

# 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)

Vol.55 No.1 April 2020

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

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### 2020 Annual Vellore Dinner Queensland Friends of Vellore

Due to the Coronavirus and the ruling about gatherings of 2 people only we have had to cancel the 2020 Dinner. If you would like to make a donation in lieu of the value of your dinner ticket the banking details are as follows:

**Name of Account:** *Friends of Vellore Support Fund*

**BSB:** 633 000

**Account no.:** 131 073 413

**Reference:** Surname and suburb

To get a **receipt** send an email to the Treasurer at [cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au](mailto:cmcvellore@optusnet.com.au).

## CMC and the Covid 19 Pandemic

CMC are gearing up in preparation for an increase in cases of Covid 19 in India. CMC planned an allocation of 150 beds to deal with the pandemic. They had a request from the local administration and Government to ramp this up to around 500 beds if the need arises. Equipping these wards and areas is a huge challenge. The entire CMC community has risen to the challenge and are trying to help in any possible way. Indigenously developed Visor masks, multi-piece suits that can serve as Hazmat suits and creative ways of modifying clinical areas to intensive care ready areas are some examples. Workers volunteered to stitch cotton masks (as surgical masks were in short supply) and over 7000 masks have been stitched and given to low risk workers such as security staff, receptionists, etc. Although India have not seen the peaks witnessed in the US and European countries, they felt they should equip and prepare for the worst-case scenario.

Australia is supporting CMC in their efforts to be ready by assisting with the purchase of ICU equipment by sending some of the money that we have been holding in reserve for CMC in case of unforeseen situations.

## What do your donations get used for?

We received a letter from Dr Tony Abraham Thomas thanking the FOV UK and FOV Australia group for donating to the Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital. He says:

Greetings from Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital.



Please find attached the 6-month statement of the utilization of funds given for the development of the laboratory and the income generated. By the grace of God, and thanks to your contributions, we now have a very good laboratory, which is an important source of support to the clinicians and also a source of income. The hospital has been growing slowly but steadily and hopefully, the income generated will increase along the way.

Among other items the money has purchased blood analysis equipment, a fridge and a UPS (uninterrupted power supply).



## Letter from the Australian Vellore Board

Qld FOV received a letter from the Australian Vellore Board which they requested go out with the next newsletter.

## Our Volunteers: Cathy Hill

How long have you been a Friend of Vellore?

**Since the early 1980's when I worked at CMC Vellore**

How did you become a Friend?

**On my return from India in 1983, I was asked to help cook for the Vellore Dinner and I have been a Friend ever since.**

What was your role as a Friend?

**I have done many things as a Friend from cooking for the dinner, supporting the stalls with cooking, craft and transport, to being on the committee. I'm happy to pick up any job that needs doing.**

What has been your most rewarding experience as a Friend?

**Working alongside the amazing group of Friends especially the seniors who are my role models for the future. I also feel that FOV is a great charity to support due to our low overheads and my confidence borne out of my experiences working in CMCH that the money we raise benefits a diverse range of marginalised people.**

The photo features Cathy in the centre with Belinda and Kerry who have been conscripted into the Friends of Vellore by Cathy and who help out with the newsletter, stalls and dinner and anything else Cathy asks them to do.



## Web Sites

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

**Vellore:** [www.cmch-vellore.edu](http://www.cmch-vellore.edu)

**USA:** [www.vellorecmc.org](http://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 - 0402 889 986  |
| Vice Chairperson:                           | Rev John Hooper - 3277 2883  |
| Hon. Secretary:                             | Dr Sharon George - 0401 919 664  |
| Treasurer:                                  | Richard Caitens - 3266 1962  |
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