

**Kannigapuram** –the building work started just an year ago and the 6 blocks are coming up very fast, The tallest one is going to be the private in-patient ward of 7 floors. Work is going on for 18 hours every day non stop and hope to hand over for internal fittings by May 2019. There is a separate housing project of 534 units for staff accommodation. Estimated cost of the whole project is A\$235 million . When completed it will be a 1400 bed Tertiary Referral and Emergency Facility.

### Our Donations

We supported many different projects within CMC during the past year. Just a broad breakdown of where it went:

<b>Jawadhi Hills</b> ( including the 4WD \$26,200)	<b>\$46,000</b>
<b>Student Scholarship</b> ( Nursing & Allied Health)	<b>\$17,450</b>
<b>Emergency Fund for Needy -</b>	<b>\$12,450</b>
<b>ICU Ambulance for Kannigapuram</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>
<b>Low Cost Effective Care Unit</b> ( personal designated donation)	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Distance Education Dept</b> ( personal designated donation)	<b>\$21,000</b>

There were many smaller donations for various designated causes.

### Student Selection

Unfortunately this problem has not been solved and still in the hands of the courts.

CMC decided to forgo selecting any candidates for the Undergraduate course last year. It was a very bold decision. They are hoping the same thing does not happen this year and there could be some solution reached by then. It affects not only undergraduate but also Post Graduate as well Super Speciality intake. Not having candidates selected for the last two categories affects the normal running of the clinical services as they are the back bone of a hospital system. CMC is trying to tackle the PG selection first as it is due soon and then take up on the other two . We uphold the Administration and their advocates in our prayers and trust God will guide them in all their efforts.

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## NSW Branch

### Friends of Vellore

*Supporting the work at  
Christian Medical College &  
Hospital,  
Vellore, S. India*



Chittoor Campus Aerial view

April 2018

#### Office Bearers

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Dear Friends,

How quickly the past year has gone since we sent you our last news letter. We have lots of news to share from Vellore as well as about the Australian FOV.

#### Vellore Visitors

As most of you were aware, Hugh and Debbie Skeil visited Australia in August 2017 to attend the AGM. They stayed with John & Sally Rothwell in Sydney for a few days, during which time they had the opportunity to meet a few of the friends from NSW and visit a few places around Sydney and Blue Mountains. People who met them were very impressed with their passion for CMC and their knowledge of Vellore and the happenings over there. Our special thanks to John and Sally for their kind hospitality. They also visited Brisbane, Melbourne & Adelaide (annual dinners) and Hobart. Hugh has been a great help to us over the years with various matters and we were glad that we had the opportunity to meet him in person, seek his advice and discuss our problems. This visit was mutually beneficial for us as well as CMC.

### **The AGM Australian Vellore Board**

The annual meeting of the Board took place on the 19th August 2017 in Brisbane. The Hugh Skeil was the chief guest representing the Director. Bella George the president of the Board chaired the meeting. There were 13 attendees from various state branches. Hugh gave a comprehensive account of the latest news from CMC and conveyed the greetings from the new Director J.V. Peter and his vision for CMC during his term. We sincerely believe we will have a good working relationship with him.

Richard Caitens the treasurer reported that we transferred \$225,000. during the year to Vellore. We also had a generous donation of \$500,000 from Adelaide - Hackett Foundation, which was earmarked as an endowment to cater for emergency treatment at Kannigapuram campus.

Various states presented their annual reports. Thanks to your generosity, we contributed \$23,850.00 from NSW.

For the Board of Directors, I was elected as the president and Prof. David Runia from Victoria as the vice president. The Board thanked Bella George for her excellent job during her term. Next AGM is planned for 25th August 2019, in Adelaide and we are hoping Dr Peter will attend.

### **Allison Vickery Allied Health Staff Fellowship**

The Australian Board received a very generous amount as a bequest from the estate of late Alison. It was a very magnanimous of her to remember the FOV she has been involved with for almost 4 decades. The Board in consultation with the NSW FOV and her family has decided to invest this amount and the proceeds to go toward sponsoring 2 Allied Health Junior Staff from Vellore to come to Australia every year for further training for a period up to 8 weeks. We are so pleased that this fellowship will be there as a perpetual memory of Alison and her passion for teaching. It amounts to \$4000.00 per candidate. We hope the first recipients will be awarded during the coming year. At A.H Junior Staff level, such an opportunity to travel abroad is made available for the very first time!

### **New Director -Dr. John Victor Peter**



Dr John Victor Peter (known as JVP) took over from Dr Sunil Chandy on 23rd September 2017.

He is an alumnus of the MBBS Batch of 1982, and was the head of Medical ICU. Previously he held the position as the Associate Director of Finances. He is a great musician. His wife Jayanthi is an Ophthalmologist at CMC. They spent a few years in Adelaide as part of their post graduate training in early 2000.

They are hoping to visit Australia in August for the AGM. Apart from attending the AGM and FOV dinners in Adelaide and Melbourne, we hope they will be able to travel around to other states and meet the FOV. We will let you know once we have finalised the itinerary.

### **My recent visit to Vellore - Council Meetings**

I had the opportunity to visit the 3 Centres we have been talking about.

**Jawadhi Hills** - It was a very long and tiresome journey on a windy and uneven road. We visited a model village, the midwife who conducts the home births and the Medical Centre. At present It is held at a leased premises; but, there are plans to obtain the land to build a bigger hospital with residential facilities for the staff, who at present travel every day from Vellore. The 4WD we donated is going to make lots of difference in travelling to villages which were almost unreachable until now.



**Chittoor** -To my pleasant surprise, despite not being in the focus for the past few years, the campus has grown, thanks to the hard work of Nihal Thomas who is in charge of the unit. You will remember Nihal, who was in Sydney for quite a few years in early 2000. He has attracted many retired senior staff from CMC to work there. They have a very busy OPD (500 per day), 3 operating theatres and 130 inpatient beds. There are plans for expansion with a nursing college and up to 900 beds!