

## Friends of Vellore

### NSW branch of the Australian Board of Vellore Christian Medical College & Hospital

#### Office Bearers

<b>President:</b>	<b>Dr. Robyn Bradley</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Dr. Liza Jacob</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dr. Gordon Thomas</b>
<b>Treasurer / News Editor</b>	<b>Dr. Stephen Aseervatham</b>



June 2022

It is that time of the year when we update news about us. For obvious reasons there have been no activities by the state branch during the past year. It is the same with all the other FOV groups.

#### Our News

Thank you all for your generosity with your kind donations in response to our COVID appeal. We received A\$26,000.00 from our friends in NSW. A big thanks to you all.

We were saddened by the news about the home call of Beth Walker, wife of late Reg Walker on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021. She was 91. Reg and Beth as you all are aware have been the stalwarts of the NSW FOV and the Australian Board since the time it all started. Our heartfelt condolences to her daughter Robyn and her siblings. We were very happy to receive a donation bequeathed in her will to go towards scholarships to needy Allied health students at CMC. We believe it was able to help 23 students.

We have been talking about organising a get together of the Friends in NSW. When the winter days are behind us, we hope to hold an informal gathering in Sydney. We will keep you posted about the event.

## **Australian Board News**

### **COVID Appeal**

There was an overwhelming response to the COVID pandemic in India from various people around our country. Most of them were not part of our organisation and their spontaneous and generous donations were remarkable. There were a few alumni who have never been interested in the affairs of FOV. We received about A\$573,000.00 by Direct debit and online donation. Apart from the thank you note accompanying the receipts we sent, the Director also sent a personal acknowledgement to every donor.

### **Vaccinate Vellore Campaign**

The board was able to send funds to help CMC with their vaccination programme to try and vaccinate the people in Vellore Town. It was quite successful and was able to



complement the efforts by the Tamil Nadu Government. The Australian Board contributed A\$133,000.00 towards it.

### **AGM.**

The AGM of the Board was held via zoom media in October. Dr. J.V. Peter addressed the forum presenting updated news, especially about the three

waves of the COVID pandemic and the Vaccinate Vellore Project. CMC is gradually returning to normal activities. They lost a substantial amount of their regular income during the pandemic and hope to make it up in the near future. JVP will be finishing his term of office in September 2022. The replacement will be announced at the Council meetings in late June. We wish him well and thank him for his dedication and tireless amount of work during the past 5 years.

### **Publicity Brochure**

The existing one we have at present is quite dated and the board was keen to produce a new one. I drafted one with the help from other directors, and we are in negotiations with the publicity department at CMC regarding the photos to be added and formatting it into a print

format. Thanks to David Runia who has been doing lots of work in making it possible. We should, hopefully have a new one published in the near future.

### **Web Site**

I have been negotiating with our web hosting firm regarding updating our web page which has served its purpose in its current format for many years. We are still waiting to hear from them with their suggestions and hopefully we will have an updated site!

### **Vellore News**



#### **Ranipet (Kannigapuram) Campus.**

At last, the building work has been completed and the unit will be formally opened soon. The dedication of the campus is planned to take place to coincide with the council meetings on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. M. K. Stalin

has been invited to inaugurate the facility. The 1400 bed facility will be a tertiary referral hospital with one of the biggest Trauma Centres in India.

### **Paediatric Speciality Centre**

On Friday, May 6, 2022, Fairfax Financial Holdings (Canada), along with its business services provider in India Quess Corp, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with CMC to establish a new paediatric specialty care centre on CMC's Ranipet (formerly Kannigapuram) campus. Fairfax and Quess have pledged up to Rs 300 crore (\$39 million) towards setting up this centre, with the vision of providing leading state-of-the-art paediatric medical and surgical services. The proposed centre, to be called the CMC Paediatric Specialty Centre, will have 350 beds covering a range of paediatric specialties. There are plans for another 350 beds to be added in the second stage of development.

### **Chittoor**

It was the only campus which was not affected financially during the COVID pandemic. OPD – 18,000 / month IP – 800 / month. CMC administration is very serious about the future of Chittoor. They are thinking in terms of starting a medical school! Bed numbers are expected to increase from 120 at present to 300 - the minimum number required for a medical college.

They believe it is possible to achieve it by 2026. They have recruited a retired former principal of CMC to help them with the process. A\$30 million has been allocated towards this project.

### **'Constitution' Amendments.**

A proposal has been put forward to create 3 Campuses – 'semi-independent' under the umbrella of the CMC.

1. Vellore Campus (main)
2. Ranipet Campus (Kannigapuram)
3. Chittoor Campus

At the top of the hierarchical chain of command will be the Administrative Office Committee (AO) which consists of the Executive Director (currently known as Director), Med Supt, Director of Nursing, Principal etc.

The 3 campuses come under the jurisdiction of the above committee.

Each one will have its own Director, Director of Nursing, Med Supt, Treasurer etc.

It is believed that this will give the opportunity for them to plan and grow independent of each other.

### **Student Admissions**

A new twist to the ongoing issue. CMC had to appear at the supreme court a couple of months ago. It was regarding a previous appeal. Tamil Nadu government demanded that they should be able to fill 70% of seats. (Basically, it would be non-Christians). To every one's surprise, the judges decided that CMC being a minority nonsubsidised Christian institution, the students admitted should be all Christians. But the catch was 70% should be from the list of Christian applicants from the state of Tamil Nadu and should be totally based on their ranking in the national entry exam (NEET). The issue for CMC was as how to accommodate the sponsored candidates from various mission hospitals outside Tamil Nadu. For undergraduates, CMC had only 30 seats (out of the 100) to fill the requirements from more than 50 plus dioceses; thus, some of the mission hospitals missed out. This is only a temporary ruling until the next court sessions in July. The only relief is that all these candidates are obliged to serve in a mission hospital chosen by CMC for 2 years, (PGs 3

years), after completing the course. We will wait and see how it works out. We uphold CMC in our prayers.

### **Our Support to the work done at CMC Vellore.**

We are thankful to you our friends who have been extremely generous with your donations in the past years, especially during the Pandemic in India.

Some of you have already sent your donations. Thank you.

If you are moved to contribute, you can either send your donations by either Direct Bank Debit or by cheque. Direct Bank debit: Friends of Vellore NSW BSB 062 827 Ac.No. 1011 9987. If you wish to send by cheque, please make it payable to 'Australian Board CMCH Support Fund' and post it to P O Box 3040, Valentine, NSW 2280.

Thank you again for your continuing support to CMC Vellore.

God's Blessings

Robyn Bradley - President

Stephen Aseervatham - Treasurer

*Our Web Site: [australianfov.net.au](http://australianfov.net.au)*