

FRIENDS OF VELLORE
TASMANIAN BRANCH

NEWSLETTER
November 2013

Chairperson: **Dr J Hyland**
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Greetings Friends,

Thank you to those who attended our Curry Banquet I am sure you all felt rewarded with a fabulous night. The Fashion Parade and dancing were a hit and the food and company were pleasing to all. The evening was a financial success and swelled our donations for CMC.

Spring Luncheon:

Our next function will be a Spring Luncheon at the home of Meg Skegg 477 Nelson Road Mt Nelson on Wednesday 13th November at 12:30. Cost will be \$20 per head. We will have a trade table with a variety of items so feel free to bring and buy. If you can join us please RSVP to Meg on 62236751 by Tuesday 12th.

Snippets from Vellore:

Shiloh 2013 the annual Mission Conference hosted by CMC was held in October this year. 900 registered participants from CMC and other states came together to listen to guest speakers and Medical Missionaries from India and overseas.

The theme for the three day conference was “Serving God’s purpose in our generation”. There were both plenary sessions and small group sessions dealing with specific aspects of medical missionary work.

Education:

Infectious disease is a huge problem in countries with a large poor population, so it was fitting that delegates from South East Asian countries attended a regional workshop on “Laboratory Diagnosis of Emerging Bacterial Infectious Diseases” hosted by CMC. This included a focus on Public Health issues and the challenges in the transmission, detection and treatment of emerging bacterial disease. The outcome of this conference was the formulation of recommendations to WHO to improve laboratory services in SE Asia. The Department of Microbiology at CMC will serve as a centre for both technical and diagnostic support.

Malnutrition is another significant problem in many SE Asian countries. Recently the Department of Nutrition held an Exhibition Day the theme being “Mother’s lap to school”. This event was aimed at raising awareness of the importance of healthy eating for children in the age group 0 to 6 and presented dietary information and recipes. There were also posters and information presented in a form to attract children and encourage them to try healthier foods.

This theme was further supported with the study day organised by the Departments of Neonatology and Maternity Nursing promoting the importance of breast feeding.

World ‘Oral Hydration Day’ celebrations continued the support of the theme of good nutrition and hydration. Oral Hydration Solution (ORS) has been suggested to be one of the most important medical breakthroughs in the 20th century, since diarrhoea is the second greatest killer of children under 5 years. Every year ORS saves over a million lives world wide yet in India only a third of children with diarrhoea receive ORS. A comprehensive education program was organised for staff, patients, relatives and people in the community to raise awareness of the importance and availability of ORS.

A group of Medical Assistants had been trained to help patients and families handle problems in the Outpatient Service, their role includes patient advocacy, appointments, information and direction, and helping address patient complaints. Numbers in the Outpatient Service have been increasing dramatically over the past few years and it is hoped that these extra assistants will improve and streamline services.

New Services Dedicated:

- A Gamma Camera- SPECT/CT in the Department of Nuclear Medicine.
- Seminar Hall with LCD projection facility in the Library to assist in staff education.
- Two new lifts in front of the main operating theatre to reduce delays in transporting patients for surgery.
- A new Echo Server with 8 Terabyte memory and workstation in the Department of cardiology. This will enable the Department to monitor Blood Pressure and Holter Cardiac Monitor reports on ambulatory patients.
- Renovation and redevelopment of facilities in the Department of Ophthalmology including the New Eye Bank, Examination Hall and extended Library. In addition the general and private wards and the paediatric outpatient facility have all been refurbished.
- Dedication of Emergency Communication System in the Main Operating Theatres. This system is considered as the prototype to improve communication systems in all areas of the hospital.

All this reinforces our dedication to support this wonderful institution and the excellent work undertaken there.

If you want to know more try the web sites

www.australianfov.net.au

www.cmch-vellore.edu

www.vellorecmc.org