cape Town Cycle Tour, that those dreamy objectives are now being realised across the city in the form of bike lanes, and cycle safety projects within and beyond the city limits.

The 45th Cape Town Cycle Tour will be held on Sunday, 12 March 2023.

Primarily, the Cycle Tour provides a glorious day out for tens of thousands of cyclists, no matter the weather. For just one day of the year, human power rules the roads of the fairest cape in the whole circumference of the earth (*Sir Francis Drake, 1579*).

It's not all about riding legally on freeways, though; in the months following the Cycle Tour, millions of rand are plowed back into the communities the 109km route crosses through the ongoing work of the event principals, the Pedal Power Association and the Rotary Club of Claremont.



<https://www.capetowncycletour.com/lifecycle-week/ctct/>

LADLE RAT ROTTEN HUT

Wants pawn term, dare worsted ladle gull hoe lift wetter murder inner ladle cordage, honour itch offer lodge, dock florist. Disk ladle gull orphan worry putty ladle rat cluck wetter rat hut, an fur disk raisin pimple colder Ladle Rat Rotten Hut.

Wan moaning, Ladle Rat Rotten Hut's murder colder inset. "Ladle Rat Rotten Hut, heresy ladle basking winsome burden barter an shirker cockles. Tick disk ladle basking tutor cordage offer groin-murder hoe lifts honour udder site offer florist. Shaker lake ! Dun stopper laundry wrote ! Dun stopper peck floors ! Dun daily doily inner florist, an yonder nor sorghum-stenches torque wet strainers !

"How-cake murder" resplendent Ladle Rat Rotten Hut, an tickle ladle basking an stuttered oft. Honour wrote tutor cordage offer groin-murder, Ladle Rat Rotten Hut mitten anomalous woof. "Wail, wail, wail !" set the wicket woof, "Evanescant Ladle Rat Rotten Hut ! Wares are putty ladle gull goring wizard ladle basking ?"

"Amour goring tumor groin-murder" reprisal ladle gull. "Grammers seeking bet. Amour ticking arson burden barter an shirker cockles."

"O hoe! Heifer gnats woke," setter wicket woof, butter taught tomb shelf, "Oil tickle shirt court tutor cordage offer groin-murder. Oil ketchup wetter letter, an den – O bore !"

Soda wicket woof tucker shirt court, an whinny retched a cordage offer groin-murder, picked inner winder an sore debter pore oil worming worse lion inner bet. Inner flesh dick abdominal woof lipped honour bet, paunched honour pore oil worming and garbled erupt. Den disk ratchet pot honour groin-murder's cup an gnat-gun any curdled ope inner bet.

Inner ladle wile Ladle Rat Rotten Hut a raft attar cordage an ranker dough ball. "Comb ink sweat hard," setter wicket woof disgracing is verse. Ladle Rat Rotten Hut entity bet rum and stud buyer groin-murder's bet.

"O Grammer !" crater ladle gull historically, "Water bag icer gut ! A nervous sausage bag ice !"

Battered lucky chew whiff, sweat hard, " setter bloat Thursday woof, witer wicket small honour phase.

"O Grammer, water bag mouser gut ! A nervous sore suture anomalous prognosis !"

"Batter two small your whiff doling," whiskered dole woff, ants mouse worse waddling.

"O Grammer, water bag mouse gut ! A nervous sore suture bag mouse!"

Daze worry on-forger-nut ladle gull's last warts. Oil offer sodden caking offer carvers and sprinkling otter bet, disk hoard-hoarded woof lipped own pore Ladle Rat Rotten Hut an garbled erupt.

Mural : Yonder nor sorghum stenches shut ladle gulls stopper torque wet strainers.

Contribution: Brian Dalton

Please email me (FW) f you can make sense of it and do not share this info with other villagers.

Next month will contain the solution.



Noula Maclean Photography

Reflections - St. James beach

Image credit: Noula Maclean/Facebook post

Thank you to all for your contributions. Please keep them coming to

davidwal@iafrica.com

Cut off date for the April edition is Monday 20th March.

FW