



VELLORE NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL (QLD)

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(Qld FOV is a branch of the Australian Board of the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital)

Dear Friends,

The often quoted motto of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, is “Not to be served but to serve”. Two of the stories in this issue (pp 6, 7) which tell of awards given to CMC graduates are great illustrations of the living out of this motto. Both of these people expressed in their long years of service – one in North India and the other in a “third world” situation in Papua New Guinea – that they had taken to heart the words and the spirit of that phrase that Jesus said about himself. They have taken this not just as a motto but as a motive for their life and work.

We invite you and your friends to:

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF QLD FRIENDS OF VELLORE

Uniting Church (Upper John Knox Hall), 1050 Waterworks Rd, The Gap
2 pm Sunday, 17 November, 2013

Theme: Memories of Vellore

RSVP to: Gwenda Spencer 33001542 (gwendaspencer@hotmail.com) or
Brian Lee 33513272 (jblee19@bigpond.net.au)
before Monday 4 November

CMC DIRECTOR'S BRISBANE VISIT

After attending the annual meeting of the Australian Vellore Board in Darwin, the Chandys stopped briefly in Brisbane as they journeyed to meet other State Friends of Vellore groups. More than 40 people were able to meet for dinner on Monday 19 August. There was an audio-visual presentation giving something of CMC's history and also showing something of today's College and Hospital. Dr Chandy reminded us that CMC defies the usual business models. It utilises the dedication of all levels of its staff who reflect the belief that sustains the whole institution - that they all have a mission to serve in the spirit of Christ.



Mrs Achamma & Dr Sunil Chandy (CMC Director) with Cathy Chandani (Chair Qld FOV)

The College and main Hospital have outgrown the available buildings including those built at the time of the Centenary in 2000. Convenient new sites are being investigated. An increase in the number of medical students is underway and there are also requests from countries such as South Sudan and Fiji to take some students.

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE STATISTICS

Though I have visited CMC Vellore many times and have seen for myself the flow of patients through the out-patient system, I still find the statistics staggering. These are a few of the 2012/13 figures:

1. 10,219,734 scripts dispensed
2. 404,859 plain x-rays
3. 61,513 blood transfusions
4. 9,811,937 pathology and other blood tests
5. 97,515 ultrasounds
6. 41,194 anaesthetic procedures

THE FAMOUS BRISBANE VELLORE STREET STALLS

I have written before about the fund raising Street Stalls which for many years have been a successful feature of the public face of the Queensland Friends of Vellore. I was there one morning recently at 7am just as the tables were being loaded with goods for sale. Some things didn't even get on to the table. Sales begin very early.

A committed group of people collect and sort goods for sale, knit, sew and cook, hunt for suitable things to display and sell and transport all this to the stalls. Then the work begins for the salespeople and some of these have been doing this volunteer work for many years.

New workers for every stage of this procedure are always welcome.



Street Stall in Tank Street at 7am

If you can help, once a month or just a few times a year, the Street Stalls Convenor, Mrs Claire Mainstone, would love to hear from you. Contact details are at the end of this Newsletter.

A number of our readers, at their request, will receive this Newsletter by email instead of by post. To join these e-readers -

Please email fovqld@hotmail.com

giving your surname and current address so our mailing lists can be adjusted for the next Newsletter

FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BOARD'S ANNUAL MEETING



There was a “first” this year when the members of the Australian Board for the Vellore CMC met for the first time in Darwin in August immediately after a meeting of the Alumni Association. This had brought together CMC graduates from many parts of Australia. Some invited to this Board meeting were Darwin people keen to begin a Friends of Vellore group in the Northern Territory to join the FOV groups in Qld, NSW, Victoria, Tasmania and S A.

The Treasurer, Richard Caitens, reported that this year \$101,300 had been transferred to CMC. Of this amount more than half, \$52,619 for the Centenary Endowment Fund and the Person 2 Person program, directly benefits those patients who do not have the money to meet the costs of their treatment.

The President, Dr Ian Olver, Vice-President, Dr Bella George, Treasurer, Richard Caitens and Publicity Officer Dr Stephen Aseervatham were re-elected and Mrs Liz Guiver was elected Secretary.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR DR JOHN MAINSTONE

A number of Queensland Friends of Vellore were able to attend John’s funeral at Christ Church, St Lucia on 30 August to share with Claire and the family and many hundreds of others as we celebrated the life and service of a remarkably talented and greatly loved and respected friend. The Mainstones have long been supporters of Vellore and Claire continues this support through her work as Coordinator of the street stalls.

WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS



When the new academic year began in July the new students were officially welcomed by Dr Alfred Job Daniel, the Principal of the College. He spoke of the building of this institution by Dr Ida Scudder “not with bricks and mortar but with

love, compassion and steadfast dedication”. He told them that “CMC is a place where men and women receive an education of the highest grade in the art and science of medicine, nursing or one or other of the related professions, to equip them in the spirit of Christ for service in the relief of suffering and in the promotion of health.”

Dr Daniel went on to say that, so the graduates can commit themselves to the service of the poor and marginalised, the cost of education is kept at a very modest level to prevent graduates from being burdened with financial preoccupation. This is indeed one of the things that make CMC different from many other colleges.

“This is what made us defend our rights to admission at the Supreme Court” [India’s equivalent of Australia’s High Court] “and our Lord has been merciful and has granted a favourable verdict which makes us doubly responsible to our profession.”

SAVING PRECIOUS LIVES

Have you heard recently of any Australian small child dying from diarrhoea? It might be rare here but in India it is the second greatest killer of children under 5. The use of what is known as ORS (Oral Rehydration Solution) has been declared “one of the most important medical breakthroughs of the 20th century.” It is estimated that ORS saves over a million lives worldwide every year. Unfortunately only one third of children with diarrhoea in India receive ORS.

In July CMC’s Departments of Paediatrics and Paediatric Nursing joined with others for an educational program regarding ORS. In the Hospital wards, corridors, outpatient waiting rooms and outdoor stalls there were puppet shows, health talks, open discussions, posters and pamphlets along with demonstrations regarding the preparation of ORS. This same message was spread to the wider community through health trips to three local government schools. ORS week was rounded off with a scientific session and with the hope that an increase in the awareness and use of ORS may save the lives of many more children.

COLLEGE MOTTO AWARD 2013

Awarded each year for 8 years now, this Award recognises and celebrates an alumnus whose life and work exemplify the motto of CMC: "Not to be served but to serve". The Award this year was given to Dr Adeline Sittler. Brought up in Papua New Guinea where her father was a missionary teacher, her experience of life there strengthened her resolve to return and serve in this low resource country.



After completing her bond in Kolar she decided in 1997 to devote herself to serving the people of Rumginae in PNG's Western Province. Here there is a 60 bed hospital and the only Community Health Training School in the western part of PNG. Dr Sittler's work there is described as "multidimensional and includes training, healing, personnel management and

resource allocation." She said of her work, "I fully expected to have challenging medical conditions to diagnose and treat with limited resources. What took me by surprise is having to be involved in 'non-medical' activities that ensure the smooth running of the health service when there is no one else with the skills to do them."

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS BY BANK TRANSFER

People wishing to donate to CMC Vellore may find it more convenient to pay by Bank transfer rather than by cheque. Our Treasurer, Richard Caitens, has provided the following information:

Full Name of Account: Friends of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital Queensland Group Support Fund. (You can enter just: Friends of Vellore Support Fund)

BSB no.: 633000 **Account no.:** 131073413

Reference: Your surname and suburb (or as much as space allows)

After making the transfer, please send an email regarding your deposit to the Treasurer at this email address: cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au so a receipt can be sent to you.

LEPROSY IN INDIA – A CONTINUING STORY OF CARE



I have written in previous newsletters stories about people suffering from leprosy, a disease still not conquered in India. An Award presented by CMC's Alumni Association in memory of Dr Emmanuel Sundar Raj is for alumni of CMC who have spent the major portion of their career in

mission hospitals. This year's Award went to Dr Premal Das who comes from a family involved in service to leprosy patients since 1890. Since completing his surgery training in 1993 he has continued to serve with the Leprosy Mission. Since 1997 he has been in charge of the Naini Hospital in Uttar Pradesh, the largest Leprosy Hospital in terms of the volume of patients and the number of reconstructive operations performed. Dr Das has a continuing passion for reconstructive surgery for leprosy patients and also for those with correctable deformities. As well as operating at the base hospital at Naini he is a visiting surgeon to all other Leprosy Mission Hospitals in India, conducts reconstructive surgery camps on behalf of the government in various places and is actively involved in the training of surgeons in this work.

From CMC Newline: "The story of Dr Premal Das's career clearly exemplifies a chosen preference to work for the less privileged of society, especially those affected by leprosy."

CMC's RESCUE CONTROL

With about 5000 outpatients and thousands more (staff, tradespeople, visitors) in the Hospital compound on any working day, there are bound to be emergencies from time to time. The CMC Rescue Team has been set up for just this situation. Members of this Team provide Basic Life Support in the whole Hospital compound including the Wards, OPDs, Laboratories and other areas that are not directly Intensive Care Units. As soon as a call comes to the control room, paramedics are dispatched to deal with whatever might need to be done. In addition to resuscitation duties those in this team will audit the Crash trolleys in the Hospital and will also assist the Fire Service staff during evacuation if there is a fire.

THE DVD “HOME OF A HEALING GOD”

Copies are available from Brian Lee (ph. 3351 3272 or jblee19@bigpond.net.au) for \$10 (including postage). It is a great resource to use to tell your friends about CMC Vellore, its people, its work and something of what makes it the great place it is. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting on 17 November.

WEB SITES

www.australianfov.net.au

Vellore and USA sites: www.cmch-vellore.edu & www.vellorecmc.org

STREET STALL NEWS

Many thanks to those wonderful people who continue their many years of stall work and to those who have joined them recently.

Each of the Toowong and Tank Street stalls happen once a month. New helpers are always welcome. Continuing needs include:

- Suitable items for sale, especially cakes and biscuits
- Help with transporting the goods
- Workers at the stalls
 - regularly or now and again as you are able.

If you, or someone you know, can help in this, kindly contact Mrs Claire Mainstone (3371 1332).

Regards, Brian
(Newsletter Editor).

QLD FRIENDS OF VELLORE OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman: Mrs Cathy Chandani, 24 Mathews St, Bethania 4205 (0412391353)
 Vice Chairman: Rev John Hooper, 74 Meynell St, Salisbury 4107 (3701 0017)
 Hon. Secretary: Mrs Gwenda Spencer, 22 Elgata St, The Gap 4061 (3300 1542)
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr Richard Caitens, 107 Northgate Rd, Northgate 4013 (3266 1962)
 Stalls Co-ordinator: Mrs Claire Mainstone, 37 Fifth Av, St Lucia, 4067 (3371 1332)
 Publicity Officer &
 Newsletter Editor: Rev Brian Lee, 19 Glencloy Street, Ferny Grove 4055 (3351 3272)