

Vellore Newsletter

Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore is a private, minority-run educational and research institute that includes a network of primary, secondary and tertiary care hospitals in and around Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India. Founded in 1900 by an American missionary, Dr Ida S. Scudder, CMC Vellore has brought many significant achievements to India, including starting the first College of Nursing in 1946, performing the first reconstructive surgery for leprosy in the world in 1948, performing the first successful open heart surgery in India in 1961, performing the first kidney transplant in India in 1971, performing the first bone marrow transplantation in India in 1986 and performing the first successful ABO incompatible kidney transplant in India in 2009.



QUEENSLAND FRIENDS OF VELLORE (FOV)

PRINT POST PUBLICATION NUMBER PP100003849 Vol.53 No.2 August 2018. Subscription to newsletter \$5 p.a.

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

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If you use email but currently get your newsletter by snail mail, we ask you to consider the environment and the cost of printing and posting it. A quick email to fovqld@hotmail.com will add you to the email list.

Volunteers Morning Tea

We invite everybody who has ever helped with the stalls to join us.

DATE Wednesday 8th May 2019

TIME 9.30 am

PLACE Ruth and Colin Schneider's Place, 27 Broadway Street, Woolloongabba

RSVP and apologies to Sharon 0401 919 664 (text) or sharonkoshy@yahoo.co.uk (email)

We invite you and your friends to join us at the:

2019 Annual Vellore Dinner Queensland Friends of Vellore

1st June 6:00 for 6:30 pm

at the Emmanuel Uniting Church Hall

249 South Pine Road, Enoggera

Good parking in Laurel St. behind the Church

Tickets: \$50 and \$40 concession

Our Speaker is **Dr Geeta Sales**

Specialist OBGYN at The Tweed Hospital

RSVP

Sharon 0401 919 664 (sharonkoshy@yahoo.co.uk)

or Brian 3351 3272 (jblee19@bigpond.net.au)

Our Volunteers Don & Julie Cutmore

How long have you been a Friend of Vellore?

About 16 years

How did you become a Friend?

We became interested in the work at CMC after hearing about it from Gwenda Spencer who goes to the same church we go to. She suggested we help out with the stall at Toowong.

What was your role as a Friend?

Volunteered with the stalls and improved the stalls bottom line a lot by working out what sold best and making us look more professional. We bought bric-a-brac from garage sales and then sold it on the stalls and the profit goes to CMC. We started attending the Tank Street stall and continued this till first the Toowong Stall and then the Tank Street stall folded. I baked for the stalls as well and many of my friends helped serving on the stalls and helped with baking.

What has been your most rewarding experience as a Friend?

We enjoyed meeting lovely people, being involved with the committee, other volunteers and our lovely customers. Visiting the Vellore hospital was a wonderful and inspiring experience. We got a real thrill when we sold an old gold watch for a large profit knowing the money was going to CMC.



Meet Dr Geeta Sales our speaker at this year's Dinner

Dr Geeta is a 1974 Graduate of CMC. She worked at St John's Medical College Hospital in Bangalore before moving to Papua New Guinea where she worked at Mount Hagen General Hospital and Pacific International Hospital in Port Moresby. She is currently working at Tweed Heads Hospital as a consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist. She spent some time in Afghanistan in 2018 with *Médecins Sans Frontières* and we are looking forward to hearing her story.

Stalls Update

Our Tank Street stalls are no more. We had a visit from a Brisbane City Council worker who asked about our permit to run the stall. There is a large cost involved in obtaining a permit and we have sadly decided the street stalls must come to an end. We have been exploring other possibilities for holding stalls, but the food licencing laws are making life difficult even though we are exempt from these laws as a non-profit organisation selling low-risk products.

Women's Day celebrated in the tribal villages of Jawadhi Hills

On 7th and 15th March 2019, World Women's Day was celebrated at Chinnaveerapat village and Amattankollai village in Jawadhi Hills. This was initiated by the Social Workers of Community Health Department along with the Nurses and Occupational Therapist. The programme started



with a talk on the theme, 'Balance for better empowerment'. This was followed by a quiz conducted to assess the awareness of the community regarding rights, government schemes, health issues and health facilities. The members in the community had been asked to prepare various food items and a Rangoli for a competition. Close to one hundred and fifty participants including children were present for the program in each village. The enthusiastic response from the community was encouraging and included representation from three women's self-help groups. About ten panchayat 'Thuimai Kavalari' took part in the program which was highly interactive. Another aspect of the programme was the distribution and planting of one hundred and five tree saplings which were given to the women participants who showed an interest. This was done to improve their awareness and participation in environmental issues, particularly reforestation. The programmes ended on a lighter note as the various food items prepared by the community were later shared by all who attended the programme which helped to strengthen the friendship with the community.

+You can donate to CMC Vellore by bank transfer.

Full Name of Account: Friends of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital Queensland Group Support Fund.

(You can enter: *Friends of Vellore Support Fund*)

BSB: 633 000

Account no.: 131 073 413

Reference: Surname and suburb

Please send an email about your deposit to the Treasurer at cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au so a receipt can be sent to you.

WEB SITES

Australia: www.australianfov.net.au

Vellore: www.cmch-vellore.edu

USA: www.vellorecmc.org

UK: <https://friendsofvellore.org>

[Please like](#) our **Queensland Friends Facebook** page and share it with your friends

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/366002010203628/>

QLD FRIENDS OF VELLORE OFFICE BEARERS

Chairperson: Cathy Chandani - 0412 391 353,

Vice Chairperson: Rev John Hooper - 3277 2883

Hon. Secretary: Dr Sharon George - 0401 919 664

Treasurer: Richard Caitens - 3266 1962

Stalls Co-ordinator: Claire Mainstone, 3371 1332

Publicity Officers & Kerry Griffiths - k.griff1952@gmail.com

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Acknowledgements

Material for this newsletter has been sourced from various websites and communications from Hugh Skeil, manager in the Development Office in CMC-Vellore.