

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)

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

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Qld AGM

*We invite you and your friends to join us at
the***2021 Annual General Meeting -**

Queensland Friends of Vellore

DATE Saturday 13th November 2021

TIME 2 pm to 4 pm

PLACE Nazareth Lutheran Church 12 Hawthorne St, Woolloongabba QLD 4102

RSVP and apologies to Shoma 0401 919 664 (text) or email

secretaryfovq@gmail.com

Reduce our newsletter costs!

A quick email to Cathy at fovqld@hotmail.com
will add you to the email list.

It currently costs us \$1.50 to post you out a
printed copy. It costs us nothing more than
our volunteers' time to email you the
newsletter.

The Annual Australian Vellore Board meeting

The meeting this year will be a virtual meeting. It would have been Brisbane's turn to host the meeting this year. The date is yet to be finalised. Richard advised that it will be held in late October (possibly 30/10/2021).

Our Volunteers

Gwenda Spencer

How long have you been a Friend of Vellore?

It's so long it is hard to remember but I joined when I was at university. It would have been in the early 1950's.

How did you become a Friend?

I was invited to talks at SCM at Melbourne University and someone spoke about Friends of Vellore. When I came to Brisbane after returning from Indonesia and I heard more about Vellore and met Brian Lee through a SCM group.

What was your role as a Friend?

I started helping with a stall. It was a small stall in front of a bank in Paddington. I have played a big role in supplying goods for sale on the stalls, transporting stuff around.

What has been your most rewarding experience as a Friend?

Visiting Vellore CMC was a highlight for me. We got to see the facilities and meet the workers. We talked to some women in a development program doing welding work and they explained they couldn't wear sarees and had to wear overalls for safety. I was very interested in visiting the leprosy centre because of my interest in mycobacteria. We met a woman with leprosy who asked us to pray for her which we did. Everything was beautiful and well done!



VELLORE TODAY

The Christian Medical College and its associated Hospitals are managed and staffed by Indian personnel. Central to both the main Hospital and the College are the Chapels, the spiritual heart of the institution, where Christian services in many Indian languages are held and where people of all faiths come to pray. Patients of all religious faiths, or of none, are welcomed for treatment and all are met with the same skill and compassionate care.

The core strength of CMC&H is its staff of over 5000 doctors, nurses, allied health professionals, community health workers and maintenance workers. Highly qualified staff work as clinicians, treating the thousands who come each day for help. They are also teachers, providing both instruction and examples of service to the young men and women who will follow in their steps.



Dedicated to the Christian spirit of service, especially to the disadvantaged, Vellore staff work with people in villages in the surrounding rural areas, promoting health care and assisting economic advancement. Here all students, as part of their training, gain skills in providing health care in a rural environment.

Vaccinate Vellore! Campaign

“Reach the Unreached” – Enabling communities to remain safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic



Phase 1 Roll out

Vaccination for COVID-19 began in CMC on the 20th January 2021, free of cost from the Government for health care workers.

Phase 2 Roll out

In Phase 2, the Government made the vaccine available on a subsidised basis for the vulnerable population of 60 years and above and those above 45 years with co-morbidities. In all, more than 25000 doses of Covishield™ (the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, manufactured in India by M / s Serum Institute of India - SII) and Covaxin™ (Indigenously developed vaccine manufactured by M/s Bharath Biotech Pvt Ltd, in India) were given with no major adverse events recorded from January to April 2021. Once the process for direct purchase was notified, vaccines were purchased from M/s Serum Institute of India.



Phase 3 Roll out:

As a commitment to the local community around us, CMC set apart some of the initial supply to provide vaccines to rural and vulnerable populations, targeting those who have difficulty in accessing urban centres. Vaccines were provided free of cost through the four departments that work in the community. In most areas, the Departments worked with community volunteers associated with healthcare in their respective areas. Through education programs, they were motivated to take the

vaccine and subsequently these volunteers helped to create awareness in their respective villages and enable roll out of the vaccine. All the vaccination centres had teams with nursing, medical and social workers who were trained by the Emergency Department for resuscitation. Each centre was provided with cold chain equipment, ancillary medical equipment such as monitors and defibrillators, to manage any untoward reaction in recipients. An ambulance was stationed exclusively for facilitation of patient movement in an emergency.



RUHSA started the community roll out on 14th June 2021, followed shortly by CHAD, LCECU and CONCH on 23rd June, 2021. While RUHSA has been working in the villages around KV Kuppam, CHAD has begun to offer the service in the areas surrounding CHAD hospital (semi-urban and rural) as well as in their villages. CONCH has been providing vaccination to the labourers at CMC’s new campus development site at Kannigapuram, as well as the surrounding villages and LCECU has been targeting the urban poor in their service area within the city.

How do Indians in India look at CMC?

Below is a link to a video loaded up to YouTube. It is from a weekly travel and food show that aired on NDTV Good Times between 2007 and 2013. It was anchored by food enthusiasts and childhood friends Rocky Singh and Mayur Sharma, who together travelled more than 120,000 kilometres across the length and breadth of India over the course of seven years in search of memorable eating experiences. The last season of the show took the Highwaymen to different canteens and dining halls of educational institutions across India. The duo catches up with the students and explores their favourite eateries as well as taking in the youthful atmosphere of these prestigious institutions. One of their episodes featured CMC.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXhHnx3-48g>

Obituary

It's with sadness we heard about the passing of Jessie Sandiman who was a member of the Queensland Committee for many years. Jessie has had a long association with FOV. She was a member of the committee for many years. She was responsible for typing up the newsletter given to her by Dr Felix Arden in the days when a gestetner was used to print it. With the assistance of many friends she maintained her contact with her local church and some of the activities of the present day Friends of Vellore committee. Her friendship was appreciated by all, only in ill health limited her involvement. She spent her last years in the care of a Blue Nursing home in the Redcliffe area.

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 email 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:	Sharon George
Vice Chairperson:	Bella George
Hon. Secretary:	Shoma Baidya
Treasurer:	Richard Caitens
Publicity Officers	Kerry Griffiths & Belinda Gledhill

Email for Office Bearers

Please use this email for correspondence related to FOV Qld:

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Email for Newsletter

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Acknowledgements

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

