

Friends of Vellore, Victoria

A division of the Australian Board of Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital Limited, ABN 18 110 916 375

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION FROM RECENT EDITIONS OF CMC NEWSLINE

NATIONAL NURSING CONFERENCE ON HOSPITAL INFECTION CONTROL



The College of Nursing organised a National Nursing Conference on 'Strategies for Hospital Infection Control- Nursing Perspectives' on January 17 and 18, 2014. The conference was attended by nearly 400 nursing faculty, students and staff nurses from all over the country. The scientific programme included plenary sessions, panel discussions, symposiums, and oral and poster presentations.

PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY



The Department of Radiation Oncology celebrated its Platinum Jubilee from January 9 to January 11, 2014. A conference on 'Leadership in Cancer Care- Evidence with Relevance' was held to mark this important milestone of 75 years of the Department. The Department was established by Dr. Ida Belle Scudder- affectionately called Dr. Ida B.- in 1939. The first patient, a young boy, was treated by Dr. Ida B. with a Deep X-ray Unit. Since then, the Department has grown in stature and is

now recognised as one of the leading radiation therapy centres in the country.

CMC WINS AWARD

Christian Medical College, Vellore has been awarded 'Asia's Best Private Educational Institute in Medical Category' by KPMG and World Consulting and Research Corporation. The award was received by the Director, Dr. Sunil Chandy on January 09, 2014 in New Delhi.

CMC OBTAINS NABH ACCREDITATION

It is with immense gratitude to God that we share the news of CMC having been awarded the NABH Accreditation with effect from December 22, 2013 to December 23, 2016. National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India, set up to establish and operate accreditation programme for healthcare organizations. Accreditation from NABH is a public recognition for quality care and services rendered by the organization after a thorough and in depth assessment of the hospital's structures, processes and outcomes.

SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY

The CMC family celebrated Christmas with the less fortunate in our city. Gifts were distributed to residents of 35 institutions, including orphanages, old age homes, homes for the differently abled, schools etc. Christmas gifts were also distributed to the children admitted in different wards in our hospital.

CMC VELLORE MISSION STATEMENT

The Christian Medical College, Vellore, seeks to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ, through excellence in education, service and research.

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Greetings from the CMC Vellore Director

January, 2014

Dear Friends

The excitement that accompanies the acquisition of anything new is unique. A new toy for a child, a new set of clothes for a teenager, a new cell phone for a college student, a new laptop for a young professional or a new car for a family evokes the same kind of joy as when one moves into a new home. Its much more with a newly married couple or when a new born child is added to the family. This joy is independent of whether the new object is a gift, given or bought. The pleasure associated with unfolding the wrapper of a gift after a birthday party can be watched in our children. Discovering the newness of something is very unique.

Have you wondered what is there in 'new' that makes it so exciting?

The **first**, I reckon, is the thrill of discovering the unknown. The curiosity to know what is inside leads to exploring the new object. See this in children surrounded by gifts. A hurried ripping of the wrapper to see what's inside, followed by a rapid shift to the next. As adults we do this with the morning newspaper when we hurriedly devour the headlines and then drop the rest for a more relaxed reading later.

The **second** is the freshness of a new object. The crispness of a new dress, clean-ness of a new facility, softness of a new teddy is very endearing. The fresh paint smell inside a new car or a house is just as refreshing. A new morning is associated with the freshness of dewdrops and the smell of budding flowers. One wants to take a deep breath to enjoy this to the full.

The **third** is the possibility of change and of taking a new direction. The prospect of new options, new approaches and new resolutions inspires you to move forward. The old has passed and a new chapter begins, allowing a turning point to attempt something different, what is proverbially described as 'turning a new leaf'.

On New Years day, we reset our bearings. What better way to do this than to surrender the past year and invoke the new by saying a prayer. There are three kinds of prayer that may be apt for this moment. **A thanksgiving prayer** for the miracles that we have witnessed, **a praise prayer** to acknowledge God's ongoing involvement and **a supplication prayer** to ask for His presence in the ongoing work of our institution.

With everything that has happened in 2013, there is no doubt that God continues to lead and guide CMC forward. He continues to be engaged with the affairs of our institution. He continues to bless us despite our shortcomings. He continues to find us resources and empowerment that we need. For all this we are immensely grateful.

2013, my first year in office was for me a '**year of connection**'. It was a joy to meet our staff on their birthdays to say a greeting. It was a pleasure meeting so many new people in and out of the institution. It was a discovery of the collective strength we have – our people. I would like 2014 to be a '**year of purpose**'. A year when all of us introspect to find our collective purpose. As we reset our bearings, it will help us to understand the common purpose of our work and lives.

My prayer is that we will find momentum and abundance of God's blessings in our journey forward through this New Year.

Sunil Chandy

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT, FEBRUARY 2014

“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him”, James 1:12

FOVV Annual General Meeting held on 12 October, 2013:

The FOVV AGM was held in the St. John's Uniting Church, Essendon, Meeting Room on Saturday 12 October 2013. It was quite special having the AGM in God's house, a church building and it is planned to hold the AGM in venues such as this in the future.

Highlights recorded at the AGM were;

- Rev. Colin Honey establishing a Bio Ethics Centre at CMC Vellore and his election to the position of FOVV Vice President
- List of the Victorian Alumni network of Medical, Nursing, Occupational & Physical Therapists and,
- Donations received from FOVV friends to support patients at the Low Cost Effective Care Unit.

This year's Guest Speaker was Dr. Sulatha Minoson, who showed slides of patients in village huts serviced by the Low Cost Effective Care Unit at CMC Vellore where Sulatha worked as a Volunteer Doctor in 2012. Sulatha spoke of her experiences at Vellore which led her, after marriage with three children, to study Medicine at CMC Vellore. She now works in Queensland as a General Medical Practitioner.

Advent Service of Readings and Music:

On 17 November 2013, I was invited to attend the Christmas Service held at Queen's College, University of Melbourne. What a pleasure it was to attend this joyous occasion of Readings and Carols, one I shall not forget.

Death of Ian Luhrs:

On 19 December 2013, George and I attended the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Ian Luhrs held at Tooborac, Victoria. Ian, a local resident and community leader was a member of the FOVV Executive. FOVV will miss him, his experience and his endeavour as will those who live around Tooborac, or are involved in the Heathcote District Uniting Church.

Why not join the FOVV Executive:

Meetings are held three, sometimes four, times each year in Bendigo. The Committee is always looking for new members so why not join us? Contact Louise Joy for date and time.

Friends of Vellore Victoria:

May our dear Lord bless you all as we continue to support those in need of medical care in India.

FOVV emphasis is to support those in need of medical care who would not gain it due to lack of finances. CMC is able to provide sponsorship through your generous donations and, those from other FOV groups.

It's exciting that over the years FOVV has been involved in a number of significant initiatives as the Christian Medical College and Hospital in Vellore has continued to grow and develop its infrastructure to accommodate its increasing staff and patient numbers.

Recently, the Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Melbourne Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences with the Christian Medical College Vellore was initiated by Associate Professor Lynette Joubert, Department of Social Work Faculty of Medicine Dentistry and Health Sciences. It provides a structure to enable joint research between Melbourne and Vellore, as well as student placements.

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And a second, the Bio Ethics Centre at CMC Vellore being established by Rev. Colin Honey. On Colin's recent visit to CMC he met enthusiastic Social Work students from Melbourne who he believed would be good Ambassadors in the future. No doubt Colin and some of these students will speak at future FOVV Meetings.

None of the above would have occurred if it were not for our energetic Secretary, Louise Joy. She never stops thinking or planning what else can be achieved by FOVV at CMC. You will be interested to hear that while I have been compiling a list of Past Executive members from 1943 to date, I came across Louise's name as President in 1998 and 1999 and Secretary continuously from 2000. Well done Louise and, thank you!

Lastly, do come to the 2014 FOVV Fund Raising Dinner at Queens College on 3rd May 2014 with our very special Guest Speaker, Professor Ian Olver, Chair of the Australian Vellore Board and CEO of the Cancer Council of Australia (see below).

Yours in His love,
Liz Guiver

Liz Guiver, President Friends of Vellore Victoria,

Invites you and your friends to the

2014 VELLORE FUNDRAISING DINNER

*to be held at 6:30 PM on Saturday 3rd May 2014
in the Junior Common Room, Queens College,
The University of Melbourne, 1-17 College Crescent, Parkville*

Guest Speaker - Professor Ian Olver

*Chair of the Australian Vellore Board, CEO of the Cancer Council
of Australia and initiator of Oncology exchange between Australia
and CMC Vellore.*

*Plan to come to this always interesting fund raising event for CMC
Vellore. Put the date and time in your diary now as you will not
want to miss Professor Ian's presentation.*

Details as to cost, menu and program will be published shortly.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Thanks to John Gault for this article to make us think, take a look from another direction, reconsider, seek knowledge from elsewhere. Thanks also to our God who gives us faith and the freedom to think.

WHY A HUMANIST SHOULD SUPPORT THE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE,VELLORE.

Religion in general, and Christianity in particular, has a record of cruelty and persecution. On the other hand, it also has a strong record of care for the ill, practical concern for the poor, support of music, and the preservation of knowledge. Christianity, at least, has outgrown its cruelty and persecution, while the other aspects continue.

Humanists are fond of pointing to the sorry record of Christianity, but have not been strong themselves in supporting benefits to humanity. This is now changing. A number of non-government organisations helping the disadvantaged overseas have a secular basis.

In India virtually everybody is, at least nominally, a religious person. The decline of religion, as seen in the West, has hardly touched the country. Secular humanism is virtually non-existent. Therefore, if one wishes to support an organisation that serves humanity – whether educational, medical, or social service, the vast majority will have a religious basis. This has been the case with medical missions since their inception. Their prime basis has been that of helping the sick, rather than proselytising.

This is not to say that preaching the Gospel did not take place within these institutions. Those who work in them derive their work from their Christian faith, and wish to make that evident. However, I have never heard or read of any complaint by patients or politicians. The medical treatment provided has never been dependent, or in any way related to the professed religion of the patient.

One would have to acknowledge that strict Catholic views on matters of reproduction would, in India as in Australia, be incompatible with views on such matters held outside the Catholic Church. A humanist would therefore not wish to support an organisation with such restrictive views.

It can be said that whatever the religious or non-religious views a person holds, they could freely support an organisation such as the Christian Medical College Vellore.

John Gault
October 2013

CMC VELLORE AND MEN!

The Christian Medical College for the training of women was founded in 1900 through the vision and practicality of Dr. Ida Sophia Scudder. Nevertheless, she had the foresight to recognise the need for inclusion of male students. Despite feminist donors in the USA withdrawing their support, Dr. Scudder held firm. In 1943, the year in which men were admitted to the Christian Medical College Vellore South India, Professor Edward Gault was appointed the first Professor of Pathology and Dean of the Men's Hostel.

Two Melbourne men's names are inscribed on buildings at CMC Vellore: The Norman Institute of Pathology and the Norman Auditorium; the Gault Library (actually in honour of both Edward and Edna Gault) and Edward Gault Drive. The first Norman post graduate scholarship in Australia was awarded to Dr. L.B.M Joseph who studied with Weary Dunlop and Sir Benjamin Rank, going on to become a CMC Vellore Director. This year the Howard Norman Scholarship was awarded to a Diploma of Nursing student. Typically Diploma students come from poor families in villages to which villages they return to give service after graduation, a path not usually taken by Bachelor of Nursing graduates.

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A STORY INVOLVING PRAYER

Dr. Dayalan Devanesan passed on this story from a return visit he made to his old school, Bishop Cotton, in Bangalore, India where the School Alumni Association gave him an award.

His story is shown in italics below;

I had a wonderful morning last Sunday, at my old school Bishop Cotton, Bangalore, listening to the Dalai Lama who was the Chief Guest at a school function. He has a wonderful presence and has a great sense of humour. He gave a powerful message on being global citizens and the development of inner and outer peace. He jokingly told a story of how he learnt to pray for his enemies. He said that he had met a woman in Cuba whose family had a hard time with Fidel Castro. She told him that she still, however, prayed daily for Fidel Castro. When he asked her what her prayer was, she said, "I pray daily that God takes him to heaven as soon as possible".

The Dalai Lama presents as a spiritual and wise man and coupled with his sense of humour tells good stories, stories we might learn from.

Thank you Dayalan.

IT'S ALWAYS A VERY GOOD TIME TO DONATE TO FOVV

Send or Transfer your gift as described below, clearly indicating it is a tax deductible donation to CMC Vellore and a tax deductible receipt is required. Also your return address for sending the receipt to you.

By Cheque: made out to "Friends of Vellore Victoria" posted to the address shown below or,
By Payment: to any Bendigo & Adelaide Bank (by cheque, cash, transfer or direct credit)

Post Details:

Evelyn Lehmann and John Gault
c/o Treasurers Friends of Vellore Victoria
203 View Street
Bendigo Victoria 3550
(Ensure return address and donor name is included for receipt/s)

Bank Details (for payment):

Friends of Vellore Victoria BBL
BSB: 633000
Account: 139185151
Reference: Your name/deductible donation
(Please e-mail your postal address and name to
Joint Treasurers e-mail address listed below for receipt/s)

FOVV INFORMATION MATERIAL:

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