



VELLORE NEWSLETTER

OLD FRIENDS OF VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL

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(Qld FOV is a branch of the Australian Board of the Vellore Christian Medical College and Hospital)

Dear Friends,

This letter advertises our **ANNUAL VELLORE DINNER**, a great opportunity to learn more about the work of the Christian Medical College, meet other interested Queenslanders, hear an interesting speaker, be entertained and enjoy a tasty Indian meal.

Please note the date of the 2017 Vellore Dinner – and plan to come!

Saturday 27 May (6 for 6.30pm)

At the Emmanuel Uniting Church, 249 South Pine Road, Enoggera. Dr Nitin Verma is the speaker. (see the next page for more about him). Tickets (adults \$50, concession \$40) available from Ian Kerr (33725970) or Brian Lee (33513272).

For email recipients and addresses in or near Brisbane an application form for tickets is included.

THE 2017 DINNER SPEAKER AND SPECIAL GUESTS

- 1. Speaker: Associate Professor Nitin Verma, AM, OTL,** is a distinguished ophthalmologist, trained in CMC Vellore, Germany and Australia.
His awards (Order of Australia and Order of Timor Leste) are for his work in those countries, work which still continues.
In addition to his professional and advisory roles, he practises ophthalmology in Hobart where he is Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Royal Hobart Hospital. He is also Clinical Assoc Professor, School of Medicine, Uni of Tasmania and Sydney, and is in private practice at Hobart Eye Surgeons.
He is the Honorary Consul for Timor Leste in Tasmania and is the Coordinator of an Eye Program in that country run under the umbrella of the Royal Australian College of Surgeons.
- 2. Special Guests: Jeff and Jean Sheehan:** Jean had much responsibility in organising the first Qld Vellore Dinner in Wesley House in 1983. For so many of the dinners since that time Jean and Jeff with their own special gifts have helped make a success of those get-togethers of Qld Friends of Vellore and other supporters of this great work.

A MESSAGE ABOUT SENDING OUT THIS NEWSLETTER

from Cathy Chandani, Chairperson of the Qld Friends of Vellore.

Thank you very much to those Friends who are receiving this Newsletter by email. We are now sending out around 90 of the letters this way. This is already saving nearly \$100 each time.

If you would like to join this growing number of Friends just email me at fovqld@hotmail.com. Please add your surname and current address so we can adjust our mailing list.

For those without email access or who prefer the printed copy, we are happy to go on delivering your Newsletter in the usual way.



KANNIGAPURAM HOSPITAL BUILDING READY TO BEGIN

It has taken longer than expected, but everything is now in place to allow CMC to start building the new hospital at Kannigapuram on the outskirts of Vellore city.

Planning permissions and environmental clearance have been granted, the budget agreed and the contractors selected.

Phase one will include the international standard trauma centre, a vital necessity with the sheer number of road accidents as well as other emergencies that overwhelm the existing casualty facilities in the main Hospital.

CMC will also soon be providing in this Hospital comprehensive facilities for cancer treatment, neurosciences and cardiovascular diseases among others.

The initial focus will be on “lifestyle” and non-communicable diseases that are becoming the primary causes of illness and death.

Future phases will see the addition of all specialties and educational and research facilities.

Meanwhile the older main hospital will continue to provide all the services currently offered, but with the eventual benefits of more space and a quieter environment.

CMC says, “We need a lot of money for this new project. Do let us know if you or your organisation can help; you can “buy a brick”, dedicate a bed or give any amount.

THE BUILDING BEGINS WITH A BRICK – AND PEOPLE!

Old and young joined in an unusual, perhaps unique, brick laying ceremony on CMC's site for its new Hospital building. What was a dream 16 years ago, now begins a new step forward for CMC. Just before Christmas a “turning of the sod” ceremony was held at this bare site and now in late January it was time to make the next move towards this 1500 bedded multispecialty hospital and teaching facility.

Speaking to the students present The Director, Dr Sunil Chandy, told them, “You are the beneficiaries, you are the workers who will carry this dream forward”. He then invited them and others present to leave their hand prints on slabs of wet cement. These will become a permanent part of the new hospital.



Stage two of the brick laying ceremony was performed by 102 year old Ms Anna Jacob, former Nursing Superintendent of CMC who was trained by Dr Ida Scudder. “It was an emotional moment for many in the gathering” as she was brought forward in her wheelchair so she could lay the first brick “with frail but steady hands and a proud smile”.

The Post Master General of the Chennai City Region handed over 5000 personalised stamps featuring CMC Vellore.

The Kannigapuram facility is expected to be the model project for Tamil Nadu since the replication of its design within this State will be permitted. By the time this building is complete, it will be 100 years since CMC began medical education.



CHITTOOR HOSPITAL NOW OPEN FOR INPATIENTS

There has been an outpatient facility functioning in the Chittoor Campus for 4 years. *[A note from the editor: It was a privilege for me, along with a former CMC staff person, Monica Hopkins from UK, to see this Outpatient Clinic in 2012 when it was about to begin its work.]* Now CMC has opened a 130 bedded hospital on this picturesque site. Many people from Andhra Pradesh find it convenient to go there and the state-of-the-art operating theatres are already well used.

The picture shows us that those who sweep are also valued members of the staff!

Meanwhile the growing out-patient department offers many general and specialist clinics.



Chittoor Campus Operating Theatre: final preparations before opening

HEALTH CARE FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY

CMC maintains a number of funds which can be drawn on to enable treatment, including expensive surgery, to be provided to people who otherwise would have to be turned away. These funds include:

Free Bed Scheme – 1,740 patients

All treatment costs covered up to Rs.100,000. All general hospital beds are automatically subsidised.

Free Work – CMC doctors write off all or part of the fees for those who cannot afford the full amount.

***Centenary Endowment Fund**

Rs.100 million in grants of up to Rs.200,000 for local patients needing major operations.

***Person to Person Scheme (PTP) –**

Rs. 10,260,000 to help more than 2,000 people with small grants.

Emergency Grants 2016/17

131 Grants worth Rs.82,000 approved. All this money came from gifts from Friends of CMC Vellore and others.

CMC can't provide all the help needed and can always use more funds.

(At present one Australian dollar is equal to about 50 Indian rupees)

***A substantial amount of the money raised by the Australian Vellore Board through the various State groups has contributed to these two on-going funds.**

TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS BY BANK TRANSFER

People wishing to donate to CMC Vellore may find it more convenient to pay by Bank transfer rather than by cheque. Our Treasurer, Richard Caitens, has provided the following information for donors:

Full Name of Account: Friends of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital Queensland Group Support Fund. (You can enter just: Friends of Vellore Support Fund)

BSB no.: 633000

Account no.: 131073413

Reference: Your surname and suburb (or as much as space allows). After making the transfer, please send an email regarding your deposit to the Treasurer at this email address: cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au so a receipt can be sent to you.

Donations can also be made directly through the Australian CMC web site www.australianfov.net.au

AUSTRALIAN VELLORE BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

This Board meets in rotation in each of the States where there is a Friends of Vellore group.

This year it is Queensland's turn to host this meeting on Saturday, 19th August. Details of functions open to Queensland Friends will be sent to all on our email list later. If you wish to meet the members of the Board at that time please contact any of the Office Bearers listed at the end of this letter.

Special guests coming from CMC are Hugh and Debbie Skeil who will be in Qld a few days earlier.

The President of the Board, Dr Bella George, and the Treasurer, Richard Caitens, are both Queenslanders.

ABOUT HUGH AND DEBBIE SKEIL

After 6 months training with the Church Missionary Society, Hugh and Debbie joined the CMC Vellore staff in August 1999 and have been part of that community ever since.

Hugh, an accountant, says he now spends his time trying to collect money rather than counting it! He runs the Development Office which seeks to raise money especially for CMC's charitable activities and for new capital projects.

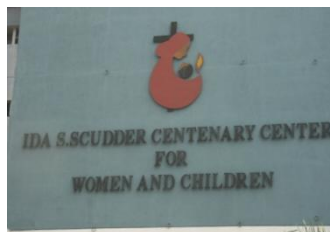
Dr Debbie specialises in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PMR).. Recently her particular interest has been developing a children's rehab unit within this Department. She has also helped PMR with its website, teaching, research projects and publications. Her sewing and other creative skills are much in demand to help with costumes for student plays and musicals.



WEB SITES.

www.australianfov.net.au

Vellore and USA sites: www.cmch-vellore.edu & www.vellorecmc.org



STREET STALL NEWS

Many thanks to those wonderful people who continue their many years of stall work and to those who have joined them recently. They still raise a lot of money for the work at Vellore.

Each of the Toowong and Tank Street stalls happens once a month. New helpers are always welcome. Continuing needs include:

- Suitable items for sale, especially cakes and biscuits
- Help with transporting the goods
- Workers at the stalls - regularly or now and again as you are able.

If you, or someone you know, can help in this, kindly contact Mrs Claire Mainstone (3371 1332).

For much of the material in these Newsletters I am again indebted to CMC's weekly "Newslink" for stories and pictures.

Regards, Brian (Newsletter Editor).

QLD FRIENDS OF VELLORE OFFICE BEARERS

Chairman: Mrs Cathy Chandani, 24 Mathews St, Bethania 4205 (0412391353)

Vice Chairman: Rev John Hooper, 18 Leah Av Salisbury 4107 (32772883)

Hon. Secretary: Dr Sharon George, 27 McAuley Pde, Pacific Pines 4211
ph 0401 919 664

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Richard Caitens, 107 Northgate Rd, Northgate 4013 (3266 1962)

Stalls Co-ordinator: Mrs Claire Mainstone, 37 Fifth Av, St Lucia, 4067 (3371 1332)

Publicity Officer &

Newsletter Editor: Rev Brian Lee, 19 Glencloy Street, Ferny Grove 4055 (3351 3272)

QUEENSLAND FRIENDS OF VELLORE warmly invite you to:

THE 2017 ANNUAL INDIAN DINNER

Saturday 27 May 2017 (6 for 6.30pm)

**Emmanuel Uniting Church, 249 South Pine Road, Enoggera
(UBD p.139 A8 - good parking in Laurel St, behind the Church)**

**Guest Speaker: Dr Nitin Verma, Distinguished Ophthalmologist
and CMC Vellore Graduate**

Indian Dancing, Music and Indian Buffet Dinner

Cost: \$50.00 Concession: \$40.00

Print out and send to address below:

Name.....

Address

Phone or email contact

Number of tickets:

Return this form to: FOV 19 Glencloy St Ferny Grove Qld 4055 and:
INCLUDE cheque payable to Friends of Vellore

OR send ticket request to jblee@bigpond.net.au and pay to:
Westpac:: FOV General Fund BSB 734033 A/c 070024 with your
initial and surname.

Further information phone Brian Lee 3351 3272 or Ian Kerr 3372 5970