

Vellore News

October 2015

CMCH Vellore Web site:
 Australian FOV web site:
 SA FOV email:

<http://www.cmch-vellore.edu>
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safriendsofvellore@gmail.com



SA Friends of Vellore Annual General Meeting

3pm, Sun 25th October, 2015

Rosefield Uniting Church
 2 Carlton St, Highgate

Speaker:

Mr David Rutter - formerly Foreign Service in India (and other countries) and Australia's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.

What is sure to be an interesting talk by Mr Rutter about his experiences in India will be followed by a delicious afternoon tea. Everyone is welcome!

SA FOV
 AGM Details

SA FOV
 Presidents
 Report

Christmas
 Day births
 at CHAD

President's report

It is with great pleasure, that I write this report. The annual South Australian Friends of Vellore dinner was held on the 29th of August 2015 and was a great success. The dinner saw a record attendance. The programme opened with a traditional Indian welcome dance by Dr Geetha Sadagpopan. The audience was also treated to a dance by kids from C-Walk Dances and a delightful medley of classical and Bollywood dances by the SAIMA dancers choreographed by Vidya Karthik from Temple of Fine Arts, Adelaide. British India/Charminar Restaurants as usual served a delicious three course dinner with the aid of enthusiastic members of the Overseas Christian Fellowship. An inspiring talk by Dr Sunil Chandy, currently director of CMC, Vellore and chief guest of the evening. He spoke on the beginnings of the institution, touching on Dr Ida Scudder's vision for the institution. He spoke on the constraints of space leading to building new capacity through CMC's two new campuses, one in Chittoor, and the new Trauma Centre in Kannigapuram. This was born out



of the need to expand trauma care facilities because the region had the highest incidence of road traffic trauma. Despite the large workforce, a need for building human resource was recognised, and recruitment and retention policies were reviewed manpower was in line with future needs. He also touched on CMC's ever expanding role in supporting mission hospitals around the country through a more empowered Mission directorate, and its contribution beyond the borders of the country in ...contd next page

Upcoming Events At A Glance

3pm Sun, 25th October 2015
 SA FOV Annual General Meeting
 Rosefield Uniting Church

A reminder that if you wish to receive this newsletter by email and no longer require the paper form, please email: safriendsofvellore@gmail.com

**Help save our postage costs and enjoy the newsletter in colour!

South Australian Friends of Vellore Committee

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Overseas Christian Fellowship waiters (and Renji)

...contd countries like South Sudan through clinical workshops and distance education courses. He spoke about broadening CMC's footprint as a global institution with a larger mandate of "Go out into the world". He expressed his sincere gratitude to the guests for their kind and generous contribution. While he was grateful for the 'funds' raised by the Friends of Vellore, he saw its role expanding to 'raise friends' and invited the audience to visit CMC or collaborate with CMC in any way they saw fit. I'm pleased to say that a number of people have responded to this invitation. The talk was followed by the much-anticipated auction by Dr Daryl Teague. The generosity of people at the auction was humbling and I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who contributed as donors and bidders. We had an additional silent auction as well for the first time. Together with the raffles, the auctions saw a record amount of money raised. The total amount of money that was raised from the dinner this year is close to \$19,000 which is a record amount. Also at the dinner, Dr Gigi

Chandy launched the new DVD titled "Our Stories, Our CMC" directed and produced by Tim Nicholls of Kurrawong productions. In keeping with Dr Chandy's request to "raise friends", I would like to extend his invitation to anyone who would be interested to collaborate to contribute to CMC. Friends of Vellore, SA would be happy to facilitate this in any way possible.

I would also like to invite you to the SA FOV's Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Rosefield Uniting Church, Carlton Street, Highgate at 3pm on 25th October 2015. The guest speaker for the afternoon will be Mr David Rutter whose career in the Foreign Service saw him in various positions in India and other nations including a period as Australia's high commissioner to Sri Lanka.

*Dr Renji Nelson
President, SA FOV*



CHAD – Born on Christmas Day

Though it may be considered as summer elsewhere, people in Vellore feel the Indian winter cold as much as those in other parts of the world facing much lower temperatures. Christmas morning the doctor was visiting the maternity ward at the Community Health and Development (CHAD) Department Base Hospital. Mums were wrapped in shawls or sweaters. The new born babies were snugly swaddled, as was the baby Jesus all those centuries ago. The new arrivals were wearing the caps from the gift packets given out that morning. No dirty, draughty stable for these babies, but a welcome bed and kind and skilled medical staff in attendance for these young wives.



Ashwari and her baby son in the ward at CHAD on Christmas Day.

ASHWARI and her husband, Saravanan live in Salavanpet, a part of the Old Town district in Vellore. They live with his parents in a small house, with one bedroom, a living room and a kitchen. As newly weds the young couple occupy the bedroom. The elders make do with the living room. The family belong to the dhobi community. Ashwari has completed her secondary schooling, XIIth standard. Saravanan has studied up to Xth standard. He works as a dhobi, going from house to house, pushing a trolley, equipped with a heavy charcoal iron box, on which he irons people's clothes.

Ashwari, although she is only aged 20 and not long married has already suffered two miscarriages. Imagine the family's delight, therefore when the young Mum on Christmas morning safely delivered a baby son, weighing in at 3.1kg.

There must certainly be joy in Heaven over this precious birth on Christmas Day.

Like Ashwari, CHITRA, aged 22, who studied up to VIIIth standard, and her husband, Saravanan aged 28 live in the Old Town district of Vellore in a 3 room rented accommodation for which they pay Rs.150/- per month. There is a tap for water in the house, but it flows only intermittently and they need to buy water from the water tanker which calls in the street. Saravanan who studied up to Xth standard, works as an assistant in a photo shop for daily wages. He works four or five days in the week. At festival seasons he can earn a little more. Although they live in Vellore, they chose to come to the CHAD hospital, 8km away from the centre of Vellore drawn by the hospital's reputation for skilled and compassionate care.

This is Chitra's third pregnancy. The first time she miscarried and lost the baby girl. Her little son, who arrived safely was only 2.1kg when born. During her pregnancy Punitha had been routinely screened for diabetes. Her blood sugar was raised, During her pregnancy Punitha had been routinely screened for diabetes. Her blood sugar was high, suggesting a risk of diabetes in later life. She would need regular check ups.



Chitra with her baby and her mother and the

The family are delighted with their beautiful little girl.



Punitha and her baby

On Christmas morning the pride and joy on PUNITHA's face was clear to see as she proudly showed her firstborn, a son, to the doctor visiting the maternity ward. The baby had been born at 7am on Christmas Day, weighing 2.4kg. No doubt in just such a way the Virgin Mary had proudly shown her little son, Jesus, to the adoring shepherds.

During her pregnancy Punitha had been routinely screened for diabetes. Although her blood sugar was showing high, there was deemed to be no risk. Both Punitha and her husband have electrical engineering diplomas. He works for a small private company, earning Rs.8,000 per month. They owned their own home. Nevertheless, with a new Mum and baby to support all his limited financial resources would be used up.

Punitha and her baby would soon be discharged and return home, praising God for the gift of her first born, a son.

Tax deductible donations to CMCH can be made online at:

<http://australianfov.net.au/donations/>

Simply and easily make a donation to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore.

Dr. Ian Roberts-Thomson
8 William St
Hawthorn, SA, 5062

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$..... to the work of the Christian Medical College and Hospital at Vellore, India.

Name.....

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(Donations are tax-deductible if made to the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital Support Fund)