

Friends of Vellore, Victoria

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

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION FROM RECENT EDITION OF CMC NEWSLINE

NEW HIGH END SCANNER APRIL 2014

The dedication of the new high end CT scanner '**Discovery CT 750HD**' was held on April 22, 2014. The CT machine was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Sunil Chandy and Mr.V.B.Yogasundaram, Supervisor, Radiology.



The purchase of this machine has been made possible by an ASHA grant and, apart from regular CT scanning of the entire body, this machine is capable of performing non invasive coronary angiography, aortography, head and neck and peripheral angiography and organ perfusion studies.

This scanner is the world's first High Definition CT scanner. It uses a newly developed "Gemstone" detector with speed 100 times faster than other current detectors, which enables faster and higher sampling as well as dual energy sampling during a single rotation. With its ultra-high sampling rate, the scanner gives a high spatial resolution which helps the radiologist to potentially see more than what is possible on other high end CT scanners.

FRIENDS of VELLORE VICTORIA (FOVV) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2pm on Saturday 11 October 2014

In the Meeting Room,

St. John's Uniting Church,

Corner Buckley Street and Mount Alexander Road, Essendon 3040.

St. John's is the home church of the Gilbertson family who have donated substantially to the BioEthics Centre at the Christian Medical College Vellore, the subject of our excellent Guest Speaker, Rev. Colin Honey, Vice President Friends of Vellore Victoria. Colin has trained in BioEthics at Cambridge University, UK and was recently in Vellore at the establishment of its BioEthics Centre.

FOVV Executive members for 2014 – 2015 will be elected at the AGM. Nominations, with proposer and seconder, will be received by the FOVV Secretary prior to and, if appropriate, during the meeting.

The FOVV Annual Report for 2013 – 2014 will be presented by FOVV President, Mrs. Elizabeth Guiver and, the FOVV Financial Statements 2013 – 2014 will be presented by FOVV Joint Treasurer, Evelyn Lehmann.

Please bring a plate of savouries or sweets for afternoon tea in the hall after the meeting. Dr. Naveen Thomas has promised to bring sweets from Kerala.

For apologies, acceptances and nominations please notify Louise Joy, Secretary Friends of Vellore Victoria by;

Email to: fovvsecretary@gmail.com

Telephone: (03) 5433 3631

Mail to: 10/93 Ebdon Street, Heathcote Victoria 3523

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT, JUNE 2014

Erasmus (1466-1536) wrote, "*Lord Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life; let us not stray from you the Way, nor distrust you, the Truth, nor rest in any other but you, the Life; teach us by your Holy Spirit what to believe, what to do, and in what to take our rest; we ask it for your name's sake*". Source; *A Pilgrim in Durham Cathedral* by Michael Sadgrove, 2006.

You may be interested to read the following articles:

- a. **Friends of Vellore United Kingdom & Ireland Newsletter 'Spring' 2014:**
Dr. Sunil Abraham is now in charge of the Low Cost Effective Care Unit (LCECU). He has been in discussion with CMC to look at ways in which 'street children' and the 'really poor people who would not attend CMC or any other clinic', can be supported. It seems that CMC is looking at funding a field worker to assess issues raised by Sunil.

- b. **New Life Magazine, 15 April 2014:**
An article mentions that "*Christians in India are fearful that the country's general elections may lead to a rise in persecution of religious minorities. Opinion polls suggest a victory for the opposition National Democratic Alliance, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party. Its prime ministerial candidate, Narendra Modi, is currently Chief Minister of Gujarat. He was widely criticized for failing to prevent the massacre of more than 2,000 Muslims in the state in 2002.*

Most incidents of mass violence against Christians have taken place in states under the rule of the BJP. Rev. Richard Howell, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of India, says Modi's rise has led to 'fear and insecurity' among Christians. The perception ... is that the scale of persecution of Christians will increase', he says. India's parliamentary elections are being held in nine phases, ending on 12 May",
Morning Star news via Release International.

- c. **The Age Newspaper, 7 May 2014:**
Dr. Vivek Gupta, Appolo Hospital, writes saying that "*There are no trained doctors and no facilities in Kabul. Heart attack patients just die because there is nowhere to take them*".

Praise God for workers in the field, like Sunil, who reach out to those in need of care and, pray particularly for Christians in India as they face possible turmoil during the elections. Since 2001, India has re-opened its embassy in Kabul and provided aid and training and this has resulted in some feeling they are in their own country where people are friendly and caring towards them. Praise Him also, that some people in Kabul, can now receive appropriate medical care in India.

The Annual FOVV Fundraising Dinner guests were delighted as National Chair of FOV, Professor Ian Olver, shared stories of the changes that have occurred over the past few years at CMC. With the assistance of slides we were able to both hear of, and see, these changes. Funds from the dinner will be donated to CMC's LCECU to enable it to expand its outreach and to strengthen the portfolio of services it is able to deliver.

Yours in His love,
Liz Guiver

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2014 ANNUAL FOVV FUNDRAISING DINNER

STOP PRESS! - Thanks to all who attended or donated, a total of \$3915 has been made for CMC Vellore.

LOUISE JOY'S REPORT ON THE DINNER

Queen's College did CMC Vellore proud for the annual Friends of Vellore Victoria fundraising dinner. We always tell guests that Queen's College was the inspiration which Edward Gault took to Vellore, transporting his experiences as a medical student to being Warden of the Men's Hostel and foundation Professor of Pathology at CMC Vellore 60 years ago. The Junior Common Room, affectionately called JCR, is always a rich setting for a dinner with its wood panelling, portraits of past Masters of the College, the Honour Boards, its tables with white linen and silver and, striking flower centrepieces.

Numbers were a little down from last year but this only served to make the occasion more intimate. FOVV President, Mrs. Elizabeth Guiver, welcomed guests with the latest news from CMC. FOVV Patron David Price OAM was MC for the evening, introducing Master of Queen's College, Professor David Runia, who pronounced the College's Latin Grace followed by the Doxology, the traditional Grace of CMC Vellore.

Our Guest Speaker, Professor Ian Olver, Chair of the Australian Vellore Board and CEO of the Cancer Council of Australia, delighted guests with his witty and informative speech. It traced the changes at Vellore during his seven visits during his seven years in the Chair. Ian showed slides of the "greening" campus and confirmed that one thing did not change, the "No Spitting" signs! Accompanied by his wife Jenny, Ian showed them sitting exhausted after climbing the hills around the College campus, a favourite past time of CMC students. Ian brought a freshness to the remarkable growth from a one room dispensary started by Ida Sophia Scudder. Ian showed the family friends he and Jenny had made over the years they have supported CMC. It was a pleasant discovery tour for all of us.

Professor David Runia spoke of his recent visit to Vellore, the first Master of Queen's to visit and, as Rev. Colin Honey found on his visit to Vellore, he was introduced to people and programmes thanks to Hugh Skeil, CMC Development Manager. Hugh is always responsive to queries from Australia.

Thanks to FOVV Joint Treasurer Evelyn Lehmann who did so much to ensure the smooth running of the event and to Frances who assisted her on the night. The tax deductible donation of the dinner cost, donations from absentees, the raffle and the sale of donated lace amounted to a profit of \$3915 for CMC Vellore. As Ian Olver said, it was relationships between supporters of Friends of Vellore, the CMC alumni and Vellore itself and, no doubt, the setting of Queen's College which made the night so special.

Louise Joy
12 May 2014

DR GNANARAJ LIONEL, PROFESSOR & HEAD OF UROLOGY retired on May 26, 2014 after twenty nine years of service to CMC. During study leave at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, he assisted Dr. Mohan Rao in doing the first laparoscopic donor nephrectomy in Australia. He is married to Dr. Jessie Lionel, Professor and Head of the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Unit-III and their home has always been open to students for weekly Bible Study, Committee meetings or for times of personal counselling and prayer.



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A NOTE FROM OUR FRIEND, DR SUNIL ABRAHAM (now Professor, Department of Family Medicine, CMC Vellore)

After receiving the last Newsletter, Sunil wrote the Editor as follows;

"Thanks for sending the newsletter. It has been 3 months since I returned to CMC and to LCECU and I am still settling in. I must thank the FOV Australia for their continued support for the work in LCECU. We see more than 60 patients, sometimes even 100 - a day- with diabetes and it has become a major need. I am especially grateful to Dr Sulatha Minson's contribution to the diabetic care of the patients of LCECU. My vision is to make LCECU a centre of excellence for Family Medicine, at the same time continuing its special work among the poor."

This is a very important component of the work at CMC well worthy of FOVV support.

PLEASE READ THIS!

If you wish to be removed from our FOVV e-mail list, please reply to the sender (fovvnewsletter@gmail.com) placing "REMOVE" in the subject line and ensuring it is clear who has sent the request .

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/deductable 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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