



Meridian

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

Summer Edition
2007

A packed year ahead!

As we round out another year and plunge into the next, there's hardly time to catch a moment's breath. Already 2007 is warming up to be a busy year for ACMAV, with many events planned for the months ahead.

ACMAV membership is now renewable, as the annual subscription takes in the period from January to December. It is a chance not only to update your membership details, but also to recruit new members into our association. Why not invite colleagues or friends who are not yet members to the next Dinner Seminar, to be held at the new "Ripples" res-

taurant? Or bring them along to the ACMAV Annual Golf Day, to be held this year in April. And let's not forget the excellent educational program provided for our members, allowing us to share in and acknowledge the professional activities of our fellow medicos.

So let's start the New Year with a commitment to meet new friends, contact old ones and enjoy the company of colleagues young and old!

Dr Adrian Mar
Vice-President and Editor of Meridian

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What a day!

It was the worst day of the year for golf: gale force winds and horizontal rain! But it did not stop these intrepid golfers from braving the elements ... all for the glory of winning the ACMAV championship trophy!

Go to pages 9-11 for more ...





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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.

Volunteers needed for Community Talks

Do you know what goes on at the Box Hill Elderly Chinese Citizens' Club each Wednesday? Come and find out!

Volunteers are needed to continue the series of community-based talks to the elderly citizens. After the clatter of Mah Jong tiles has settled down, and the birthday celebrations are completed (there

seems always to be someone's birthday to celebrate!) you could take the stage in front of a very hospitable and appreciative audience, eager to find out about health messages of any sort.

There is no need to be fluent in Cantonese, since the talks can be simultaneously translated. GPs or specialists are welcome,

and any topic will do.

If you have a Wednesday lunchtime free (1-1:30pm) please let us know!

Contact the ACMAV Committee at

office@acmav.org

and the organizer, Lawrence Wu will schedule you to join in the fun!



Members of the Elderly Chinese Citizens' Club in Box Hill enjoying a talk presented by a member of the ACMAV.

Vale Lee Min Yap

It was with deep sadness that ACMAV learned of the untimely passing of Dr Lee Min Yap, who passed away on 1st January 2007, aged 36. Lee Min was an intelligent, dedicated and compassionate man, whose qualities served the community well in his work as a gastroenterologist. He had rapidly established himself as an expert in inflammatory bowel disease after completing a period of study and research at Oxford. His work in setting up the first IBD Clinic at the Alfred Hospital, where he was a Visiting Consultant Gastroenterologist, will continue to benefit both patients and physicians alike into the future.

On behalf of the ACMAV, the Committee extends its deepest sympathy to the family of Lee Min. He will be sadly missed.



From the President ...

Greetings and best wishes to all members. While one New Year has just passed, we will soon be celebrating our own Chinese New Year and ushering in the Year of the Pig! In keeping with ACMAV tradition, our New Year Yum Cha luncheon will be held soon after the lunar new year: on Saturday 3rd March, at Golden Dragon Palace Restaurant. All members and their family are welcome!

It was indeed a successful end to the year, with excellent lectures having been delivered by Dr Lance Liu (eye diseases) and Dr TH Goh (paediatric cardiology). Dr Nicole Yap is to be thanked for her help in

organising these events. In November, the Lions Club Melbourne Chinese hosted their Annual Charity Ball, with proceeds going towards one of the ACMAV's overseas aid projects. It is with great appreciation that I can announce that a total of \$20,000 has been raised for this purpose.

The commitment of the ACMAV towards supporting community and humanitarian projects will continue. I am able to report that Ms Hong Hanh, the burns victim from Vietnam, has now completed 2 successful operations—with more to come—and I would like to thank Dr Theong Low for his ongoing effort in

bringing this project to fruition (see pages 6-7 for an update on her progress).

For the coming year, the Committee has already been busy planning its educational program. The first dinner seminar of the year will be on 7th February, with the topic Complex Cerebrovascular Conditions. The speakers will be Dr Bernard Yan and Dr Peter Mitchell. Dr Jun Yang will again be the convenor for this year's Annual Conference, to be held in August, and she has an exciting program install.

The Annual Golf Day is now a popular fixture. This year the organiser, Dr Karen Lee, has scheduled



this event for April (a registration form is enclosed).

All in all I believe the ACMAV is providing more opportunities than ever for its members to be involved in a wide and worthwhile range of activities.

*Andrew Bui
President*

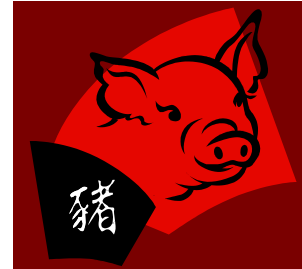
Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Venue	Sponsors
February 7th (Tue)	Education Seminar - Complex cerebrovascular conditions	Ripples Restaurant	Boston Scientific
March 3rd (Sat)	Chinese New Year Yum Cha	Golden Dragon Palace Restaurant	
April 22nd (Sun)	ACMAV Golf Day	Dunes Golf Links	Dorevitch Pathology
April 24th (Tue)	ACMAV AGM	TBA	
May 16th (Wed)	Education Seminar - Bowel cancer screening	TBA	TBA
June 9th - 11th (Sat - Mon)	ACCMA Conference	Golf Coast	
June 19th (Tue)	Education Seminar - skin cancer update	TBA	TBA



ACMAV cordially invites you to our Chinese New Year Yum Cha

Date: Saturday, 3rd March 2007
Time: 1.30pm
Venue: Golden Dragon Chinese Restaurant
 363 Manningham Rd
 Lower Templestowe
Menu: Set banquet (>10 varieties of dim sum)



RSVP by Friday 23rd February to:

ACMA House, 862A Canterbury Rd, Box Hill South 3128, or

Email: office@acmav.org or Fax: 9899-6389 (please dial carefully)

Full name _____ Cheque No _____
 or
 Tel No _____ Full name on Credit Card _____
 Guest Numbers: _____
 Members & <4 yo Free _____ Credit Card No _____
 Guests >12 yo \$20 _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
 Child (4-12 yo) \$14 _____ Expiry Date ___/___
 Total amount enclosed _____ Please circle: Mastercard / Visa

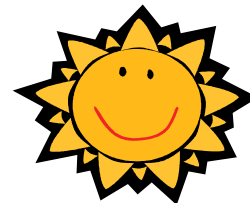
*** Tea is free; soft drinks paid for by buyer**

* Numbers are limited to 130, so please **RSVP** early to reserve your seats.



ACCMA SCIENTIFIC MEETING by AADA 2007

The AADA of Brisbane is proud to announce that the ACCMA Annual Conference No.14 will be held at the **Conrad Jupiters Casino**, Broadbeach, Gold Coast from 9th—11th June 2007



Theme: Seven Ages of Man.

9 June 2007 Lectures: *The infant, The School Boy, The Lover, The Soldier and The Round Belly*
 Social activities: Dinner at Food Fantasy Restaurant (in the casino), and The Spectacular Stage Show

10 June 2007 Lectures: *Middle Age, Old Age*
 Social activities: Golf
 Australian Outback Spectacular Show

Registration Fee

Doctors & Spouse \$400 (incl. Sat. lunch, 2 nights' accom., 2 b'fasts & conference fee).
 Child >12: \$150 3-12 yrs: \$100 <2 yrs: Free Social activities: extra \$20 pp

Closing Date 6 April 2007 For registration form, contact ACMAV: office@acmav.org



February Dinner Seminar

Speakers: Dr Bernard Yan & A/Prof Peter Mitchell

Complex Cerebrovascular Conditions:

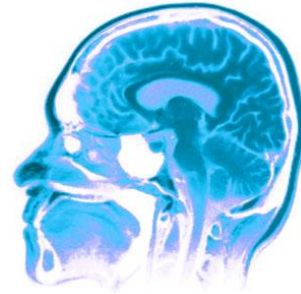
A collaborative approach: Neurointerventionists,
Neurosurgeons and Family Physicians”

Sponsors: Boston Scientific

Date: Wednesday, 7th February 2007

Time: 7pm for 7.30pm start

Venue: Ripples Restaurant
40-42 Glenferrie Road, Malvern



RSVP is essential due to LIMITED PLACES

Please **RSVP** by **Friday 2nd February** to:
ACMA House, 862A Canterbury Rd, Box Hill South 3128, or

Email: office@acmav.org or **Fax: 9899-6389** (please dial carefully)

Full name _____	Cheque No _____
	or
Tel No _____	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

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



Keep this date free!

ACMAV ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

Theme: “Yin and Yang” – focus on Men’s and Women’s health

Venue: Manningham Function Centre, Doncaster

Date: Sunday 19th August 2007





A dream comes true

The following is an article written by reporter Danny Lannen for the *Geelong Advertiser* and appeared in print on 18th November 2006.

HONG Hanh's voice is sweet and light and pours forth from a heart filled with hope. She says she dreams about running her own small bookshop or newsagency so she can support herself with the written word and care for her son Nhut, 5. The former business management student yearns for independence, the barest independence, and Geelong plastic surgeon Ian Holten brought that simple, complex ambition closer yesterday.

Hong Hanh Thi Luong, 26, is from Saigon in Vietnam. She suffered horrific burns two years ago when in the darkness of depression she acted against an abusive husband by gathering his clothes and using petrol to set them alight. Rudimentary medical treatment meant she healed inside a cruelly distorted body. Her chin and the sides of her face fused with her shoulders. Her upper arms fused to her sides. Her hands became useless knots of scar tissue. She lost ability to care for herself in the most basic ways. Her son offered what help he could and she moved into the full-time care of nuns.

A Vietnamese-Australian woman met Hong Hanh's sister during a trip to Vietnam and returned to Australia brandishing her photograph and a will to see her life changed. The woman spent more than a year trying to find help in Adelaide and then through her brother passed her mission on to Dr Theong Low of the Australian Chinese Medical Association of Victoria. He turned to someone he knew would help, Ian Holten, and at Geelong's St John of God Hospital yesterday dreams started coming true. Mr Holten headed a team, including Dr Robyn Edwards and anaesthetist Dr Eion Fehsenfeld, who volunteered time and expertise to start freeing Hong Hanh from the prison of her body. They operated for five and a half hours to separate her face from her shoulders and release and reconstruct bound skin around her midriff and pelvis. The work was perilous. The shape of Hong Hanh's neck meant they were unable to insert a tube down her throat and fully anaesthetise her. Mr Holten had to cut her throat while she was awake under local and "twilight" anaesthetic.

Hong Hanh spoke from her hospital bed before going into surgery. Her dark eyes shone with spirit. She said through interpreter, the Venerable Phuoc Tan that she felt nerves, happiness and worry in her heart but that her wish to be independent caring for herself and her son was strong. The day she had arrived in Australia she had kicked herself to make sure she was not dreaming. Mr Holten said the St John of God Foundation would help Hong Hanh undergo many more operations during the next year as she continued a profound journey.

"Everyone loves being involved," Mr Holten said.

"Everyone we asked just jumped at a chance to give this person her fundamental life back."



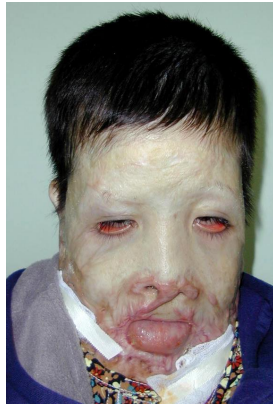
Mr Ian Holten with Ms Hong Hanh at St John of God Hospital, Geelong

Tax-deductible donations to the ACMAV Medical Aid Project can be sent by cheque addressed to:
ACMAV Foundation.



An update on the progress of Ms Hong Hanh

Theong Ho Low



Ms Hong Hanh before her surgery (above), and a beautiful smile of hope, following her first operation (left).



Since the *Geelong Advertiser* article, Hong has had 2 further operations:

1. Release of contractures of her neck and perineum. This has allowed her to close her eyes and mouth for the first time. As I reported when I saw her at St John Of God Hospital, she was able to wink, smile and whistle for the first time in years! She was also reported to be singing all day long!

2. Release of her right arm from her chest wall. During this operation, she encountered some problem with the anaesthesia, requiring a tracheostomy to be inserted. However, she was able to fully extend her elbow and now has almost full range of her shoulder movement. She did fall into a rather low spirit after this operation due to the "trachi" but her spirit

picked up immediately after it was removed. She was taken to the Geelong Yacht club by Ian Holten and was apparently independent with feeding herself during the day.

She is currently home with the host family and is now standing upright, showing off her new height, comparing it with her host! I witnessed her signing the consent form for her next operation at the end of January.

I guess these are all very small steps in her improvement, but nevertheless these are things that we all take for granted. I really get the greatest "kick" from seeing such achievements reached in patients such as Hong Hanh, and as I have always said: this is what it is all about!



The **Lions Club of Melbourne Chinese** held its **Annual Charity Ball** on **Saturday 18th November 2006** at the Hilton Hotel. A sum of **\$20,000** was raised, to go towards assisting ACMAV in a project similar to the one described here.

The ACMAV Committee wishes to wholeheartedly thank the Lions Club of Melbourne Chinese—in particular Mr Paul Tjioe—for the wonderful effort in helping our Associa-



Update on Project Africa

To kick off the new year, Drs Benny Foo and Min Li Chong along with their family and friends helped load a 40 ft container with hospital theatre lights, various hospital and theatre equipment, operating theatre lighting, operating tables, instrument trays, bowls trolleys, patient trolleys, sterilisers, hospital beds, wheelchairs, computers, printers, monitors, TVs, medical text books, medical charts, triangular bandages, dressings, infant formulas, clothing, soft toys, pre-lived bicycles and many other odds and ends.

This container is destined for Zambia where a new hospital building is awaiting completion. It is attached to an existing Day Clinic that also hungers for more medical equipment. They are in need of second hand x-ray machines, incubators,

ECG machines, sphygmomanometers, stethoscopes, auroscopes, ophthalmoscopes, needles, syringes and anything to do with the running of a medical clinic and hospital.

Dr. Ken Henry, the main coordinator behind this project, is seeking volunteer doctors for the clinic and the hospital. Those who are interested please contact Dr Benny Foo on 0411 268 668.

The Project Africa team would like to acknowledge the contributions of ACMAV members and their families. This includes bicycles from Graeme Lau Gooley (brother of Trevor), office equipment from Bruce Nunan, and donations and packing by "Friends of ACMAV" - Dr. Su Foo, Pauline Foo and of course our members, Drs Benny Foo, Min Li Chong, S K & S M Chan.

Meet our new friend – ACABS

The ACMAV had the privilege to meet with the founding president of ACABS, Prof Jun-Ping Liu (pictured on left), and his colleague Dr Bing Wang, at the recent education seminar at SS Style Restaurant.

The Australia Chinese Association for Biomedical Sciences Inc. (ACABS) is a newly-formed non-profit professional organisation established by Australian Chinese academics in the fields of biological and medical sciences. The organization has more than 70 members who are professionals in the sectors of biological medical research and practice, and its base is here in Melbourne.

The objectives of the ACABS are to foster friendship and collaboration amongst Australian Chinese biomedical academics; to encourage contributions to the advancement of science and technology; and to advocate and carry out the exchange of technology, education, training, and clinical services between Australia and China in the field of biomedical science.

The ACABS will be hosting its first biomedical research conference in Melbourne from 1st to 3rd of February 2007. The ACMAV has contributed \$2000 towards a travel scholarship for a Chinese postgraduate student to attend this event.



Several members of the ACMAV committee have been invited by Prof Liu to attend this conference.

This will surely be the start of a friendly and productive collaboration between our two associations!

To find out more about the ACABS, go to:
www.acabs.org.au



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2.



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4.



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7.

1. Debriefing outside The Dunes clubhouse
2. Individual winner, Yee Chan, with John Harrison (Sales & Marketing Manager, Dorevitch Pathology)
3. Jenny Lim (winner of NTP) with Richard Sanders (Business Development Manager, Shannons)
4. Mark Denniston (Special Vehicles Manager, Menere's BMW Brighton) & Karen Lee with BMW M5
5. Nicole Yap (winner of the NAGA encouragement award);
6. Victor Kuay & Steve Cheng (4BBB Winning Pair)
7. Karen Lee at the prize table.



ACMAV Annual Golf Day — Sunday 22nd April 2007

This year's ACMAV Annual Golf Day will again be held at The Dunes 18-hole championship golf course, acclaimed as the number 1 public access course in Australia. The event will be kindly supported by **Dorevitch Pathology**.

DATE Sunday 22nd April 2007
TIME 7:50am Registration & Briefing
 8:15am Tee-off
VENUE The Dunes Golf Links, Rye
RSVP by 8th February 2007



To reserve a place (limited to 24), complete & return the enclosed registration form. Priority is given to ACMAV members.



One day in September ...

... extreme golf as typhoon conditions hit ACMAV Annual Golf Day!

Karen Lee, Golf Day Co-ordinator

It was a memorable (certainly weatherwise!) ACMAV Annual Golf Day held at The Dunes Golf Links, Mornington Peninsula on Sunday 24th September 2006. Even the most intrepid golfers were forced to abandon play at the 12th hole when the worst weather for the year managed to unleash its full force midway into our golf tournament. Our ACMAV and Dorevitch banners were nearly blown off the practice putting green, and there was some concern for the stunning BMW M5 on display provided by Menere's near the first tee.

Gale force winds brought drenching horizontal rain and hail with the temperature dropping 10 degrees within an hour. For a golf course known to expose players to the elements – this was extreme golf – not helped by the wind tunnelling effects created by The Cups terrain. Some joked about using the putter for the entire round as all airborne balls were at the mercy of the fierce winds but there was also no shelter from winds playing havoc on the putting greens. Frozen players were rescued by the Course Marshall and eventually all rain-soaked players returned to the comfort of the Clubhouse.

Live weather radar updates suggested that another band of showers would reach us within an hour. After a hot shower and warming up by the fireplace with a glass of red or hot chocolate and a hot meal the vast majority were comfortable and settled and not game enough to venture out again.

This was a challenge in awarding prizes, not least because everyone's scorecards were so soaked that they were falling apart and could no longer be written on. It was decided to base the tournament results on the first 9 holes. Anyone who was game enough to play that day deserved to come away with some prizes.



Final Results: Individual stableford

17	Yee Kar CHAN (23, Yarra Yarra GC)
16	Ching Ling HUANG (13, Heidelberg GC)
15	Khai MARK (19, Sandhurst GC)
14	Vich KEYURAGGUL (25, Sandhurst GC)
14	Victor KUAY (19, Cranbourne GC)
14	James WONG (13, Shepparton/Green Acres GC)
13	Steve CHENG (20, Sandhurst GC)
13	Richard SANDERS (27, no home GC)
12	Phil KOSTAS (27, no home GC)
12	Yew Chai LOH (26, Green Acres GC)
12	Weng-Ong (Wayne) TAN (19, Sandhurst GC)
12	Michael YII (21, Green Acres GC)
11	Gilbert CHUAH (21, Kingston Links GC)
11	Richard HING (15, Eastern GC)
10	John CHIN (23, Sandhurst GC)
10	Mark DENNISTON (26, Huntingdale GC)
10	Jenny LIM (37, Sandhurst GC)
10	Lance LIU (27, Kew GC)
9	Anthony POON (16, Moonah Links GC)
7	Kong Lam (Steven) CHAN (16, Spring Valley GC)
4	Siew Keng CHAN (35, Sandhurst GC)
2	Nicole YAP (38, Heritage GC)
-	Shinichiro (Shin) SAKATA [incomplete] (27, Singapore Island GC)
-	Jasper TIONG [unable to attend] (15, no home GC)

4BBB stableford

22	Steve CHENG & Victor KUAY
19	Yee Kar CHAN & Khai MARK
19	Ching Ling HUANG & Phil KOSTAS
18	Yew Chai LOH & James WONG
17	Richard HING & Richard SANDERS
16	Mark DENNISTON & Michael YII
15	John CHIN & Weng-Ong (Wayne) TAN
14	Lance LIU & Anthony POON
13	Vich KEYURAGGUL & Jenny LIM
12	Kong Lam (Steven) CHAN & Gilbert CHUAH
5	Siew Keng CHAN & Nicole YAP





Our congratulations go to the following players - **Yee Kar Chan** who took away a carload of prizes including the ACMAV perpetual golf trophy, Individual ACMAV Winner, Open section winner – Best Men’s Individual Nett Score and 4BBB Runner-up. Individual ACMAV Runner-up and 4BBB ACMAV Runner-up prizes went to **Khai Mark. Steve Cheng** and **Victor Kuay** were the 4BBB ACMAV winning pair.

Nearest the pin trophies were awarded to **Kong Lam (Steven) Chan** (3rd hole) and **Jenny Lim** (6th hole). Unfortunately due to abandoned play NTP 13th and 17th holes and Longest Men’s and Ladies’ Drives 18th hole were unable to be awarded this year.

Jenny Lim also took out the Open section – Best Ladies’ Individual Nett Score. The NAGA encouragement award went to **Nicole Yap**.

Lucky draw prizes went to **Anthony Poon** (“Luxury weekend for 2” – Dorevitch Pathology), **Steve Cheng** (“Win a BMW for a weekend” – Menere’s BMW Brighton) and **Kong Lam (Steven) Chan** (“One day golf school for 2” – Croker Academy of Golf). There was something for everyone who attended this special event.

ACMAV would like to thank the following sponsors and their representatives for their generous support and participation in our Annual Golf Day. They provided many gifts, vouchers and prizes which were very much appreciated and helped to make our golf day so much more special and memorable for all participants.

Principal sponsor: Dorevitch Pathology

(John Harrison, Sales & Marketing Manager and Dr Phil Kostas, Pathologist)

Other sponsors: Menere’s BMW Brighton

(Mark Denniston, Special Vehicles Manager)

Shannons

(Richard Sanders, Business Development Manager)

Croker Academy of Golf

(Peter Croker, The Dunes PGA Golf Instructor)

Ocean Spray (Yew Chai Loh, Financial Controller)

GolfWorks (gift vouchers)

We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding on what turned out to be a very trying day (weatherwise), especially the very professional staff at The Dunes for their valued assistance and experience in helping us to stage our golf day.

We hope to see many of you again (golfers and sponsors!) at future ACMAV Annual Golf Days under less weather-challenged conditions.



Dr Yee Kar Chan, with the ACMAV Golf Trophy and a “carload” of prizes!





CLASSIFIEDS



FEMALE VR GP REQUIRED

James Khong & Associates:

QV Medical Centre (Cnr Swanston & Lonsdale St, Opp. Chinatown)

Female VR GP required for sessions at busy clinic in central CBD.

Excellent conditions.

Enquiries Dr James Khong: **9662 2256** (BH) or **0437 677 007** (AH)



SPECIALIST ROOMS FOR LEASE

New beautifully designed Consulting Suites next to Queen's Park, **Moonee Ponds**.

Large GP referral base.

Sessions available for physicians or surgeons.

Minor surgical procedure room, on-site parking, broad-band internet access.

Contact practice manager Dianne on **9377 8888** for further information.

E-MAIL UPDATE & CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Did you receive the ACMAV e-News bulletin via email recently?

Have you changed your postal address?

If you are not already receiving e-News, or if you have changed your address,

PLEASE update your details below and **FAX** this form to **9899 6389**.

Surname _____ First name _____

Email address _____

Postal address _____

