

Friends of Vellore, Victoria

A division of Australian Board of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital Support Fund ABN 65 125 097 974



June 2018 NEWSLETTER

From the President's pen

Dear Friends,

I warmly recommend the contents of this letter to you. Please take a few minutes of your time to read our news. First and foremost it contains your invitation to our Annual dinner on Saturday August 18th. We are greatly honoured that the Director of CMCH is visiting Melbourne and will be able to tell us about his plans for the College and Hospital. We are hoping for a bumper attendance. You can also read about further news from Vellore. May I also draw your attention to our Annual Giving program. You will have already received the brochure with information on the four projects that we are supporting. This is your chance to help, through the CMCH, the needy and disadvantaged people of southern India. Every dollar goes a long way and changes lives. I look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

David Runia



Dr J V Peter, the CMCH director



An historic image of CMC Surgical care for women by women.

You are warmly invited to the FOVV Annual Dinner

Saturday August 18th, 2018 commencing 6pm – We are pleased to announce that our very special guest speaker is Dr J V Peter – the new Christian Medical College and Hospital Director.

Venue - the Abel Tasman Club, 60 Rosstown Road, Carnegie. This is close to the Carnegie railway station.

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Unfortunately, the usual venue for our dinner (Queen's College) will not be available that weekend, and it is the only time we could have Dr Peter as our speaker.

Our guest speaker Dr J V Peter is making his first trip to Australia after taking up the role of Director of CMCH in September 2017. Dr J V Peter studied Medicine at CMC (MBBS 1982) and was Head of the Medical Intensive Care Unit and Associate Director (Finance) prior to appointment as Director. He has completed post-doctoral training in Adelaide.

Cuisine - The dinner will be a three course 'Flavours of India' buffet. Complimentary refreshments will be served upon arrival. A bar service will be available.

Pricing - \$110 per head (includes a receipted donation of \$45), Students \$65.

For **inquiries** and to **RSVP** please e-mail the secretary at FOVVsecretary@gmail.com
We would appreciate early RSVPs and payments. Please RSVP before August 6.

Cheque payments can be sent to the secretary FOVV c/- 3 Fallon St Brunswick 3056.

EFT payments can be made to the FOVV Bendigo Bank Acc.
BSB 633000 ACC 139185151

Our May Recital in the beautiful Queen's College Chapel

A modest number of friends left their warm living rooms to come into Queen's for the recital. We were rewarded with breathtaking performances by the organist David Agg and the Queen's College choir under the direction of John Weretka; and thoughtful words from Professor David Runia, Rev John Connan, Dr Sunil Datta and Rev Colin Honey. At one point the sun lit up all the beautiful stained-glass windows and created a transcendent atmosphere. Thank you to Queen's for hosting us, including providing the afternoon tea, and to those who attended for their presence and donations.



Centenary of the Medical School

Started by Dr Ida Scudder in 1918 as the Union Mission Medical School to train women physicians to meet the need of women for medical care. They were not able to receive care from male doctors due to the social and religious taboos of the time. In 1938 the government policy changed so that medical degrees could only be granted by

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universities. Dr Scudder upgraded the medical school and named it the Christian Medical College, and started an MBBS course in 1942 after affiliation with Madras University. Part of the training involves working in rural villages. A local newspaper states “the college ... has gained a reputation among common man for its emphasis on training doctors with a humane touch.” – DTNEXT daily, Chennai Feb 5, 2018. Centenary Scholarship Fund has been set up to mark 100 years of medical education at CMC. Its aim is to help promising young women from disadvantaged backgrounds in Vellore to pursue health-related courses. A concert was held at the College Campus on 3rd March to raise funds for the scholarship.

Further news of Vellore

The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India has ranked Christian Medical College Vellore **No.3 under the National Institutional Ranking Framework** for 2018. The award was given in a ceremony on 3rd April 2018. Institutions are ranked based on Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practices; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception.

Last year, Dr Debbie Skeil told us about the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Rehab Mela held annually. Last February 194 people who had received rehabilitation at CMC, travelled to Vellore for the Mela a reunion and review event for patients with head and spinal cord injuries. “The first day began with a medical assessment, treatment review and replacement of damaged appliances. This was followed by a time of merriment and cultural activities. The following day witnessed sports events and other competitions including lemon and spoon, shot put, javelin throw, wheel chair races, drawing competition, *Rangoli*, fancy dress and extempore speech, with prizes for winners of the competitions. The third day had talks on socio-vocational issues, legal rights of the disabled, and psycho-spiritual needs organised by the Chaplaincy Department. A speech on “My ability is greater than my disability” was given by a social activist from Palur Village. The Mela ended with an evening valedictory ceremony. There are photos of the Mela on the CMC website www.cmch-vellore.edu under News Highlights.

CMC website is publicising the urgent need for medical professionals in Maharashtra where there is a high rate of suicides of farmers. One of the reasons that CMC want to retain the right to interview potential students, rather than just taking those with the highest academic scores, is that they can choose students who are more likely to go to work in areas of need, rather than looking for the highest income.

Chittoor campus has been able to reduce the waiting lists for surgery in Vellore, by performing a large number of surgical procedures in their operating theatres which opened last August.

The Kannigapuram development is progressing but will still be another year or more before it is ready for opening, and relieving more pressure on the main hospital at Vellore.

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For donations to work at Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore:

Post Cheque or money order to: Treasurer Friends of Vellore, Victoria	Direct transfer or deposit to: Friends of Vellore Victoria Bendigo Bank BSB: 633000 Account: 139185151 Please email details of any deposits to FOVVTreasurer@gmail.com)
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For the Annual Giving Campaign, please select the program/s you wish to fund:

- Development Department Emergency Fund
- Person to Person Scheme
- Endowment Fund for Allied Health Scholarships
- General support fund Australian Vellore Board

For further information on this campaign, please contact the Secretary, who will send you the campaign brochure with full details.

FOVV COMMITTEE 2017–2018

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