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President's Message



Another three months has passed since our last communication. I am glad to inform you that most of what we planned for this year has either been achieved with some success or is in an advanced stage of planning.

On May 27, ACMA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **Chinese Australian Service Society (CASS)** in Marigold Restaurant in China-town with the aim to further enhance the community work of ACMA and CASS in community health issues. This event has attracted positive publicity from various Chinese Newspapers and Television Networks. It also led to a community health forum being successfully held in Hurstville City Council Town hall the following month. This health forum was sponsored by Hurstville City council. On behalf of ACMA, I sincerely thank Hurstville Mayor Mr Philip Sansom, Deputy Mayor Con Hindi, Councillor Clifton Wong and all other councillors for their generosity in sponsoring this event.

This community health event and other similar events like those held in Strathfield and China-town in

previous years have set ACMA on a firmer footing in the Chinese community and community at large. ACMA has increasingly become a household name especially among the Chinese community. In turn, increasing number of community organisations seriously and eagerly want to form a closer link with ACMA. It is being regarded more and more as an organisation that "can and will do, not just a tea party." Our work in the community has also attracted attention and respect of various councils with significant Chinese populations. This can only be viewed in a positive light for the future health of our community and

USE ACMA itself.

Together with our community health profile, ACMA is now a key stake holder in the Board of **National Registration of Traditional Chinese Practitioners**. This National Registration will come into effect sometime next year. We are working with NSW Health and have written submission to good effect. I must emphasise that although we are all Western trained practitioners; given a significant proportion of our patients traditional Chinese medicine and our standing in the Chinese community, it is important for us to be involved in this initiative.

Recently, a few of us were invited by **HSBC Bank Australia** representatives to the Chairman's Club in ANZ Stadium to watch a match between

HSBC Waratahs and the Brumbies. Apart from enjoying the nice atmosphere and game which we won, we had in depth discussion with HSBC representatives on how to further enhance cooperation between the two organisations. Amongst other events, this has led to the birth of regular weekend table tennis being played together with our Badminton. HSBC has kindly sponsored a table tennis coach (top fifty in NSW) during these events. If all goes well, we anticipate these sporting activities to start from September this year. We thank Mr Bobby Lee and Stephen Milburrow from HSBC for their ongoing support through the year.

This year **ACMA Bursary** has attracted a record number of applicants. All applicants have very attractive resumes, making it very competitive. I wish them all good luck. This is also further evidence that we have made some inroads of our presence known among medical students. ACMA has also been engaging with various Medical societies at different medical schools.

ACMA Charitable Trust has continued making significant progress into its cause. The Trust has started its pilot project in making ongoing commitment in sponsoring University students studying health related degrees in China who have experienced misadventure, rendering it impossible for them to continue their studies. It is hoped that individual members or in fact the

public would be able to target their Charitable fund directly to a particular project through the Trust with minimal red tape. This way, the Trust works as an intermediary and provides the sponsors regular feedback on the progress on their specific donation. Of course a general donation for any cause is still welcome. Please contact the Trustees for more information. On a sadder note, due to personal reason, Mrs Margo-Lynne Lee has resigned from the Trust. On behalf of the Trust, I thank Margo-Lynne for her tireless effort and contribution. Should anyone be interested in joining the Trustees, please contact me.

Our **ACMA house renovation** has largely been completed. As is usually the case, one tends to find more work than anticipated with a house of this age. Thanks should go to Dr Suyi Chan who didn't mind climbing up the roof in his spare time and trying to keep the cost under control.

The **second half of the year is again marked by many events**. These include career information night and financial information night organised by Young ACMA; combined soccer and tennis tournaments with AVHPA; ASM at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Newcastle; Chinese Medicine Academic Conference held at UTS, Integrative Medicine Study Trip to China and ACMA Annual Dinner. Please check your schedule and join these events, most of which are heavily subsidised for members.

On a parting note, it is my goal as President to make this organisation a liberal and contemporary organisation. Liberal in allowing and encouraging members to voice and contribute whatever ideas and activities they have and would like to pursue with the welfare of the organisation at heart. Contemporary in order to keep up with the changing demographics of our profession. New or unconventional ideas can at times bear fruit to our organisation. I am glad to see this spirit being upheld constantly within the Management Committee. As year end is approaching, I would like to extend my welcoming hands to any member who would be interested in taking an active role in the organisation, be it within a subcommittee, a management committee or as the next President.

Dr Seng Chua

ACMA Charitable Trust

ACMA President Dr Seng Chua sponsors a needy university student through the ACMA Charitable Trust

Huan Huan is a 19 year old student from the impoverished province of Anhui in China. She is a bright student in her first year of Bio-Engineering Studies at the Zhungnan Minzu University in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. On 15 May this year, her mother, a domestic maid and the main breadwinner of the family, was struck down by a car and sustained head trauma and head injuries. She needs further surgery and rehabilitation and it is uncertain when she can return to work.

Through the ACMA Charitable Trust and Project Torch, a charitable initiative of the Hong Kong Christian Council, Dr Chua has personally pledged to support Huan Huan's university studies to completion so she need not abandon a promising career due to this unforeseen unfortunate accident.

Dr Chua says "ACMA members have always very generously supported the ACMA Charitable Trust and its activities and projects. I hope that ACMA members will consider taking up this very worthwhile cause by pledging a personal sponsorship."

This is a continuation of the financial sponsorship project of

needy university students commenced by the ACMA Charitable Trust in Sept 2010 in partnership with Project Torch. Priority is given to students in health-related studies from impoverished villages in China who otherwise would not be able to complete their university studies without financial assistance.

Through Project Torch, the ACMA Charitable Trust will sponsor each student for the duration of their tertiary education (usually four years). The sponsorship is approximately A\$1,200 per student per year. The sponsorship will provide board and lodging and daily living expenses (including meals) for the students for the whole of the academic year. In almost all cases, the students qualify for government student loans to cover university fees, but will not be able to complete their tertiary education without further financial assistance. Very often they are the first in many generations among their family to be accepted into university.

The Trust sponsored Yuk Har in 2010 who will continue with her second year at the China Henan University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Huan Huan will be the second student sponsored by the ACMA Charitable Trust to date. This is consistent with one of the many objects of the Trust – the establishment and administration of scholarships bursaries and other

forms of financial assistance to promote and encourage the undertaking of medical research and/or studies.

Other Recent Activities

The "Cure for Life" Foundation acknowledged a donation of A\$4,000 from the ACMA Charitable Trust as per the wish of the donor-member

The Trust made a gift of A\$2,000 in educational support for the two children of the late Dr Jeremy Lee

A big thank you to all the ACMA members who included a generous donation with their annual ACMA Membership Renewal.

Cathy Lam

MEMBER UPDATE: Dr Kim Boo Kuah in Ethiopia

Dr Kimboo Kuah is currently in Debre Tabor, Ethiopia. Following is an extract from his email.

"...Daughter Sabrina, an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, left Sydney International Airport with me on May 31 and flew 14 hours to Dubai then 4 hours Addis Ababa, where we managed to visit the world famous Hamlin Fistula Hospital. This is of significance to me because in 1967 when I was lecturing in Oxford I was in fact offered a job in this hospital as an Assistant Professor. Finally I visited this very interesting hospital. Debre Tabor was two hour by road, from Addis Ababa.

Debre Tabor General Hospital was built by missionaries eighty years ago. The management has since been taken over by the Ethiopian Government. The hospital is situated in the less affluent part of the town of some fifty thousand people but the hospital in fact serves a catchment population of two million. We are housed in a terrace house at the periphery of the grounds. Our house looks out on to the wild and cluster of tall gum trees. The hospital driver and his wife and three kids live next door.

The water supply is so erratic that we have to collect water in buckets and large basins for the frequent

hours when the tap is dry. There is of course no hot water supply and showering is a chilly affair. This takes a lot to get used to.

The second problem is that the electricity supply is very erratic going on the blink two to four times a day. Imagine being called to do an ultrasound examination and there is no electricity! Fortunately we brought head lamps for operating!

There are two major problems for us working in Debre Tabor

The first is communication It is difficult to know how much English the staff understands We suspect they understand less than they want us to think Favourite come back is 'no problem' or 'yea'

My second problem relates to consents for surgery. When we counsel patients we are unable to tell how much is being translated and how accurately.

The Ethiopians here are as friendly as can be. Everyone has a smile for you and every other in the hospital wants to shake your hand. The way they shake hands is as we do, using the right hand. Then, while still holding hands they bring their right shoulders into contact with each other.

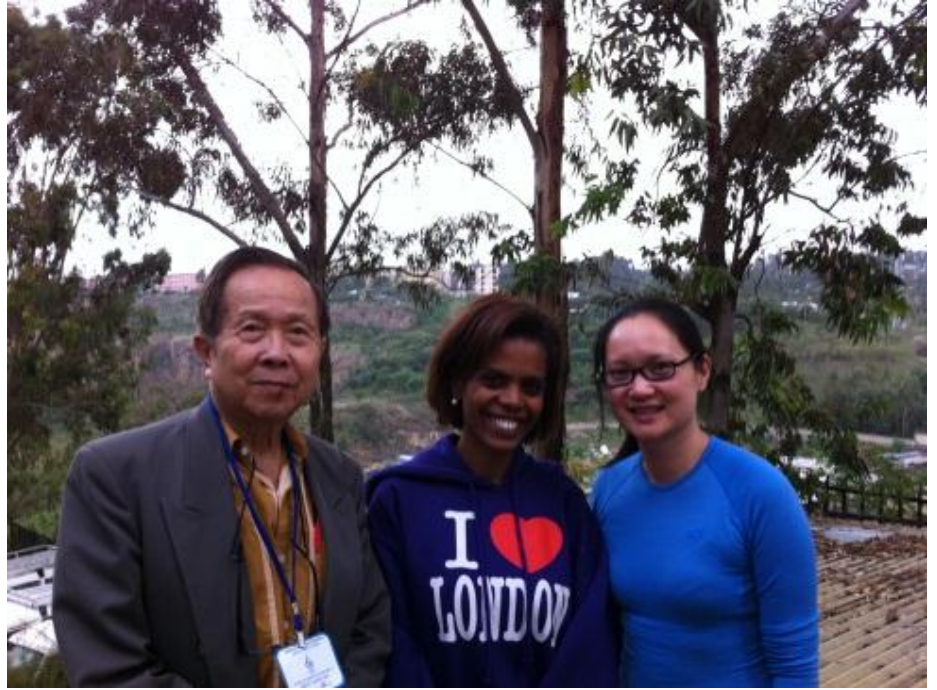
Sabrina and I go for a long walk at six in the mornings and often a shorter walk in the afternoon. We attract our fair share of attention

and soon a small entourage follows us. One day this guy insisted on shaking my hands and keeps asking if I spoke English! I had a little difficulty understanding his because of his accent. Petty thieving and robbery are not common. It is in their nature. We feel very safe walking around.

Last Saturday the driver took us to the market. . The produce section is like most markets selling chillies, tomatoes, varieties of potatoes, green veggies, onions, avocados, mangoes, etc. Stalls selling preloved shoes, these are thrown in a pile and the potential buyer has to find the pair to purchase. Stalls selling empty plastic bottles, glass bottles and empty cans which used to contain canned food! More seriously one can buy a live sheep for AUD 40 to AUD 60; live chickens and eggs; ponies and live goats. There are some fifteen set up sewing machines with operators to sew whatever you want. Many stalls selling grains and spices. Some sellers are winnowing grains and if one walks on the windward side one cops the flying chaff!

It is not right to omit the work we do here since this is our main reason coming. The work is extremely interesting, partly as the cookies fall and partly because the medical director (less than six months out of medical school) put up a notice to say that there are specialist gynaecologists in the

hospital! On the first day we saw six patients with advanced problems needing surgery. The patients need to pay for materials used in the operation, sutures, gloves [though Sabrina and I brought our own] medication, needles and syringes! The one room Blood Bank is perpetually dry and any patient needing blood transfusion has to arrange the supply either from a friend or relative or purchase in the open market for about AUD 50. The logistics makes life difficult since we are not able to predict if we will need to transfuse blood during an operation for any particular patient..."



Dr KB Kuah

ACMA 2011 Winter Buffet

As autumn turned into winter, 60 members and family met for a buffet dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday 28th May. This was the third year the buffet has been held and the consensus was that this must be the best buffet on offer in Sydney. We enjoyed delicious oysters, prawns and sashimi, with lobsters too. Even the vegetarians had a feast. Some folk started with dessert- it was all so tempting, as one member said: "...worth fasting the whole day for!"

ACMA Exclusive sponsors Douglas Hanly Moir and Castlereagh were represented by Trish Killen and her husband. HSBC was represented by Bobby Lee and Clifton Ng.

It was also great to have Dr Kimboo Kuah and his wife join us before he headed off to Africa for a month. It may have been his last chance to enjoy five star foods for some time, but Kimboo could not be tempted to stray from his very seriously healthy diet.

The Buffet was a great chance for members to catch up in a casual relaxed atmosphere, allowing us to change seats and move around, to speak to one another.

I thoroughly recommend members to include this event in their 2012 diaries. – *Stephen Hina*



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