

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Friends of Vellore Victoria

held at 2 pm, Saturday 16 September 2017

Stafford Room, Queen's College, University of Melbourne.

1. Present

Professor David Runia (President); Rev. Colin Honey (Vice President); Heidi Winnen (Treasurer); Viviane Harangozo (Secretary); Dr Nancy Nicholas (Newsletter Editor); Rev. John Connan (Minute Secretary); Jim Richardson (General Committee); Louise Joy (Recruitment Officer); Professor Lynette Joubert (Liaison with University); Jamie Bradbeer; Mark Bradbeer; Dr Rosalie Cooper; Jean Downing; Daryl Grubb; Andrea Gunn; Leonie Jones; Prof Jacques Joubert; David Joy; Claire McLen; Dr Anne Myers; Dr Heather Peden-McKenzie; Dr John Prowse; Dr Kala Ranjini; Gonni Runia; Dr Naranjan Thomas; Carolyn Vimpani; Stan Vimpani;

2. Apologies

David Price OAM; Evelyn Lehmann; Frances Bhathal; Christine Bradbeer; Graham Bradbeer; Dick Davies; Jan Davies; Grace Dodge; Joyce Dodge; Jo Elvins; Alan Gunther; Bela Jozsa; Jan Jozsa; Joan Hauber; Barbara Lynch; John McKay; Margaret McKay; Larissa McLean Davies; Jane Miller; Noelle Nathan; Catherine O'Leary; Stephen O'Leary; Sanjoy Paul; Nancy Rodd; Dr Sundram Sivamalai.

3. Welcome

In his welcome the President, Professor David Runia, expressed his delight at the good turnout for the annual meeting.

4. Devotions

David read Matthew 5:1-16

This was followed by a prayer from Rev. John Connan.

5. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

The Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting having been circulated in advance it was agreed that they be accepted as a true and correct record. Moved by Mrs Heidi Winnen, seconded by Mrs Viviane Harangozo.

6. President's Report

Professor David Runia read his report that was also distributed to attendees. He reflected that in undertaking the task of updating our guidelines we took the time to understand our purpose and aims, namely to raise money to help fund the cost of treatment for those unable to pay, to promote the work of the CMC, to promote collaboration between CMC and Australian hospitals and to fund scholarships to help people study and lift themselves out of poverty.

Professor Lynette Joubert confirmed that a Memorandum of Understanding between CMCH Vellore and the University of Melbourne had been signed in the past year and that this would give more opportunities to students and researchers linked to these institutions wishing to collaborate and study.

Professor Runia also alluded to the difficulties that CMC is currently facing because the government in India wants to remove the CMC's current authority to choose their own students. CMC has made the decision not to admit any students for Medical training for the coming year (except one who had already been accepted) because of delays caused by legal action. CMC are objecting to the requirement to take students purely on their academic results, and not being allowed to vet them via interviews, to make sure that they will be prepared to work in mission hospitals in country areas. The mission hospitals have previously sponsored students, and have relied on them to staff their hospitals after graduation.

7. Financial Report

Our treasurer Heidi Winnen presented the report. It has been audited by Gwenyth Bigger—and the audit report was circulated. Heidi commented that the income and expenses re the dinner in August will be included in next year's financial report. We have reduced the level of our reserve to a little over \$13,000 and transferred a total of \$48,182.11 to Vellore for CLHTC (\$11,000) thank you Dr Sydney Paul, Howard Norman Nursing Scholarship (\$450), Ted and Edna Gault Nursing Scholarship (\$1,000), CMC Development Department Emergency Fund (\$3,867), Chatram

Renovations (\$6,222), and FOVV Paramedical Scholarship (\$25,643.11) Some of these amounts were due to the Annual Giving Program which was initiated last year, but not continued this year.

8. Elections

Colin Honey took the Chair for the election of the President and took the opportunity to say a few words about the continuing connection with Queen's College. There was a single nomination and David Runia was returned to office.

All other Officers were returned to their positions. No new nominations had been received. It was noted that it would be good to have an alumni liaison person. The President said Dr Mesach Kirubakaran might be prepared to accept this role, although living in Mildura he would not be able to attend meetings. He would contact him in the near future.

9. General Business

None.

10. Guest Speaker: Dr Niranjan Thomas

Dr Thomas' talk was accompanied by a very good slide show. He began with an excellent introduction to Vellore and the CMC that was especially appreciated by attendees who have not yet visited the CMC. His description of his work as a neonatologist and his personal journey to invent the MiraCradle as a low-cost alternative for cooling babies born with 'Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy' enthralled the audience. The MiraCradle is an innovative design using Phase Change Materials to maintain a low temperature for keeping babies cool for their first few days after suffering asphyxia during the birth process. It costs about a twenty-fifth of the cost of electronic devices used in developed countries, and does not rely on electricity. Some interesting questions and comments were made by the audience at the end of his talk.

11. Meetings

The meeting concluded at about 4.30pm.

Chair

dated

Secretary