

Friends of Vellore, Victoria

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

OCTOBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

INFORMATION FROM RECENT EDITION OF CMC NEWSLINE

MR. PHILIP YANCEY DELIVERS THE 2014 DR. IDA S. SCUDDER HUMANITARIAN ORATION



Philip Yancey

On August 8, 2014, CMC hosted Philip Yancey, distinguished author and close associate of Dr. Paul Brand, to deliver the 2014 Dr. Ida S. Scudder Humanitarian Oration. The Oration, jointly organised by CMC, Vellore and the Vellore Christian Medical Foundation, New York, celebrated the legacy of Dr. Paul Brand on the centenary of his birth. Mr. Yancey's oration was thought provoking and inspirational. Meeting Dr. Brand at the age of 25 was a transforming experience for Mr. Yancey with their association together spanning a number of years and producing 4 books. Mr. Yancey said, 'I gave words to his faith and in the process he gave faith to my words'.

INFORMATION FROM 2014 FOVV AGM HELD 11 OCTOBER 2014

General Information: Held in the Stafford Room, Queens College; 26 attendees, 39 apologies; musical prelude by Tim Dargaville; in recognition of 16 year's service to the FOVV Executive, Louise Joy was granted Honorary Life Membership of FOVV by President Liz Guiver.

Executive Appointments 2014-2015: **President** - deferred; **Vice President** - Colin Honey; **Secretary** - Louise Joy; **Joint Treasurers** - Evelyn Lehmann and John Gault; **Newsletter Editor** - Nancy Nicholas (from 1 November 2014); **Executive Members** - Jim Richardson, David Runia, Lynette Joubert and Nancy Nicholas.

PRESIDENT LIZ GUIVER'S 2014 REPORT

*"In as much as you have done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me",
Matthew 25:40*

During this past year there have been a number of significant highlights, achievements and events.

FOV Victoria Executive Meetings:

Meetings were held in John Gault's Consulting Rooms in Bendigo in September 2013, and in February and June 2014.

An additional meeting occurred in June, as the Executive was invited to attend a Missionary Meeting at the home of Dr. Sydney Paul in Deniliquin, to present CMC Vellore.

As John Gault is retiring, future Meetings will be held in Melbourne. We wish him God's blessings and a healthy and enjoyable retirement and, thank him most sincerely for allowing the Executive to meet in his Consulting Rooms over a long period of time.

Australian FOV AGM – Darwin, 2013:

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Board was held on 17 August, 2013 at the Darwin Convention Centre, Stokes Road, Darwin, ACT. It was held in conjunction with the Vellore Alumni Conference. Dr. Sunil Chandy, CMC Vellore Director was present together with a number of the Australian Alumni members.

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Ian Olver, Australian CMC Vellore President, chaired the Meeting and welcomed guests and members. The CMC College song 'Silver and Blue' was sung and Rev'd. Malcolm Sercombe, Guest Speaker, focused devotions on Matthew 10:5 and Mark 8: 13 – 21 with faith being the central theme. He shared his own background of having a mother who when confronted with any issues, would always take them to the Lord. She taught him to do the same. No issue is too small or too big for the Lord to deal with.

Dr. Chandy spoke of four key issues:

- Infrastructure: Buildings, now too small to accommodate needs.
- College 'Neet' Court Case where other hospitals were dovetailing on CMC.
- Responding to Training requests from other countries; South Sudan and Fiji.
- The 2015 'Paul Brand' (Leprosy Mission) Celebration, with a plan to have a Retirement Home for past medical staff to reside in.

Closer ties between the FOV and the Alumni are developing. While the Alumni want to remain a separate entity, it is a possibility that in order to obtain tax deductibility the Alumni could send funds to FOV, as it has Corporate ability which might be useful to Alumni members and their respective supporters. Talks will continue between the two groups.

The amount the Australian Board transferred to CMC during the 2012 – 2013 year was \$101,300 of which \$35,000 came through FOVV.

FOV Victoria Fundraising Dinner:

The Annual Fundraising Dinner was held on 3 May 2014, with Professor Ian Olver as the Guest Speaker, followed by a short presentation by Dr. David Runia.

Ian shared slides he had taken of CMC Vellore and these depicted the past and current buildings and views. It was interesting to see the many changes and, particularly, the development that has taken place.

Many attended the evening and while there were a number of apologies, guests enjoyed the food, the fellowship and the opportunity of seeing changes at CMC. Thanks to our Chair, Dr. David Price and Evelyn who organized a large part of this event. The Silent Auction and Raffle, together with donations, amounted to \$3,915, after costs. A great effort!

Bio Ethics Centre at CMC Vellore:

While Revd Colin Honey has moved to minister to the people of Ararat, he has found time to visit the Bio Ethics Centre at CMC Vellore. FOVV friends will be delighted to hear Colin speak on this important matter at the AGM this year. Continue to pray for Colin, for God's guiding hand.

'10 Year' Awards:

In reviewing FOVV's records, I have noted that there are a number of past and present Executive members who ought to be recognized for their long standing service of ten plus years. They are:

- Eve Steward/Brunner, Secretary 1964 to 1997 (33 years)
- Frances Boyd, President 1980 to 1997 (18 years)
- Louise Joy, Vice-President 1997 then Secretary 2000 to 2014 (16 years)
- Olive Stillwell, Secretary 1954 and 1955 then Treasurer 1957 to 1962, 1964, 1967 to 1970 (14 years)
- Gwen Williams, Joint Secretary & Treasurer 1976 and Joint Treasurer 1985 to 1997 (13 years)
- J. Hutchinson, Treasurer 1954 to 1956 and Secretary 1957 to 1962 (11 years)
- Don Oldmeadow, President 1966 to 1976 (11 years), and
- Margaret Holmes, Treasurer 1963, 1965, 1966, 1971 to 1977 (10 years)

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Congratulations to these past and present Executive members for a job well done and, while some may not be with us, they are in Spirit. All have assisted CMC in reaching out to those in need of appropriate medical care. A formal acknowledgement will be made and recorded at the 2014 AGM.

CMC 'EIGHT' CAMPUSES:

I have often wondered how many CMC Campuses there were so searched the CMC website to find 'eight'. You may be interested to read the attached list of CMC Campuses.

Australian FOV Webpage:

Make sure you visit this website from time to time to assist you to keep abreast of the Friends of Vellore activities across Australia.

Generous Donations received:

During the year a number of generous donations have been received and the Executive is very grateful and sincerely thanks all those who have continued to support the work at CMC Vellore. Donations have supported the following projects, Community Lay-Leaders Health Training Certificate Program, Nursing Scholarship, Bio Ethics Centre and of course those in need of medical care and support. You will be delighted to know that \$35,000 has been forwarded to the Australian FOV Board for transfer to CMC.

According to Hugh Skeil, CMC Manager, Development Office, 'financial support is needed for those patients who arrive at the hospital with no funds. Everyday there are people needing concessions for their treatment; many are assisted, but there are many more who either end up borrowing to get enough, or have to cut short their treatment. In my office we get one or two requests most days from patients needing operations or treatment costing RS. 100,000 to 400,000. We help almost all of them with grants of RS. 50,000 to 100,000 and do this entirely using donated funds.

Then, there are also lots of good ideas people have for helping those in slums or out in the rural areas, but they are always scraping around for funds. On the educational side the scholarships funding is enough for medical students, but not for nurses or allied health, and in fact the scholarships are only paying for a small amount of the total cost of subsidised education.

While CMC is a huge hospital, and we have resources that most mission hospitals in India can only dream about, they look longingly at our buildings, equipment and reasonably well-paid staff, and think we have more than we need'.

Appreciation:

Finally, I would like to pass on my appreciation and gratitude to the FOV Victoria Executive members; Colin Honey (Vice President), Louise Joy (Secretary), John Gault and Evelyn Lehmann (Joint Treasurers), George Guiver (Newsletter Editor), and our Patron David Price.

I have made a decision to resign as President. I pray that you will continue to support CMC as it continues to maintain a high quality of care to its staff, patients and their families.

CMC and friends of Vellore will be included in my prayers and I sincerely thank you all for the privilege and pleasure of leading you over the past four years. My heart is with the needy and I was delighted to read the following two articles from New Life, 15 May 2014:

- *Indian Bible translators have given up comfortable lifestyles in South India to live amongst Dalit communities in northern India.*
- *Last month World Cassette Outreach in India distributed 25 Audio Bibles to a Blind school in Tamil Nadu.*

Liz Guiver
FOVV President

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CMC VELLORE 'EIGHT CAMPUSES'

- 1. Christian Medical Hospital Campus**, Vellore, South India (Ida Scudder Road, Tamil Nadu). CMC has some services dedicated to treating people living close to Vellore, e.g. Community Health & Development (CHAD), Low Cost Elective Care Unit (LCECU), Rural Unite for Health & Social Affairs (RUSHA) and, College of Nursing. Community Health (CONCH).
 - Obstetrics
 - Child Health
 - Paediatric Surgery
 - Reproductive Medicine
 - Neonatology
 - Developmental Paediatrics
 - 2. Bagayam College Campus**: (7km south of the main hospital). This site has academic and clinical services.
Clinical Services:
 - Mental Health – MHC
 - Rehabilitation Institute - Rehab
 - Community Health & Development – **CHAD**. Provides community, out-patient and in-patient hospital services to the rural, urban and tribal community areas of KaniyambadiAcademic Services:
 - Medical College Administration
 - Community Health and Training Centre (CHTC)
 - Medical College Library – for students and staff only
 - Teaching Departments: Anatomy, Biostatistics, Clinical Pharmacology & PhysiologyNambikkai Nilayam helps children with special needs who have mental retardation, are slow learning or developing. It specializes in evaluating and training children with mental retardation and is situated by the Mental Health Centre. It is essential that at least one parent of the child be present during the first consultation.
 - 3. Schell Hospital Campus**: (24km south from main hospital)
 - The Ophthalmology Department who help people with eye problems
 - The Ida Sophia Scudder Ward – this is the **Low Cost Effective Care Unit** that provides health care to the poor people living in Vellore
 - 4. Rural Health & Development (RUSHA)**, 25 km North West of Vellore) Provision of:
 - Service to the people of the KV Kuppam Block
 - Training for students in medicine, nursing, health and development
 - Research in health and development
 - 5. Kagitapattarai College of Nursing Campus**: Laying of the Foundation Stone of the Nursing Students' Hostel on 29 June 2012. Sewage Treatment Plant dedication 20 December, 2012.
 - 6. North Campus in Mapakshi of Chittoor Mandal, Andhra Pradesh**: (New land, North of Chittoor, 640.17 acres)
 - Out patient and Dispensary Block
 - Chapel, being constructed
 - Vision of Christian University of Health ServicesSpeciality Hospital offering a full range of health-related education and training courses and advanced research facilities to be developed.
 - 7. Campus in Kannigapuram, Andhra Pradesh**: (76.45 acres). Land on national highway (near Sneha Deepam, towards Chennai) purchased during Dr. George Chandy's time.
 - Outstation patients
 - Trauma Centre
 - Cardiothoracic surgery
 - Neurological Sciences
 - Oncology
 - Urology
 - Nephrology
 - 8. South Campus in Andhra Pradesh**
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FOVV Income & Expenditure for 01/07/13 to 30/06/2014

Bal B/forward from 2012/13	
General Cheque Acct	\$17,701.89
Investment Acct	\$35,285.89
TOTAL	\$52,987.78
INCOME	
Donations fundraising dinner	\$2,335.00
Donations in lieu of dinner	\$1,545.00
Donations other	\$22,855.00
General Cheq acct Interest	\$236.49
Investment Acct Interest	\$1,191.80
Fundraising Dinner	\$3,445.00
Fundraising Book Sales	\$280.00
Fundraising Raffles	\$210.00
Fundraising - Olive Oil	\$340.00
Fundraising - Lace & Cloths	\$150.00
Queen's College Welcome Lunch	\$1,110.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$33,698.29
EXPENDITURE	
Donations forwarded Aust Vellore Board - CMC	\$35,000.00
Event Expenses	\$58.46
Bank Acct Fees	\$43.25
Queens Lunch	\$1,647.00
Fundraising Dinner	\$3,890.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$40,638.71
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$46,047.36</u>
Balance at 30 June 2013	
General Cheque Acct	\$9,569.67
Investment Acct	\$36,477.69
Total	\$46,047.36

Colin Honey's AGM address (report by Louise Joy):

The BioEthics Centre is a first in India, like many of the firsts at CMC Vellore, Rev. Colin Honey told the FOVV AGM.

The secular Government of India has put pressure on CMCH Vellore over selection of students, resisted as no Government subsidy is provided. Pressure is still placed with the injunction, "We don't want theology. We want moral guidance." Colin wove the narrative of BioEthics' origin among Christian theologians moving now to a secular ethic, culturally sensitive and enabling clinicians to make moral decisions in their practice. The graphic illustration Colin gave was of a doctor in Accident and Emergency faced with a village woman asking for the arm of her young child to be cut off to become a better beggar. When the doctor refused, the mother took her child to the nearest butcher who performed the job roughly. The child developed septicaemia and had to be brought back to CMC

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for treatment. Pregnancy termination is not performed at CMCH but what if a doctor is faced with a desperate young woman who has been raped and does not want the baby? These are difficult moral choices which doctors at Vellore are wrestling with every day.

Colin was very impressed with Anu, heading the BioEthics Unit at CMCH Vellore. As though a gift from God, Anu arrived with a Masters Degree in BioEthics from McGill University in Canada. Developing teaching and research in parallel with clinical practice, a questionnaire is given to all medical and nursing students at the beginning of their courses and then at the end, asking what they see as the ethical issues. Connections have been made introducing BioEthics in Bangalore and Delhi. Among the 20 chaplains at Vellore, Colin recognised the very best who knew how to listen, helping patients and families come to their own decisions on dilemmas such as turning off life support systems.

In Victoria, funding for the BioEthics Centre at CMC Vellore has come from the Ken and Isabel Gilbertson Trust, the Uniting Church Presbytery in the Western suburbs, Friends of Vellore Victoria and individual donations.

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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:

Enquiries/orders to Louise Joy, Secretary FOVV; e-mail to fovvsecretary@gmail.com,
Telephone: 03 5433 3631 or Mobile:

FOVV President: -----, e-mail: fovvpresident@gmail.com

FOVV Secretary: Louise Joy; Telephone: 03 5433 3631, e-mail: fovvsecretary@gmail.com

FOVV Joint Treasurers: Evelyn Lehmann & John Gault; Telephone: 03 5441 4289,
e-mail: fovvtreasurer@gmail.com; postal address: 203 View Street, Bendigo, Vic., 3550

FOVV Newsletter Editor: George Guiver (until 31 Oct 2014); e-mail: fovvnewsletter@gmail.com

Australian FOV Website: www.australianfov.net.au