

**FRIENDS OF VELLORE
TASMANIAN BRANCH
NEWSLETTER**



Chairperson Dr J Hyland

25 Waratah St Kingston 7050 Ph 62296298

Treasurer Mrs Gabrielle Fraser

120 Canopus Rd Mt Rumney 7170 Ph 62485200

Secretary Mrs Meg Skegg

477 Nelson Rd Mt Nelson 7007 Ph 03 62236751

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Greetings friends,

What a wonderful evening we enjoyed at our last Curry Banquet, meeting old friends and making new ones. The dancers from Viji's School of Indian Dance delighted us with their routines, the ambience of the Restaurant and the meal served were greatly appreciated.

Please come and be part of our next Curry Banquet at the Anna Purna Restaurant Salamanca Place on Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 630 pm. Tickets are available from Jeanette 62296298, Meg 62236751 or Gabrielle 62485200. Tickets are \$40 per person and should be paid for when booking.

The National Annual Meeting of Friends of Vellore Australia will be held in Adelaide this year and Gabrielle will attend on behalf of the committee and present our Annual Report.

Recently Jeanette spoke to the students of St Mary's School Hobart about the work at Vellore and was presented with \$100 donation to assist our efforts of support.

We acknowledge our regular donors to our Vellore funds and thank them for their generosity, it gives us encouragement to continue.

The funds transferred from Tasmania this financial year have been in excess of \$3000

Snippets from Vellore

The Distance Education unit has collaborated with the University of Edinburgh hosting a forum to develop 'on line' education programs to expand medical education and research programs and make these available to more medical practitioners in remote areas. The Vellore website has an amazing list of the research programs currently being undertaken through CMC and it is well worth visiting this for further information.

One line programs help medical practitioners maintain an up to date knowledge of current health issues and their management, despite the tyrannies of distance and difficulties of collaborating with other professional colleagues on these issues.

At their recent Annual Convocation the Dept of Distance Education was commended for making a tangible difference in the practice of doctors both from India and other developing countries. Courses run by the unit have built a capacity of over 2000 doctors in both the private and public sectors. "Their courses have become avenues for change as a special focus on ethics, rational

prescribing, consultation skills, cost effectiveness and high quality care has resulted in transformation in professionalism, ethics and patient care” says the report.

Some of the subjects covered have been:-

Diagnostic Microbiology which included preparation, cleaning and sterilisation procedures, screening for specific diseases and surveillance of hospital acquired infections. All this data makes practice safer and ensures accurate results in diagnosis.

Training for prosthetic and orthotic technicians to improve outcomes in patient rehabilitation. Staff continue to take health care programs into the rural areas and poorer districts. Recently for World Asthma Day a screening camp and education day was held in which 182 subjects were screened for respiratory symptoms. The day's program included asthma control through breathing techniques, correct medication use and all recognised management strategies.

For World Kidney Day, the Dept. of Paediatric Nephrology presented an interactive program in schools to give children and their parents a greater understanding of kidney disease, its symptoms and management.

The need for blood donors grows larger every year in every country, as in Vellore. Feed back from donor surveys indicated that people found the time taken to attend 'blood banks' was too big an impost in their busy lives and donor numbers had decreased. In order to overcome this and ensure a steady supply a fully equipped mobile unit has been acquired which can travel to work places and collect and store blood safely. This has proven to be more convenient for donors and it is hoped will result in increased availability of supplies.

Facilities and Services are constantly being upgraded and these have included Pharmacy and Central Drug Return Dept., Laundry with a new washer-extraction unit, Solar Thermal Concentrator to improve power efficiency and a high end CT scanner with a speed and resolution far in advance of other such machines available.

Once again CMC has received a high ranking as the second best Medical College in the 'India Today' Annual Survey of the Best Colleges in India.

In addition the Dept. of Clinical Biochemistry is the first laboratory in the country to be accredited by the National Regulating Body for its programs. We are proud to continue our support for the work at CMC Vellore.

Websites www.australianfov.net.at

www.cmch-vellore.edu

www.vellorecmc.org

Curry Banquet

Wednesday 27th August

6:30 pm

**Anna Purna Restaurant
Salamanca Place**

Tickets \$40 per person

**Book with
Jeanette 62296298
Meg 62236751
Gabrielle 62485200**