

# THE EAST • WEST OVERSEAS AID FOUNDATION

## Newsletter

Issue 23, June 2017

[www.tewoaf.org.au](http://www.tewoaf.org.au)



## Australian Doctors Provide Much Needed Support

In March Dr Susan Downes and Dr Cathy Davis, as scholarship recipients and conference attendees at the Southern India Medical Conference organised by Unconventional Conventions, spent two weeks treating patients at the Uluru Health Care Clinic and at the Uluru Children's home.

This was a rare opportunity for us to have women's health issues addressed by female doctors.

The extremely positive response from the villages and the types of conditions treated reinforced our view of the need to build a base of funds to hire a female doctor on a regular basis. Cultural taboos are such that the womenfolk will not go to male doctors for anything other "aches and pains" and a cold.

The doctors found administering medicine in a rural South Indian setting a life changing experience and eye opener. Some of their thoughts are on Page 2.....



*Drs Susan Downes and Cathy Davis*

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"To the East West Foundation

Thank you for this unique, life-changing experience of working in Kaddapakum.

...We were very impressed that our visit had been advertised with a colourful banner outside the centre and with pamphlets handed to villagers. It was an honour that women and children appeared to dress in their best saris to visit us at the clinic.

...The staff were extremely friendly and welcoming. Dr Premnath Segaran was very keen to welcome us ... and we had a keen, intelligent translator, Fathima.

.....The nurses facilitated our sessions efficiently. We loved the sweet tea. It was disconcerting however, on coming out of the consult room, for everyone in the waiting room to stand each time we emerged...

We were aghast at the cost of simple tests and equipment (e.g. glucose test strips). Obviously we take for granted the supply and availability of these daily tests. Dressing packs, syringes, disposable vaginal speculums, pap smear taking brushes, yellow top specimen urine jars, children's growth charts were all lacking because of cost constraints. It gave us a small insight regarding the donations needed to run this amazing organisation.

...We participated in three mobile clinics to four villages... Sadly, these clinics can only focus on symptomatic treatment, rather than investigative,

curative or preventative medicine. We found more than 10% of people with BP above 170/110 and many new diabetics and uncontrolled known diabetics ... These clinics are an invaluable way to prevent further complications of chronic disease.

At the Clinic we concentrated on female patients of all ages and religions. We did see many women, 10-15 patients per day, and some men and children...

In Australia, our practice is dependent on immediate testing... They do not have this function at UHCC...

...Ideally a female doctor needs to do regular sessions here for the female patients...

We believe prevention and early diagnosis are the keys to good health in the community. The more preventative measures taken, such as population surveillance of hypertension and diabetes, the better.

Funds permitting allied health professionals are also a necessity, as well as physiotherapists, podiatrists and massage therapists.

We want to thank you for this opportunity to work with you, and value this experience.

We will encourage other doctors, allied health professionals and volunteers to come to offer assistance and will hopefully manage to get back ourselves."

*Susan Downes and Cathy Davis*





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### TEWFI News

#### MEDICAL CENTRE NEWS



We now have a shaded waiting area outside the Medical Clinic.

This new set up for the patients allows them to wait outside where it is cool and welcoming, with benches to sit on in the shade.

No patients wait inside the clinic, thus freeing up space for our social workers to see individual clients.

We will also be using the outdoor shaded area to give community lectures on topics such as ante-natal care, obesity, diabetes etc.

The Pharmacy is now air-conditioned and has a window to serve patients. We now have a Pharmacy license

and a Pharmacist. We have a new fridge for storing medications.

The conversion of a back room into a mini treatment room with stricter rules of hygiene and sterility is next on the 'to do' list, along with the purchase of an autoclave to sterilise instruments.

**"My next challenge is to have a small emergency treatment room to deal with pedestrian road trauma, snake bites, treating fractures etc, and to enlist the help of a part time female doctor."**

*Dr Roy Karna*

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### TEWFI News



#### **Australian Doctors Visit Uluru Health Care Centre**

14 doctors visited the Uluru Health Care Centre in March as part of a pre Conference program offered by the Southern India Medical Conference organisers Unconventional Conventions. The visiting Australian doctors and our medical staff on the ground gained valuable insights through this cross cultural exchange.



### Generosity Between Cultures

Sabine and Bess Merkel recently visited Uluru and generously offered to spend time with the children in the classroom.

***"I really enjoyed teaching the kids at the new Uluru Early Learning Centre. They were amazing and after school almost half the class picked me a bunch of different types of grass. I cannot wait to go back and teach those lovely children again"***

***Sabine Merkel  
(11 years)***



*Sabine Merkel with the Uluru children.*



*Bess Merkel shares her singing skills with the children at the Uluru Early Learning Centre.*



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### TEWFI News



**ULURU PRIMARY SCHOOL**



The Uluru Primary School building is near completion and is due to be opened for use on the 14th of June 2017.

The 58 schoolchildren presently using other Foundation buildings will be moving into their new premises soon after.

The top floor with spectacular views of the coastline, estuary and ocean is shaped in the form of a fishing boat – and is symbolic of the school's presence amidst fishing communities. It will serve as a play area, for classes and meetings. Half of its roof is covered with solar panels which power the building. The remaining half is awaiting donations for solar panels to power the Children's Home.

The entrance floor has the Foundation logo embedded in the floor with tiles and the pattern also represents the eco-sensitive nature of the school.



***The solar panels in place on one side of the roof of the new primary school. These will provide electricity for the school. We are seeking donations to allow us to install panels on the other side of the roof. These panels will provide power for the Children's Home.***

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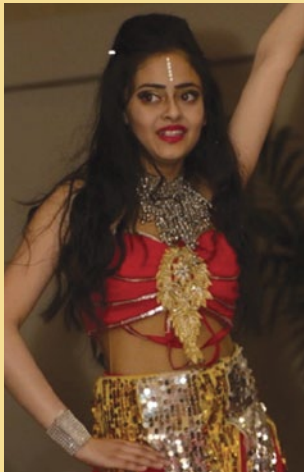
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## 25 Year Celebration!

***The East West Overseas Aid Foundations is 25 years old.  
We are having a Silver Anniversary Dinner Dance to celebrate this significant achievement.***



**The event will be held at the Lincoln of Toorak,  
Level 2 Trak Centre, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak  
at 7pm on Friday 6th October 2017.**

**Tickets are \$150.**

**\$85 concession for students under 25.**

*Come dressed to sparkle, shimmer and shine and enjoy  
great Indian cuisine, Bollywood dancing and take part in our  
champagne raffle and auctions.*

*Funds raised will help our development programmes that cover  
health care, relief for children at risk, education, community  
development and environmental sustainability.*

*Your invitation is enclosed with this Newsletter.*

***Please come and join us at this very special event.***



## TEWOAF'S ANNUAL GOLF DAY



The 9th Annual Golf Day held in February was once again deemed a success by both golfers and organisers. We had great weather, good and not so good golf and a lot of fun!

With the help of our generous sponsors and supporters we raised in excess of \$52,000.

Due to the generosity of our corporate sponsor Seasol International and John Shuster, who between them covered all costs of printing, signage and administration, all of this money will be utilised by the children and communities that we support in Southern India.

The organising committee would like to express our gratitude to all of our sponsors and supporters and in particular Seasol International, Financial Index Wealth

Accountants, Ladbrokes, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, Melbourne, Jellis Craig, ULR Land Rover Malvern, River Capital, Robe, Nelson Alexander and Shaw & Partners.

Next year's event will be our 10th which is a wonderful achievement for the small band of volunteers that organise this event.

Come along and join us next March. Even if you have no interest in golf we will find a job for you!

Alternatively you or your company can help by becoming a Golf Day Supporter or Sponsor.

Contact our office on 96500514 or [admin@tewoaf.org.au](mailto:admin@tewoaf.org.au) for more information or speak to any committee member for more details.

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## The East West Overseas Aid Foundation Day Sponsorship Program

We are so grateful for the continued kind support from those who have taken up the Day Sponsorship Program.

We ask those of you who have not taken out Day Sponsorship to help us if you can. We do need your help!

We have more days to fill and need to have a steady flow of donations in order to continue running the Uluru Children's Home and the Uluru Health Care Clinic, supporting our children and the local community.

There are two options: full day \$400 or half day \$200.

You can nominate the day and/or the loved one you wish to honour. The children in turn honour you and are made aware of your kindness.

We thank Seasol once again for generously continuing to cover the administration costs for this program.



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[instagram.com/eastwestfoundation](https://instagram.com/eastwestfoundation)



Thank you to Lisa Boyd and Seasol International once again for the support with the cost of printing this newsletter.

Seasol's ongoing generosity to TEWOAF and TEWFI continues to be critical to our capacity to provide support for and assistance to the UCH children, the local community and the wonderful and extremely important local natural environment.

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