

# Sydney Chinese Lions – Christmas Party 2009

## IPP Anthony Cheung Installed as Honorary President of the Club

*At Christmas, many would celebrate the festive season, others would get together and spend quality time with their friends and folks. Sydney Chinese Lions found themselves doing both at their Christmas Party on 9 December, 2009.*

The party was held at Zilver Restaurant, Chinatown. Yes, Sydney Chinese Lions were celebrating and yes, they were indeed among friends. The party was a full house as it was attended by over 300 members and guests. The turnout was a record high in Christmas party attendance of the club. Apart from their own members, many District Cabinet officers and fellow Lions came celebrating with them. The District cabinet contingent was led by DG Beryl Payne and it included Lion Ern Payne, PCC Ian Kidd, 2nd VDG Stephen Coleman, 2nd VDG Elect Greg Dunn and Lions Lady Judith Dunn as well as PDG Nigel Jeny, Ken Nimmo, Kevin Parker and Derek Mar-

gerison. Guests from fellow N5 Lions clubs consisted of members from 15 clubs including City of Ryde, Crestwood, Kings Langley, Manly, Mt Druitt, Oatley, Redfern-Waterloo, Richmond, Sydney Central, Sydney Executive Business, Sydney Innerwest, Sydney Pacific, Sydney Waratah, Sydney West and West Pennant Hills-Cherrybrook. Sydney West Lions, led by Lion Hans Jung, attended with a full table of 10 members.

Apart from fellow Lions, representatives from many organizations came and took part in the celebrations. The Australian Red Cross (NSW) was led by Mr Lewis Kaplan, Executive Officer while St John



Sydney Chinese Lions and VIP Guests at Christmas Party 2009



**President Mei Bidding Members and Guests a Warm Welcome**

(NSW) led by Ms Laila Hallam, Marketing Manager, attended with a full table. In addition, Mr Henry Chan, President of Yiu Ming Association came with a full table of guests, Mr Dominic Sin and Mr Benz Leung represented the Chinese Australian Services Society, Mr Hudson Chen and Mrs Eve Chen, Vice President of the Australian Chinese Community Fund, Dr Peter Wong, former MLC, Mr Daniel Chow, former President of the Australian Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni also came to celebrate.

The club's long time sponsors were also there in force. Principal Sponsor Remy Martin was represented by Mr Jeremy Church, Brand Manager and Mr Will Thompson, Brand Ambassador, Major Sponsors Shum's Watches and Jewellery was represented by Mrs Elsa Shum while Honey World Travel was represented by club 3rd Vice President Wendy Lin and Ms Sandra Wong. Other Sponsors attending included Lion Arthur Kwan and Lion Rita Kwan, Lion Andy Tse of Liteco Construction, Lion Janet Hung of Synergy Medical, Lion Henry Tang of the Silver Group and Lion Milly Yang of Heng Fai Trading Pty Ltd.

The Master of Ceremonies of the party was 2nd Vice President Howard Shi. When it was time for the proceedings to com-

mence, Lion Howard invited Ms Michele Wong to lead sing the National Anthem. On completion, Michele's beautiful voice won her a loud applause. Following Lion Howard's recognition of dignitaries present, President Mei Cheng was invited to the stage to make her Welcome Speech. She gave the guests a warm welcome and bid everyone a Merry Christmas. She also invited all those present to spend an enjoyable evening together with Sydney Chinese Lions.

Then Lion Janice Cheung read out Lions Purposes in English while Lion Dr David Wu read out Lions Ethics in Chinese. Next, Lion Charles Poon conducted an open auction of a bottle of Remy XO. The prize went under the hammer for \$1,000, generously bought by Mrs Elsa Shum. Then Mr Will Thompson presented the Remy Message and drew the Lucky Door Prize. The prize was another bottle of Remy XO and it went to William of Heng Fai Trading Pty Ltd. In total, the club received 17 bottles of Remy XOs, courtesy of Remy Martin via Suntory, the rest of the 15 bottles were all served out to the guests at the party.

Dinner began soon after DG Beryl had conducted the Invocation and Loyal Toast. Traditionally, over dinner, a group of senior Lions of the club would go around the ta-



**DG Beryl Payne Delivering the Invocation & Loyal Toast**



### President Mei Installing IPP Anthony as Honorary President of the Club

bles, proposing toasts to the guests and thanking them for their support. This time was no exception. Led by President Mei, the group of senior members got up from their seats and diligently went around performing this pleasant task. In addition to proposing toasts and thanking their guests, they also wished them Merry Christmas.

During dinner, there was a brilliant performance entitled the Red Lantern featured by the Oriental Dance Group. The four artists danced gracefully and professionally and earned themselves a loud applause from an appreciative audience. The colour of their costume and prop blended in well with the décor of the stage and it was a perfect match.

In the later part of the evening, MC Lion Howard invited President Mei to go on stage again. This time it was for a Special Presentation. When President Mei was on stage, Lion Howard announced, "Following precedents set by many Lions clubs worldwide, including the USA, United Kingdom, the Peoples' Republic of China, Egypt, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia, our club's members have recently voted to create the Honorary Title of Honorary President and to bestow it on our long serving Immediate Past President Dr Anthony Cheung, JP, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the club in the past years." He then invited IPP Anthony to go on stage

where he was presented with a certificate of Hon. President by President Mei. Next all the members present went forward to congratulate their newly installed Hon. President and a group photo was taken.

Hon. President Anthony then delivered a Vote of Thanks. He began his address with these words, "President Mei, DG Beryl, Fellow Lions, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is an honor and privilege to be given the title of Honorary President by the club. However, I consider it an even greater honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to be President of this great club of ours over the past 5 years, from 2004 to 2009. Collectively, we have achieved a great deal. But our achievements have come about, only because of the dedication and support of all our members and the community at large..." He then went on to thank the club's sponsors, the community leaders, the media and club members who have provided the club with continuous support.

Then there was a birthday cake cutting ceremony. Members whose birthdays fall in December were accompanied by other members and they all congregated around the 15-pound birthday cake for the brief ceremony.

Next, Ms Michele Wong was invited back to the stage and she led sing a number of Christmas carols. She was joined by Santa



Will & Jeremy of Remy Martin Drawing Lucky Door Prize

when she sang Silent Night. The lights of the restaurant were dimmed. In the dark, the guests were singing and waving their glow sticks. Many made their way to the dance floor while moving and swaying with the music. The atmosphere was tender and warm. One really had to be there to feel it! The last song in the sequence was *We Wish You a Merry Christmas!* By this time, the mood of the party had reached yet another electric crescendo. Nearly everyone joined in with the chorus. When the song was finished, the guests sprang to their feet. They were all hugging each other and wishing each other Merry Christmas!

Before the hugging had subsided, from the loudspeakers came the sound of heavy metal music and drum beats. It was time to hit the dance floor! Before too long, the dance floor was filled with guests dancing to the fast beat disco music. From the photos, one could easily tell that the dance floor was hardly big enough for the crowd!

Raffles draw began at 10:30pm. It was done smoothly and the first prize - two economy Sydney New Zealand return tickets generously donated by VP Wendy Lin of Honey World Travel went to Mr Jeremy Church of Suntory.



**Did Santa actually come all the way from Scandinavia to be with the Lions?**



Feedback from members and guests overwhelmingly profess that the party was smoothly run and enjoyable. Citing Lion Genevieve Jeny, "I look around at all the tables, everyone is happy!"

The Christmas Party Organizing Committee is greatly thrilled and encouraged by this. They are particularly grateful for the selflessness and diligence demonstrated by members of Sydney Chinese Lions which was instrumental to the success of the function. They also vow to continue to do a good job the next time round.



**Sydney Chinese Lions at Birthday Cake Cutting**



**Mrs Elsa Shum (middle) - Auction Winner of Remy Martin XO**



**Master of Ceremonies - 2nd VP Howard**



**William (1st right) -Winner of Remy Martin XO Lucky Door Prize**



**Lion Janice reading Lions Purposes**



**Mr Jeremy Church - Winner of the Sydney NZ return air ticket for two**



**Lion Dr David Wu reading Lions Ethics**



**Raffle Prizes and Remy Martin XOs**



