



## **VELLORE NEWSLETTER**

### **FRIENDS OF VELLORE CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL (QLD)**

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

#### **Dear Friends,**

This issue includes an invitation to all who are interested in the work of the Christian Medical College and its Hospitals to come to this year's Annual Meeting of the Qld Friends.

Reports will be given of the work of Qld Friends and their many supporters and the officers and members of the Committee will be elected (or re-elected) for next year.

**Don and Julie Cutmore** who are great contributors to the Street Stalls, will tell us about their visit to Vellore early this year.

Because of this great institution, founded 116 years ago, the name "**Vellore**" is widely known in India and in many other countries also. But **Chittoor? Kannigapuram?** read stories in this Newsletter about these important developments in CMC's on-going story.

#### **We invite you and your friends to join us at:**

**The 2016 ANNUAL MEETING of the Qld Friends of Vellore**  
**To be held at St Phillips Anglican Church Hall, 115 Cornwall St**  
**Annerley (near Emperor St)**

**2pm Sunday 13 November**

**Your RSVP would be helpful. Kindly contact:**

**Sharon 0401 919 664 ([sharonkoshy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sharonkoshy@yahoo.co.uk))**

**or Brian 3351 3272 ([jblee19@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jblee19@bigpond.net.au))**

## **KANNIGAPURAM – A NAME TO REMEMBER**

Substantial plans have already been drawn up for the building of a second Hospital complex on a large site in an area called Kannigapuram, 11kms from the present Hospital, on the road to Chennai.



### **(from a web site) CMC's New Trauma Center will Save Lives**

On its new 88-acre (about 35 ha) campus in Kannigapuram on the Chennai Road, CMC will respond to this need by building a Level I Trauma Center and a 1500-bed super-specialty hospital. There is no similar facility for over 100 km in either direction. The Center is part of a major expansion at CMC that addresses the growing need for the “super-specialties” provided at CMC, advanced research, tertiary care and more.

## **MORE ABOUT THE KANNIGAPURAM PROJECT**

Key components of the Trauma Centre will include: 24 hour on-site coverage by dedicated Trauma Team specialists including orthopaedic and neurosurgeons, anaesthesiologists, emergency medicine, radiology, internal medicine and critical care specialists, hand, paediatric and micro-surgeons.

There will be a Cardiac Care Unit with its own ambulance bays and cardiac specialists ready for immediate life-saving care.



The Centre will contain 30 operating theatres, including 6 in the Trauma Centre itself.

The 1500-bed Hospital will provide state-of-the-art clinical and research facilities for many of the tertiary specialties to better serve patients and alleviate crowding on the present Main Campus.

*Note from the Editor: The above and other material about the new Hospital project has been taken from the “Kannigapuram Vellore” web site. Unlike as it is in fairy stories, there is no magic wand here. Years of careful planning and the preparation of further staff as well as a commitment to serious fund raising lie ahead of those now and those in the future who are and will be convinced that this is the way forward for this great institution we know as CMC Vellore.*

*A special service of Thanksgiving to acknowledge Government approval for this project, and to recognise new developments on the Chittoor Campus, was held in the Hospital Chapel on 6 September.*

## CHITTOOR CAMPUS – OPERATING THEATRES OPENED

When I visited CMC's Chittoor project early in 2012 it was little more than a very large piece of undeveloped land which was in the process of being surrounded by a substantial fence, a defence against squatters. The only buildings at that stage were a small outpatient facility and the beginnings of a chapel.

Part of the history of this site, only 40kms north of Vellore but in another State, Andhra Pradesh, has a connection with Dr Ida Scudder's roadside clinics. Pre-Independence Chittoor, then, like Vellore, in the Madras Presidency, was barely 3kms from where Dr Ida held her clinics.

Chittoor's operating theatre complex was dedicated on 31 August. This was an opportunity to thank all involved in the planning, building, equipping and staffing of this facility. In this new complex there are four state-of-the-art theatres along with a sizable



recovery room and day care ward and other facilities, a boon especially to the people of Southern Andhra Pradesh.

CMC Chittoor Campus now offers basic medical, surgical, orthopaedic, gynaecological and community services at affordable rates.

On this dedication day, four orthopaedic surgeries were performed.

Earlier, in June, on the Chittoor Campus a dental Outpatient Department opened (wide, I hope!).



## A GOOD NEWS STORY FROM NAMBIKKAI NILAYAM

*“Hope lights a candle instead of curing the darkness”*

This heads a story from Nambikkai Nilayam, CMC’s facility for children with an intellectual disability.

Mrs X, while pregnant, remembers dreaming about what her child would grow up to be. When she learnt that her child, when born, would have special needs, she consulted with many doctors, but the diagnosis was the same.

With time, she came to accept that she would have to learn more about her child than was expected from an average parent, yet this did not fully prepare her for the responsibility of caring for her baby when he was born.. The uncertainty of his future left her bowed and exhausted.

The staff of Nambikkai Nilayam trained her for three months for the role of being a special parent. Soon she began to push herself, pouring all her energy into caring for her son. In her words, “I have learned to see beyond imperfections and to give my son the best I can. Effort, hard work and perseverance has paid off. Today I have integrated him into society. I know now I have blessed with a miracle. I am a ‘Special Mum’ “ Nambikkai Nilayam has been on similar journeys with parents of special children for 38 years now, helping parents change from despair to hope, from darkness to light.



Works of art by special children at Nabikkai Nilayam

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Please email [fovqld@hotmail.com](mailto:fovqld@hotmail.com)

**giving your surname and current address so our mailing lists can be adjusted for the next Newsletter,**

## “INDIA TODAY” RATES INDIA’S BEST COLLEGES



Rank

2

Christian Medical College



CITY: Vellore

Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore or CMC Vellore is one of the most well-known medical colleges in India. This century-old Christian institution was founded by Ida S. Scudder.

Of the 25 Medical Colleges surveyed between last December and April this year, CMC Vellore was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> by one of India's quality English language magazines.

The Nielson Company conducted this survey to determine the best undergraduate colleges across 13 disciplines.

For the medical stream, colleges from across the country were visited and were marked by senior faculty from various cities on distinct parameters - reputation of college, quality of academic input, student care, infrastructure and job prospects.

After another round of ratings by experts using methods that eliminate bias, the perceptual and factual scores of colleges were collated to arrive at a final score.

Based on this thorough national-level appraisal, CMC Vellore has been ranked second in the medical stream.

### AN AUSTRALIAN CONNECTION

The Men's Hostel in CMC's College Campus is named after Dr Edward Gault, an Australian doctor who, after serving in the Christian Hospital, Azamgarh UP, moved to Vellore to set up the Pathology Department in 1944.

A feature of the Hostel is the stand of tall majestic trees in the Hostel garden planted more than 50 years ago. Of the *Tabebuia pallida* family, they are native to Townsville. .

After so many years, three of the trees had died. CMC's horticulturalist, Mrs Jenny Kuriakose, was able to identify two saplings at Mysore, so these have now been planted as replacements.



## **TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELLING: A CMC INITIATIVE**

While many government and non-government programs have made Australian smoking rates one of the lowest in the world, this decline in tobacco use hasn't happened yet in countries such as India (except perhaps in Punjab since the Sikh religion forbids smoking).



CMC Newslines reports that the problem of tobacco use, either smoked or chewed, has reached epidemic proportions in India which has the greatest number of oral cancer cases in the world, in addition to other tobacco related diseases.

For the last 4 years CMC's Dental Department has been running a Tobacco Cessation Counselling Program for all tobacco users attending the Dental Outpatient Department. Working with the Dept of Lifestyle Medicine in August they have started a 5 day program of daily counselling to encourage patients committed to quitting the habit.

This involves intensive counselling and personal interaction with the counsellors. Participants look forward to the urine nicotine test at the end of the program to confirm their "Nicotine-Free" status.

### **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:

**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](mailto:cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au) so a receipt can be sent to you.

## **NO MORE USED STAMPS PLEASE!**

For many years some of you have been faithfully collecting stamps which were then sent to CMC's Rehabilitation Institute, There some long term patients earned money by packaging them ready for sale. (Thanks, Gwenda Spencer, for all your good work in coordinating this here in Qld over the years.)

Blame email if you wish, but the fact is that even in India where financial expectations are much smaller than here, it has been found that there is not a profitable market for used stamps any more.

## **WEB SITES**

[www.australianfov.net.au](http://www.australianfov.net.au)

Vellore and USA sites: [www.cmch-vellore.edu](http://www.cmch-vellore.edu) & [www.vellorecmc.org](http://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.**

Each of the Toowong and Tank Street stalls happen 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).**

Thanks to "Vellore Newline" for much of the material in this Newsletter.

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 Q 4107 (32772883)

Hon. Secretary: Dr Sharon George, 27 McAuley Pde Pacific Pines Q 4211  
Ph. 0401919664

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)