

SA Friends of Vellore update

2025 Office Bearers and Committee Members:

President	Sujith Chacko	sujithchacko@gmail.com
Vice President	Cephas Satyanandan	drcephas@gmail.com
Secretary	Luisa Mozzi	luisaemozzi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tijo Thomas	philip.tijo@gmail.com
Publicity Officer	Gary Fielke	gary.fielke@gmail.com
Alumni Liaison	Renjy Nelson	renjy.nelson@gmail.com

Committee Members

Joan Kirk	
Peter Kirk	peter_kirk@bigpond.com
Mary Mackenzie	marymackenzie12@gmail.com
Ian Olver	inolver@gmail.com
Jenny Olver	olverjenny@gmail.com
Daryl Teague	darylteague@gmail.com
Wendy Teague	wendyateague@gmail.com
Kumar Arpudasamy	dockumar2k@yahoo.com
Ian Roberts-Thomson	Ian.RobertsThomson@adelaide.edu.au
Boopalan Ramasamy	jbboopy@me.com
Juliana Joel	julianajoel31@gmail.com
Benjamin Jeyanth Ross	benjiross@yahoo.com
Rebecca Benjamin Ross	becka.paul@gmail.com

Events Held in 2024/ 2025:

Annual Fund-raising dinner 2024

The South Australian Friends of Vellore Association Annual Fundraising Dinner for the Christian Medical College (CMC) Vellore was held in August 2024 at the John Di Fede Centre. The dinner was a great success with over 370 guests attending to support the work of CMC Vellore. Funds were raised for two specifically selected projects:

- **Ida B Scudder Hospice**

The Ida B Scudder Hospice located at Snehadeepam Retreat Centre was inaugurated in January 2024 to help patients continue to live and die well with dignity. Patients are admitted for palliative care for pain, symptom management, respite and end of life care.

- **Person to Person Scheme**

The Person to Person Program supports patients who are in desperate need of healthcare by providing a subsidy with all donations to the PTP program multiplied five times by CMC.

We were fortunate to have Dr Vikram Mathews, Director CMC Vellore attend the dinner and give a presentation about CMC and the health care services provided at the various campuses and mission hospitals. We also welcomed members of the Australian Friends of Vellore Board.

2024 was the centenary year of the Town Campus, and 2025, the 125th year of CMC Vellore, and the motto – **“Not to be ministered unto but to minister”** - remains as significant today as it did 125 years ago.

We would like to thank most sincerely, our sponsors, our raffle prize donors, our volunteers and others who contributed to the success of our dinner. We sincerely hope some of you will be inspired to visit CMC and forge new relationships to share expertise and serve and collaborate in areas of teaching and research.

Opening of the Vascular Hybrid OT at the Ranipet Campus, CMC Vellore:

Ms. Wendy and Dr Daryl Teague, FOV Adelaide were invited by Dr Vikram Mathews, CMC Vellore Director, and Prof Prabhu Premkumar, CMC Vascular Surgeon, to be part of the opening of the long-awaited high technology Vascular Hybrid Operating Theatre at the Ranipet Campus.

This project was first suggested by Dr Prabhu Premkumar in 2014, following his vascular surgery senior post-graduate training fellowship time in Adelaide. This was explored further with the Adelaide Vascular Surgeons, who strongly supported the development. The dream was supported from its inception by the Teagues, encouraging FOV to follow. CMC Directors' support from Dr Sunil Chandy and Dr J V Peter and Dr Vikram Mathews, with constant interest and education from Prof Prabhu Premkumar, saw the project grow. Siemens also greatly helped by substantially reducing the cost of the high technology equipment.

With generous support from the FOV Australia, the Vascular Hybrid Operation Theatre (OT) project materialised. The “Robin Hood principle” allowing fees paid by the funded patients to offset the cost for the needy, will allow this service to be widely used, with increased patient safety, shorter hospitalisation times, and better outcomes.

We remain in prayerful support, along with the team in the Vascular Surgery Department, that this facility will be a blessing to many patients and to their surgical carers, for many years to come. We thank the FOV Australia supporters for their continuing generous support in assisting to fund this project financially, and with their prayers.

Annual Clinical Meeting:

The meeting was held at the Rosefield Uniting Church on 23rd May 2025. This was a successful evening with around 30 attendees which included the FOV committee members, CMC alumni including Dr George T John and his wife Dr Susan visiting from interstate and other Friends of Vellore.

During the short devotion, Dr Teague, through the life of Dr Elizabeth Blackwell, on reminded us God-ordained purposes of our life and how we ought to fulfill them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Four speakers shared their experiences at CMC Vellore and how they were impacted by life in CMC or even a short visit to CMC. Drs Ajith and Divya, who are presently in Adelaide doing their fellowships in surgical and medical fields respectively, shared on their lives in CMC and reflected on how their current time in Adelaide could have a positive impact when they return.

Sophie and Tumi, two Occupational Therapy students from Adelaide University, had visited CMC Vellore for a period of 4 weeks. They shared on how their time in Vellore had been very enriching. Tumi's time in spinal injury rehabilitation unit and Sophie's in paediatric neurodevelopment was a highlight for them. They are hoping to integrate some of these learnings into their practice here in Adelaide. These visits seem to be mutually beneficial.

The meeting concluded with fellowship over supper with delicious home-made treats and renewing friendships.

Upcoming Events: Annual Fund-raising Dinner 2025



FRIENDS OF VELLORE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Annual Fundraising DINNER 2025

2025
23
AUG
SATURDAY

6:30 PM FOR
7:00 PM START

JOHN DIFEDE CENTRE
10 FREEBAIRN STREET WINDSOR GARDENS

DRESS CODE: SEMI FORMAL / INDIAN

Speaker

PROF. VIKRAM MATHEWS
DIRECTOR - CMC, VELLORE



TICKETS
\$100
PER GUEST

PLEASE BOOK BEFORE 1ST AUGUST

CONTACT

- 0411025962 - GARY FIELKE
- safriendsofvellore@gmail.com
- SA FRIENDS OF VELLORE

DONATIONS

<https://australianfoy.net.au/donations/>

FOR TICKETS
PLEASE SCAN



<https://events.humanitix.com/sa-foy-annual-dinner-2025>