

Vellore Visitors—Hugh & Debbie Skeil



We are fortunate to have Hugh and Debbie visiting Australia as the official representatives at the AGM of the Board in Brisbane. They will also be travelling around the country visiting various state branches of the FOV. We all are quite excited about this visit.

Hugh & Debbie are CMS missionaries from UK working at CMC since 2007. He is a qualified accountant and is in charge of the Development Office at Vellore which looks after all the Gifts and Donations. It is a huge responsibility and has been doing a great job. We have been very pleased with his help. Debbie is an Oxford medical graduate, specialist in Rehab medicine and is working at the Rehab department.

They will be in Sydney for 2 days, from 16th—18th August, staying with Rothwells. If you wish to meet them, John is happy to organize a dinner function in a restaurant. Please contact John / Sally - 9498 3493.

News From Vellore

Dedication of the Mission Department—May 15th.

CMC has been trying to uplift and support various mission hospitals around India as they were crying out for help. At the initiative of the UK FOV a mission office was established in 2007 with dedicated staff to liaise with these hospitals and see in what way they could be helped. Now it has been developed into a full blown department with all the facilities as any other clinical department at CMC. This move is applauded and supported by many including the alumni from CMC who are working in these hospitals under very remote and unsupported conditions.

Student admissions.

It is still an ongoing battle having to appeal to the high court almost every year to enable CMC to admit students not only for undergraduate medical, but also for post graduate as well as allied health. Recent court decision has given a reprieve for PG, but still waiting for the Under graduate admissions. Our prayers are with all concerned.

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NSW Branch

Friends of Vellore

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

May 2017



Model of the Kannigapuram Campus

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Dear Friends,

It is almost an year since we wrote to you. But, since then we hosted the AGM of the Board in Sydney last August and the dinner which followed the meeting was well attended.

We had a very enjoyable and productive plenary luncheon meeting last November at the Bradley's home in Hunters Hill. About 10 members were present. We discussed about the future of the NSW FOV and planned some activities for the near future. We will keep you informed.

NSW FOV is at a great loss by the sudden passing away of Alison Vickery late last year. She has been the back bone of our organisation for more than five decades. We will have more about her life in this issue.

We thank you all for your continuing support for CMC. God Bless.

Vale – Alison Mary Vickery

20th October 1935 – 7th December 2016

We were very much saddened and shocked by the passing away of Alison a few days after experiencing a massive stroke. It was a sad occasion attending the service of thanksgiving for the life of Alison on Thursday 15th of December at the Mosman Uniting church. There were six friends from NSW FOV at the service.



Alison was introduced to FOV when she was a young girl as her family were great supporters of CMC. In 1962, she went to Vellore and worked for 6 months in the department of microbiology. After coming back to Australia, she

became a member of the Australian Board of FOV in July 1965 and since then has held various positions at state and national level for more than 50 years. She was the national secretary of the Board for 28 years. Then she took over as the president of the NSW FOV, which she relinquished in early 2016.

We were blessed that she was able to attend the last AGM in August at Strathfield Uniting church. She was quite thrilled because she grew up and attended the very same church in her younger days .

She has been a great friend and mentor for all of us who have been involved in the FOV movement for many years. Even till the end of her life she was involved in the affairs of NSW FOV. We will miss Alison very much - her wisdom, her gentle manner and her passion for Vellore. We are thankful to God for her life and praise him for what she has accomplished for the good of CMC.

The AGM Australian Vellore Board

The meeting took place on Saturday 20th August 2015 at Uniting Church Hall, Stratfield. NSW FOV was represented by Robyn Bradley the president plus four other members.

The meeting was chaired by Bella George the president of the Board. It was noted that we transferred \$300,000 during the previous financial year to Vellore. It was heartening that there were quite a few designated donations for targeted projects at CMC.

The building process of the new facility at Kannigapuram has started from early this year hoping to be completed in four years. It will be a 1500 bed hospital catering for many specialty departments. It is hoped that it will greatly lessen the burden on the current Vellore campus. Chittor campus in Andhra Pradesh is gradually growing but eventually will be a smaller unit than what was expected.

Reports from various states mentioned about their fund raising activities especially their annual dinners which were very successful in SA, Victoria and Queensland. Tasmania also hosted a dinner which was well attended.

The Board decided on how to distribute part of our last transfer to Vellore. The Development office under the Directorate gives us a list of projects which are in need of funding, We were able to choose quite a variety of causes including purchase of a 4 WD vehicle for Mobile clinics in Jawadhi Hills, equipment for Low Cost effective Care unit and Child health department with upgrade of the Early learning Centre.

All the current office bearers were re-elected. The AGM was followed by a sumptuous Indian dinner where we had the opportunity to meet the interstate board members. The next AGM will be held in Brisbane on Saturday 19th August 2017.