



# Meridian

Newsletter of the  
Australian Chinese Medical  
Association (Victoria) Inc.

Winter/Spring Edition  
2006

## Connecting with YOU, the ACMAV membership



Welcome to **Meridian** - the new look ACMAV newsletter!

According to traditional Chinese medicine, “meridians” are the interconnected channels through which the body’s *qi* circulates. And in the same way that a meridian connects one acupoint to the next, so it is intended that the ACMAV newsletter will continue to connect the Association’s Committee with the membership, and members with each other.

There will now be two formats for the distribution of ACMAV news and information: **e-News** is the email bulletin which will be forwarded on a regular basis to inform members of upcoming events on the ACMAV calendar; and **Meridian** will be sent by post every quarter. For those without email access, the **e-News** bulletin will be faxed.

**Please** complete and fax back the form on the **back page** if your details have changed or you have yet to receive an **e-News** bulletin via email.



The ACMAV has had a busy few months, and in this edition, the first since the election of the new Committee, Mr Andrew Bui outlines his thoughts for expanding on the recent achievements of the Association. After a brief stint away from the Committee, we welcome Andrew back and wish him all the best in his role as President. Two of the new — and younger! — Committee Members are also introduced on page 3.

An overview is given of two items which will be of interest to the membership: ACMA House and Community Projects. In both cases it is a matter of building on the vision of past Presidents. Meanwhile the educational program continues to be a focus of activity. Conference Convenor Jun Yang gives her account of a successful and relaxing meeting recently held at the Novotel Glen Waverley. Benny Foo and Mee-Yoke Ling also report on the ACCMA Meeting in Adelaide.

Lastly, the newsletter wouldn’t be the same without the well-oiled words of our motoring guru, Mr Richard Hing, who reviews the latest luxury offering from Germany.

A new name, but the old team (with some fresh faces) is well and truly back behind the wheel!

*Dr Adrian Mar*  
Vice-President and Editor of Meridian

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All ACMAV Inc. members are welcome to contribute to this newsletter. Please direct all newsletter items to The Editor or to ACMA House.

**ACMA House — our home and headquarters**

Many members may be unfamiliar with our Association's property and office headquarters in Box Hill South. ACMA House, situated at 862 Canterbury Road, was purchased 10 years ago with a long-term view of providing a facility which could be used as a

enabled a property to be bought in the eastern suburbs. It was a used Commonwealth Bank building which was auctioned due to a depressed property market and the CBA closing its suburban branches at the time.

the Association's part-time office administrator, who maintains the membership list and receives phone calls and fax messages. ACMA House is a storage facility for equipment and printed material. Recently, it has also accommodated second-hand computers



“club house” for committee meetings and seminars, administrative offices and a place to invite interstate or overseas guests of the ACMAV. The ACMA Library was to house the Association's archival material, *Qi* copies, trophies, and also to be a resource of medical information for the membership and even the public.

**The Purchase**

It was thanks to the vision and hard work of three successive Presidents, Drs Andrew Lim, Joseph Cheung and John Chew, that this project became a reality. As Joseph Cheung recounted in his *Qi* 97 article, beyond the “prestige” it would bring, the ultimate aim was to deliver “a tangible asset to the membership”.

A major fund-raising effort

**Over the years**

Initial renovations allowed the front of the building to be leased to a commercial tenant, while the residential section at the rear was made into a function room, library and office for the ACMAV. The backyard was converted into a carpark area and a driveway constructed.

Over the years, ACMA House has been the regular meeting point for the ACMAV Committee. It has also been the venue for many successful GP workshops, being the ideal size for small group teaching sessions. A careers symposium for medical students and junior doctors was another event held at these premises. The office remains the nerve centre of ACMAV activities. Ms Isabel Ho is

and other items en route to charitable organizations! The library displays copies of the ACMAV journal *Qi*, although the creation of a resource centre has not eventuated.

**Future development?**

Recently, a subcommittee has been formed to oversee a feasibility study to assess the options of repairing, renovating, developing or selling the property. Members of the subcommittee are: Drs Andrew Lim, Joseph Cheung, Andrew Bui, Theong Low, Adrian Mar and Erwin Loh. Members will be kept informed of any proposals or decisions made by this subcommittee. It is intended that the maximal use of this property be made for the long term benefit of the membership.

*Adrian Mar*



## Greetings from your new President ...

It is an honour and a privilege to be elected as your President. I feel both excitement and also a sense of trepidation to be given the opportunity to lead this well established and well respected Medical Association. I am comforted by the knowledge that we have talented people on the Committee, and new and old office bearers who have already shown endless enthusiasm and commitment to ACMAV.

I am likewise committed to giving my best to provide sound leadership in achieving the Association's mission and goals, and I will work diligently with the Committee in furthering our common interests.

Looking around at the

members gathered at the AGM, it was gratifying to see so many highly qualified and talented colleagues coming together and enjoying each others company.

Over the last few years the Association has been steadily contributing to community and charitable work through various medical aid projects at both a local and international level. We will continue our efforts in these worthwhile endeavours, as well as providing ongoing medical professional development for our members through high quality dinner seminars and the Annual Conference.

I would like to appeal to members to participate in

and contribute to the various activities of the Association. I strongly believe that, together we can do even greater things and raise our profile in the community.

Last but not least, it is my pleasant duty to express my sincere appreciation, on behalf of the ACMAV, to Frank Thien for doing a wonderful job over the past year in leading the Committee. Thank you also to last year's committee members who generously contributed their time: Kevin Siu, Erwin Loh, Lawrence Wu, Elaine Chong, Mee Yoke Ling, Theong Ho Low, Ferry Rusli, Salena Ward, Jun Yang, Nicole Yap, Benny Foo and Hap Tang.



In the year to come I look forward to working with our incoming energetic Committee and all our members in order to bring about a productive and memorable year for the Association.

*Andrew Bui*  
President

## ... and some fresh faces on the Committee!



**Dr Leona Yip** is a New Zealand medical graduate who worked in Wellington and Auckland city hospitals before crossing the Tasman to work at Box Hill Hospital in 2005. She is currently a Dermatology Research Fellow in the Department of Dermatology at St Vincent's Hospital and is pursuing a PhD at the University of Melbourne. She is a panel interviewer for graduate entry into the Melbourne Uni School of Medicine, and despite a football culture shock, she remains an avid All Blacks fan. She appreciates (and collects) art and books, and loves music with a passion ... oh, and did I mention her training as a belly dancer!

Our other new face on the Committee is **Dr James Chiu**, an orthopaedic registrar at Dandenong Hospital. He is also an AMA Victoria Doctors-in-Training Executive Member. Not surprisingly, as a determined fighter for the underdog, he is a passionate AFL supporter of the St Kilda Football Club (Go the Saints!). And clearly intent on dispelling the macho image of the "hammer and chisel" brigade, James lists as his interests: fast cars ("even better when I'm driving them") and the music of rock bands Guns n Roses and U2! James has been assigned the task of Recruitment Officer on the current Committee.





## Building our Membership

I believe that the recruitment of new members to the Australian Chinese Medical Association of Victoria, along with the retention of current members, is one of the most important tasks that faces our association, and in particular the committee, each year.

Though there are a large number of Asian medical practitioners out in the community, we only have a few hundred members in our association. To that end, I have been

assigned the task of sorting out some recruitment strategies to implement. We have identified that there is a lack of young members and especially GP registrars. To address this, I am in the process of liaising with various GP training associations to discuss the possibility of raising our profile with them, with the initial aim of providing a link to our website on their respective homepages. Although, the association has done very well by recruiting through

word of mouth, I believe that it would be well worth our while to establish some formal strategies to raise our profile amongst all medical practitioners, especially final year students/interns/residents before they branch off into their various careers. The committee would welcome any other member suggestions for recruitment.

*James Chiu  
Committee Member  
Recruitment Officer*

For **Membership Application Forms**, please visit the ACAMV website: [www.acmav.org](http://www.acmav.org)

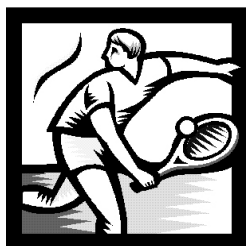


## ACMAV Tennis Tournament — Sunday 22nd October

This year's Annual Tennis Tournament will be held at the National Tennis Centre, Melbourne Park. Owing to the uncertainties of weather, the tournament will be indoors. The doubles format will be played, with inter-changeable partners in a round robin fashion. Although **only members are eligible to play**, families are cordially invited, to give moral support and partake of refreshments! The coveted trophy will be presented at the ACMAV seminar following the event!

The ACMAV thanks **Mayne Health** for their generous support in sponsoring this tournament.

**Please send in your entry forms by Monday 2nd October 2006.  
Entry to the tournament is FREE.**



**DATE** Sunday 22nd October 2006  
**TIME** 12:30pm sharp  
**VENUE** National Tennis Centre, Melbourne Park  
(enter from either Swan St Entrance D, or Exhibition St Entrance A)

**Free parking** is available at the Northern Carpark  
(validate your ticket at the Tennis Shop)



**Please return this slip to: Trevor Lau-Gooey, 86 Nepean Highway, Mentone 3194**

The following will be participating in the ACMAV Tennis Tournament on Sun. 22nd October 2006:

- |    |       |           |       |
|----|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | Phone no. | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | Phone no. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | Phone no. | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | Phone no. | _____ |





## Breast Cancer Education Seminar

Speakers: **Mr Michael Henderson & Dr Ray Snyder**  
 “Update in Breast Cancer Management”

Sponsors: **Sanofi-Aventis & Roche**

Date: **Wednesday, September 13th, 2006**

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: **King Bo Restaurant**

196 –208 Russell St, Cnr Lt Bourke St



Please **RSVP** by Wednesday, September 8th (incl. payment if applicable) to:  
 ACMA House, 862A Canterbury Rd, Box Hill South 3128, or  
**Fax: 9899-6389** (please dial carefully)

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Cheque No \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No \_\_\_\_\_ Or  
 Full name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Members Free \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card No \_\_\_\_\_

Associate member \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Please circle: Mastercard / Visa / Bankcard

*For budgeting purposes, please inform the secretary if you are unable to attend after RSVP. Thank you.*

## Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Sponsors
September 13th (Wed)	Education Seminar - Breast cancer	King Bo Restaurant	Sanofi-Aventis Roche
September 24th (Sun)	ACMAV Annual Golf Day	The Dunes Golf Links	Dorevitch Pathology Menere's BMW Brighton
October 22nd (Sun)	ACMAV Tennis Tournament	National Tennis Centre, Melbourne Park	Mayne Health
November 18th (Sat)	Lions Club Annual Charity Ball (in support of Project Vietnam)	TBA	



## Community Projects: near and far, great and small

It has now been several years since the ACMAV began to introduce into its agenda a number of community based projects. While the overall direction of these efforts is being adjusted and evaluated all the time, the overriding objective of offering assistance to those in need in the community setting has remained firm.

The notion of “community” has extended from the local Chinese population of Melbourne to those in need from within the wider international community. At the local level, Dr Lawrence Wu continues to coordinate a series of health talks provided to the **Chinese Elderly Citizens Club** in Box Hill. These informal presentations have been warmly appreciated by this group of seniors, and it is hoped that an extension of this initiative may offer a larger audience access to important health messages delivered in Chinese.

The ACMAV’s international projects have been driven by the hard work and personal commitment of two members in particular: Drs Benny Foo and Theong Low. The Committee is grateful for their experience and vision in guiding the ACMAV forward in its endeavours.

Dr Foo’s contacts with health professionals and charitable organizations outside of the ACMAV has given the Association the opportunity to offer support to a number of worthwhile programs. The most recent of these involved a donation to assist the delivery of much needed medical equipment to Sri Lanka. This project was overseen by the Rotary Club of Templestowe.

Another project supported by ACMAV has been the **Mongolian Aid Trust Fund**. The Committee was impressed by the dedication of Dr Robert Gan, a dentist who has responded to the great need for basic medical services in the remote communities of Outer Mongolia. After delivering a memorable presentation at the June dinner seminar, Dr Foo, together with Immediate Past President A/Prof Thien and President Mr Bui, presented Dr Gan with a cheque for \$5000. A report by Dr Gan of this aid project will appear in the next edition of Qi.

While the role of the ACMAV will never be as a fund-raising entity, its membership should feel proud in the knowledge that the Association has co-ordinated overseas “mercy flights” to Australia of the type normally conducted by large charitable organizations. Largely through the efforts of Dr Theong Low, ACMAV has now successfully managed to bring to Melbourne three patients with severe deformities who would not otherwise have had the chance to receive major life-changing surgery. Each of these cases has presented enormous challenges, both logistic and financial. Through personal and professional connections cultivated over years of such work, Dr Low has, on behalf of the ACMAV, managed to draw together



**Left top:** Dr Benny Foo lends a hand to Dr Jayasinghe and other volunteers to fill a container of medical equipment; **Left bottom:** hospital beds and other pieces of equipment bound for a hospital in Sri Lanka; **Above:** Dr Bui, A/Prof Thien and Dr Foo present a cheque to Dr Robert Gan.



teams of surgeons and other doctors, with the support of hospital administrators, corporate and community sponsors and members of the local Vietnamese community, who have all given generously of their time in a truly remarkable effort to bring hope to individuals in desperate need.

Thus our own **Project Vietnam** has enabled a girl to have surgery to remove a large mid-facial encephalocele, and a boy with Apert's syndrome to come to Melbourne for corrective craniofacial surgery. Both of these operations have been performed at the Royal Children's Hospital. Currently a young woman from Vietnam is awaiting the first of a number of surgical procedures to relieve contractures suffered as a result of horrific petrol burns to her face, chest and arms (see below).

In a wonderful example of how charitable deeds bring opportunities for further good deeds, the ACMAV was approached last year by the **Lions Club of Melbourne Chinese**, seeking a project as the focus for their main fund raising event, the Annual Charity Ball. Not only did

this event raise the \$18,000 needed to enable the child with Apert's syndrome to have his operation, but the convenor of the Annual Charity Ball, Mr Paul Tjioe, has informed the Committee that his Lions Club has decided to also dedicate this year's ball towards raising money for the ACMAV to bring another child to Melbourne for corrective surgery. This collaboration will allow such valuable work to continue, and has been an inspiration to many, including ACMA colleagues from interstate.

The formation of the **ACMAV Foundation** has been important in providing a body through which donations can be received and then directed towards these and other charitable projects in the future.

The ACMAV Committee calls on its members to participate in and support these activities. Anyone who would like to take part in these projects should contact the ACMAV Secretary. Any ideas or suggestions would also be welcome.

*Adrian Mar*



Ms Hong Hanh Luong (pictured right, before her tragic accident) sustained horrific injuries following a petrol burn to her head, trunk and arms 2 years ago. Her neck is now fused to her chest, and both arms are fused to her lateral chest wall. Both of her hands are severely contracted, allowing no function at all. Since the tragic event, she has been cared for in a nunnery in the hills of central Vietnam.



As a part of **Project Vietnam**, ACMAV is sponsoring Ms Luong's visit to Melbourne for a series of surgical procedures. Mr Ian Holten, a plastic surgeon in Geelong, as agreed to perform the operations at St John of God Hospital, probably commencing in early September. Mr Stephen Roberts, CEO of the hospital, has agreed to provide all hospital facilities free of charge. Mr Holten feels that at least six operations will be required over a 6 month period. Ms Luong has been in Melbourne for a few weeks, and is being cared for by a family in Braybrook, organized by the Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan of the Quang Minh Temple in Braybrook. She made a brief visit to the Annual Conference Dinner, where she was accompanied by the family who first located her in Vietnam.



**Tax-deductible donations** to Project Vietnam can be sent by cheque addressed to: **ACMAV Foundation**.



The **Lions Club of Melbourne Chinese** is holding its **Annual Charity Ball** on **Saturday 18th November 2006**.

This is the main fund-raising event of the year, and monies raised will be donated to a specific ACMAV project to assist a child to come to Melbourne for major life-changing surgery. Members are urged to attend this function, and support the efforts of both organizations. Further details shall be provided soon, but mark this date in your diaries now!



## ACMAV Annual Scientific Conference 2006 — “Body and Mind”

*Jun Yang  
Conference Convenor*

Many bodies and minds were gathered at The Novotel in Glen Waverley on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2006 for the annual ACMAV conference. It was a beautiful sunny Sunday outside, but it was just as warm and “happening” on the inside!

The minds of the 96 conference registrants were nourished by excellent presentations given by Professor Littlejohn (fibromyalgia), Dr Duncan (opioid therapy), Dr Brown (dementia), Dr Phan (TIA) and Dr Worsnop (COPD). The importance of looking after doctors’ health was emphasized by Dr Warhaft and Dr Tippett, and appropriately reinforced by the Tai Chi session led by Mr Hong. The sight of over 90 doctors practicing Tai Chi in their suits and heels was

a delight! The panel discussion on Depression in Primary Care was well led by Dr Tang, with excellent contribution from panel members including Dr Chia, A/Prof Wong, Dr Tan and Dr Yap.

The stomachs of the attendees were also well nourished throughout the day, concluding with a sumptuous feast at Tai Pan Restaurant. The eight course banquet menu was thoughtfully designed by Charles, the owner of Tai Pan, to reflect the “Yin and Yang” qualities of Chinese herbs and cooking styles.

Conference registrants also had the privilege of meeting Ms Hong-Hang, a burns patient from Vietnam, at the dinner. She has been

sponsored by ACMAV and other contacts of Dr Theong Low, to receive corrective surgery in Geelong. An impressive \$7000 was raised for her travel and medical expenses at the conference dinner.

The ACMAV would like to thank all the conference registrants for supporting our association and those who worked hard in the organization of the conference, including Dr Mee Yoke Ling, A/Prof Frank Thien and Dr Happy Tang. The efforts of all the committee members are also most appreciated.

Let’s now look forward to the bigger conference in 2007!

## Australasian Council of Chinese Medical Associations (ACCMA) and ACMA (SA) Conference

*Benny Foo & Mee Yoke Ling*

The Conference was declared open by Dr Chris Cain, President AMA (SA), and then proceeded with a discussion on the nitty gritty of setting up a medical practice: the business, staffing, medico-legal issues and good communication practices, etc. The speakers were well chosen and informative.

Next was a session on alternative business options: from setting up a medical implant company by an orthopaedic surgeon, to alternative investments, self-managed funds, the winery business, and investment in antiques and health & wellness nutritional supplements. It was an eye opener for many of the participants!

At first, I (Benny) thought the pro-

gram looked “uninteresting and irrelevant”, BUT in reality it was very relevant and educational for all participants. Setting up a medical practice is not as simple and easy as when I started my general practice. Thank goodness I am now officially “retired”!

The Gala dinner was held on Saturday night at the beautiful South Australian Art Gallery. The mood was festive and the food excellent.

The following day’s (Sunday’s) session revolved around life outside of medicine. There were 3 exciting presentations by Dr Randle Sach (who presented his glass artwork), Dr May Goh (who discussed her grueling sporting activities) and Dr Benny Foo (who

discussed life after Medicine). Afterwards there was a tour of the famous South Australian wineries or a round of golf, followed by a Chinese banquet at Ming’s Palace restaurant. All in all it was a very satisfying and worthwhile Conference.

The **ACCMA Council Meeting** was held on 10th June 2006. Queensland will host the next ACCMA Conference, at the Conrad Jupiter Casino, and the 2008 Conference will be hosted by NZ ACCMA.

### **ACCMA Office Bearers for 2006/07**

**President:** Dr Alex Loo (Qld)  
**Secretary:** Dr Colin King (NZ)  
**Treasurer:** Mr Kevin Siu (Vic)





## Conference Photos

Photography: Elaine Chong



1&2. Tai Chi lesson with Mr Boon Hong; 3. Audience at Novotel Glen Waverley; 4. Prof. Geoff Littlejohn at the lectern; 5. Conference Committee: A/Prof Frank Thien, Dr Happy Tang, Dr Mee-Yoke Ling, Dr Jun Yang; 6. Depression Panel Discussion: Dr Keong Yap, A/Prof Michael Wong, Dr Meileen Tan; 7. Mr John Chew & Dr Kenneth Wong enjoy lunch.







# ACMAV Motoring

## The BMW530i Professional Pack

by Richard Hing

For many people, the BMW 5 Series has consistently been the best looking of all the BMWs. I agree. Its beautiful proportions and smart looking yet graceful lines are very easy on the eye and make it instantly appealing. The latest 530i did nothing to dispel these impressions when I was given the recent pleasure of test driving this luxury sedan. I met with the helpful



staff at Menere's BMW Brighton and even though I know one or two things about cars, it still took a 20 minute orientation to learn about a few of the many features the 5 series has as standard, as well as the optional Professional Pack (\$2,500) that was chosen for the test vehicle. The test 530i was also outfitted with the M Sport package, a \$4,000 option, which adds front air dam, rear apron, 18 inch multi-spoke alloy wheels, low profile run-flat tyres, an M sport steering wheel and sports seats with improved lateral support.

The standard features fill several A4 pages of BMW's brochure but the standouts would be the side curtain airbags, dynamic stability control (DSC), tyre puncture warning system, rain sensing wipers and the active steering. In addition, the Professional Pack adds head up display, control display with a 20 cm colour monitor, sat nav, TV function and voice recognition, park distance control and the comfort access system. This last feature means that as long as the ignition key is in close proximity to the car, it can be opened by touching the door handle. The car will also start just by pressing the start/stop button on the dash without having to insert the key. Perfect for the busy professional with his or her hands full and in a typical rush to get somewhere.....like the golf club.



Getting into a comfortable driving position is made exceptionally easy with electronic seat and steering wheel adjustment. Both the comfort access system and buttons on the seat remember the seat settings for at least 2 drivers. The rear vision mirrors also electronically adjust and have an aspheric coating to reduce night time glare from following headlights. A handy feature is the downward tilting of the external mirrors when reversing which is great for kerbside parking. Don't want to dent those beautiful but expensive BMW alloy wheels....The Professional Pack also includes audible front and rear park sensors which sound more and more excited as objects near the vehicle and the central LCD screen has some suitably coloured graphics to get the driver excited too if objects start to encroach on the car's personal space.

BMW is justifiably proud of its in-line 6 cylinder powerplant which is considered by most motoring scribes to be one of the best in the world. It packs a 190kW charge from its 3 litres warmed over with inlet and exhaust variable valve timing and variable length inlet manifold. There's no question that it does a very ample job of moving the 530's 1500 kg of Chris Bangle-inspired German sculpture. The engine note is relatively muted during daily cruising but its enthusiastic timbre may be heard above the superb sound system if fed a decent dose of PULP.

The car is capable of reaching a speed-governed 250 km/h and whips past 100 km/h within 6.7 seconds as a result of 300 Nm of torque and its 6 speed automatic Steptronic gearbox. I found the automatic shifts to be pleasantly smooth in day to day driving but noticed them to be quite jarring when giving the car a bit of a hurry up. There was also some hesitation when taking off in auto mode if the pedal was floored because the box would have to shift from 2nd (its default position from stationary) back to 1st. Sure, one could use the steptronic and manually select each gear but that's not the point if you have an automatic. I'm advised that the electronics do adapt to one's particular driving style so maybe the car just needed more time to bond with my right foot. The head-up display (HUD) was a nice touch which really does help keep one's eyes ahead. It displays current speed and direction arrows and details from the satnav in a clear orange image just above the instrument binnacle. The only negative I found is that the position of the image cannot be moved and for the driver who prefers a low driving position or for those who are vertically challenged, it's likely that the HUD will be obscured and that is a pity because HUD is a really useful function which should be standard in all cars.

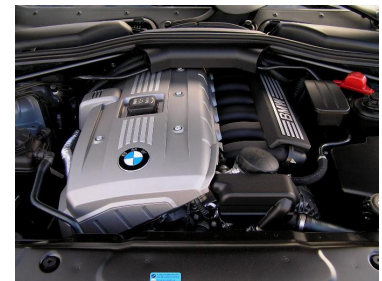




The car's handling was very good and generally predictable even in Melbourne's wet weather. Improved chassis rigidity yet reduced weight from the extensive use of aluminium in the subframes and suspension components helps the car respond well to changes in direction. Even though I found that there was some turn-in understeer, I enjoyed driving the car through wet twisty roads. Active steering is a new feature of the 5 series also helped as it is designed to increase (or amplify) the front wheel steering angle when the steering wheel is moved at low and medium speeds. At higher speeds, this assistance is reduced thereby improving high speed stability. If it all goes horribly wrong, the car has DSC+ or dynamic stability control which is a combination of corner brake control (CBC) and dynamic traction control (DTC). It's designed to keep the car on the black stuff and stop the car from unintentionally communing with nature or becoming a tree hugger. The run-flat Bridgestone Potenza tyres grip well but are noisier than expected due to their firmer sidewalls. They weren't too happy going over the many suburban road humps either but BMW has chosen this solution to help save weight, improve driver safety by not having to change a tyre on the open road and to increase bootspace. Sounds fair to me.



In the presence of the i-Drive, there are only a few primary function controls to distract front-seat occupants. Air-conditioning controls are mounted in the centre dash whilst audio controls for the sound system and voice control are mounted on the steering wheel. The standard 10 speaker audio system is superb and I have little doubt that the optional 13 speaker Harman Kardon Logic7 system is even more impressive. The 6 stack CD units is in the glovebox and there are also single CD and DVD slots in the the centre console. Somewhat surprisingly, when the gearstick is in "Park", it is impossible to insert the DVD. Now that seems a bit silly since the DVD should only be inserted and watched whilst the car is parked. The DVD and TV picture quality is excellent (as long as the TV reception is good) and I can see why it would be easy to lose track of the time if the screen is on and Judge Judy is about to hand down a verdict.



#### SPECIFICATIONS:

BMW 530i sedan  
 Base RRP \$113,100 plus on road costs  
 Prof1 Pack \$2,500; M Sport Pack \$4,000  
 Engine: 2996 cc 6 cylinder in-line petrol  
 DOHC 24 valves Valvetronic technology  
 190 kW @ 6600 rpm; 300 Nm @ 2500 rpm  
 Compression ratio 10.7:1  
 Rear wheel drive  
 Transmission: Auto 6 speed Steptronic  
 Performance: Top speed 250 km/h 0-100  
 km/h 6.7 sec  
 Brakes: 4 wheel ventilated anti-lock disc  
 brakes with DBC  
 Suspension: Front independent double-  
 pivot strut, anti-roll bar. Rear independent  
 multilink, anti-roll bar.  
 Fuel consumption: city 13.6; hwy 6.8;  
 combined 9.3 L/100 km  
 Fuel tank: 70 L PULP  
 Kerb weight: 1500 kg; Cd: 0.29  
 Boot capacity: 520 L  
**M Sport Pack:**  
 Tyres: Bridgestone Potenza 245/40 R18  
 Wheels: 8J x 18 135M alloy  
**Warranty:** 3 years/unlimited km.  
 3 years Roadside Assist

i-Drive is a conversation-starter for most users. It's loved by some, hated by many but ultimately it deals with the secondary functions in a very logical way. I can understand why many customers would be put off with something that lacks the intuitiveness of far simpler designs. BMW dealers do their best to ease the pain by programming the various functions for new owners and if one gets a bit too adventurous, the reset button is only a press away. There are no such problems for the rear passengers who only have a few airconditioning controls to fiddle with. Rear passenger room is adequate for 3 adults of average build, and fitted with 3 lap sash seatbelts and three adjustable headrests, plus shoulder and curtain airbags (although the middle seat passenger misses out). There are cupholders for the front and rear passengers as well as a few storage bins in the doors and centre console. I feel there should have been more convenient receptacles for things like my wallet, mobile phone, sunglasses and E-tag and it's one of the first things I noticed when I started using the car.

After 3 days with the car, I found plenty to like and felt that I had only explored the tip of its true potential. Sure I had a few gripes with the car but these were minor inconveniences I'm sure I could option out if I could just find the right page in BMW's megabook of options....Its dynamic abilities and drivability remain a true highlight and are the things which have stuck with me a fortnight later. And that's saying something for a father with a non-existent short term memory courtesy of our beautiful but demanding 5 week old baby who is allowing no more than 2 hours of undisturbed sleep each night....Ah to just leave baby daughter with Grandma for a few days and drive away for a weekend!

ACMAV wishes to thank Menere's for providing the test drive, and for their support of the ACMAV Annual Golf Day, where participants have been given the opportunity to "Win a BMW for a weekend". To arrange a test drive or make enquiries, please contact Mark Denniston or Adam Davenport at **Menere's BMW Brighton**, 363 Nepean Hwy, Brighton, tel. **9524 4000** [www.meneres.bmw.com.au](http://www.meneres.bmw.com.au)



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Fax 9329 3200  
(Surgery of Dr TH Goh)



## COMMENCEMENT OF PRACTICE

**Dr Janice Thean** MBBS FRANZCO is pleased to announce commencement of practice as a general ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon at the following locations:

**Waverley Eye Clinic**, 226 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley Tel: 9886 5522

**Western Eye Clinic**, Private Suites, Western Hospital, Gordon St, Footscray Tel: 9317 7105

Dr Thean also has an appointment at the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, East Melbourne.  
She fluent in *Mandarin, Cantonese and Foochow.*



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