

SYDNEY CHINESE LIONS



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Editorial

After a brief recess in April, Sydney Chinese Lions got together again on 5 May for their regular monthly meeting. At the meeting, they welcomed Lions Ken Cen, Emily Hung and Lui Fong to their midst as new members. They also heard presentations of the three Humanitarian Scholarship finalists: Mr Jesse Buckingham, Mr Mohit Tolani and Mr Nathaniel Ware. All agree that the humanitarian work performed by the applicants this year is of top quality and greatly appreciate their efforts and contributions to humanity. The scholarship results will be announced at Changeover 2010 on 26 June.

This year, the date of the Changeover Dinner is set on Saturday, 26 June. This is to match the availability of International 2nd Vice President Dr WK Tam, Guest of Honor at the Changeover. Sydney Chinese Lions will have the privilege and honor to induct VP Tam into the club as an Associate Member at the function. The Changeover is expected to be a full house and booking a place early is essential to avoid disappointment.

The 93rd LCI International Convention will be held at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre (SCEC) from 28 June to 2 July.

Some 20,000 Lions the world over are expected to attend. It'll be a great event. Sydney Chinese Lions have also seized this opportunity to hold a Twinning Ceremony with San Francisco Chinatown Lions conducted by VP Dr Tam at 1 pm on Thursday, 1 July at the Bayside Lounge of the SCEC.

We wish to encourage as many Lions as possible to attend the 93rd International Convention. If you still haven't registered, please do so on line soon or just give Secretary Crystal a call and she'll be more than happy to lend you a helping hand.

THE LIONS CLUB OF SYDNEY CHINESE INC.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **May Members Meeting**
- **Welcoming Ken Cen, Emily Hung & Lui Fong as new members**
- **Changeover 2010**
- **The 93rd LCI International Convention - 28 June to 2 July**

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Sydney Chinese Lions and Guests at May 2010 Members Meeting

Congratulations
to Lions Lilian Lee and Andy Tse
on their wedding on 2 May 2010.
May both of you live happily ever after!



We welcome contributions to this Monthly Bulletin.
Please send your article to the Chief Editor at
sydneychineselions@yahoo.com.au

A Letter from Our International President

Dear Lion CHENG,

Greetings my dear Lion friends. As we enter spring time in many parts of the world, I am most pleased to report our membership growth continues to blossom and grow to new, historic heights. Through March, we have reached +24,709 powered by great results in India and several other Asian countries, a continuing membership surge in China, and by improving trends in all parts of the world. Even today as we move towards the last week of April, the results are moving even higher, nearly crossing the +30,000 mark.

I am truly impressed by our collective results, and I am very proud of our District Governor Teams and Club Officers who have contributed most to our success. Let me share some success stories deserving special attention.

In China where Lionism took root only a few short years ago, we have grown by more than 50% this year, increasing from 4,000 members to more than 6,200. The growth is happening in most major cities in China, and three new provisional districts have been formed as a result. But most impressive of all, is the real spirit of service displayed by our Lions in China. Just last week, following the recent quake in western China, a group of Chinese Lions traveled for several days, under very difficult circumstances, to reach the affected areas with relief supplies. I sometimes wonder if my fellow Lions in my own district could respond in such a way.

Another story of success and inspiration are the Lions in Africa -- a continent known for 'despair' a few years ago which is now moving to be a continent of 'hope and development'. Lions in Africa have grown grow by 10% in since 2007-08 and are their own way to yet another stellar year. Most impressively, Africa Lions are leading through service. They not only lead some of our more impressive global service projects but they have produced several lead gift donors for Campaign SightFirst II and LCIF's Lions Hope for Haiti relief fund.

Recognizing the African continent's further potential, I am very proud to report that your board of directors at our recent meeting in early April, passed a resolution to give more support for Africa, to treat the continent as its own distinct area in LCI, and to put the African continent on the pathway to becoming its own LCI constitutional area when it reaches a total membership of 30,000 - a feat that I know will be achieved soon.

Our success stories span well beyond our new areas of China and emerging areas like Africa. For example, the country of Australia is having growth, most of Latin America and Europe too, and even the United States of America and Canada are doing quite well by historic standards - though I am convinced the latter two can make history this year by erasing past patterns.

But as highlighted below, the future of our organization will need to rely increasingly on the 'dual strategy.' The strategy is simple -- emphasizing on one side, that we need new clubs and membership growth to make up for those who leave or pass away, but on the other side, we need a focus on keeping the members we have and increasing the size of existing clubs to control long term retention.

So I ask all of you who belong to an existing, well established club:

- What can you do to take better care of your club and its members?
- What projects can you pursue to bring more appeal to your club?
- And simply where can your club go from here?

I know many of you have accepted the **Move to Grow** challenge of moving in new ways and in new directions to strengthen and enrich your own clubs. But I would really love to hear about your success stories so I can share those with Lions around the world. Please email me at DG2president@Lionsclubs.org.

In the meantime, please see the important information links below on the next Leadership Ginkgo challenge and the upcoming international convention in Sydney. I am confident that next month I will be writing with even more good news as we all work to **Move to Grow** our great association.

With cordial regards,
Eberhard J. Wirfs
International President



Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship 2010

Scholarship Offered for the 8th Year Running Response Unprecedentedly Overwhelming

For the eighth year running, The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is offering The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship, and applications were invited in February 2010. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

This year the response to the Scholarship offer was unprecedentedly overwhelming. The quality of the applications was very impressive. The reported humanitarian services performed by the applicants included volunteer work for such local charities as Opportunity International, Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience and Edmund Rice Camps, the Centre for Volunteering and the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, Australian League of Immigration Volunteers, 180 Degrees Consulting, Young Leaders Network, White Ribbon Ambassador and others; as well as overseas work in Cambodia, Uganda, the Christmas Island, East Timor, Mozambique, Hong Kong, Slovenia, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Botswana and South Africa. These services are all highly commendable. As such, in addition to the original award of one winner receiving a scholarship of \$2,000, the Club also offered two consolation prizes.

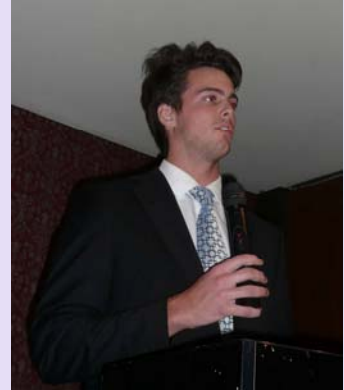
The adjudicating panel comprises Lion Dr. Anthony Cheung, Lion Sylvia Chong, Lion Henry Leung and Lion Arthur Kwan while Lion Rita Kwan acted as Coordinator of the project.



Scholarship Finalists with Adjudicating Panel at May Members Meeting

The 3 Finalists

Mr Jesse Buckingham is from the University of Sydney. His passion for issues of social justice was bred in him from a young age. In high-school he travelled to Cambodia with his peers and volunteered in various non-governmental organisations and orphanages including M'lop Tapang, Sok Sabay, and Tabitha to design skills based activities for orphans and construct 10 houses for impoverished families there. In 2008, he became an Ambassador for Opportunity International, one of the world's leading providers of micro-financial services where, together with a colleague, he designed a Microfinance Education Module for High School Certificate Economics students that they now deliver at NSW high schools. Last summer, together with a colleague, he raised \$40,000 for the construction of a 4-classroom schoolhouse for the Manjeri School in Uganda, and travelled there volunteering to manage the construction process. Future pro-bono services he has planned include volunteering in the "food program" and "stationery & uniform program" in Uganda.



Mr Mohit Tolani is from the University of Sydney. His pro-bono humanitarian services include mentoring indigenous kids and young adults through Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience and Edmund Rice Camps, developing student community engagement programs through the Centre for Volunteering and the Institute for Advancing Community Engagement, and volunteering in various international aid projects including the Tsunami project through Round Square Australia. He also volunteered in Australian League of Immigration Volunteers for support and development of refugees. His future plan is to carry on with these pro-bono services, and additionally, to provide support to refugees at the Christmas Island, and undertake health and education development projects in East Timor.

He has been recognised with various awards including Strathfield Young Citizen of the Year 2010 - Special Nominee Recognition Prize, Strathfield Youth Achievement Award 2010, and the Round Square and King Constantine Medal.

Mr Nathaniel Ware is from the University of Sydney. In 2005 he was the NSW World Vision Youth Ambassador, volunteering in Mozambique, Africa. Since 2007, he has been the Principal Founder and International Director of 180 Degrees Consulting, the world's first international pro-bono student consultancy, providing consultancy free of charge for various non-profit organisations, including the Crossroads Foundation in Hong Kong, IEDC Bled School of Management in Slovenia, and Viola Vitolis in Bangladesh, and helping various other organisations around the world achieve a greater social impact. He has served as Executive Director of the Young Leaders Network, and as Sydney University Environment Convenor. He also volunteers to coach disadvantaged youth in public speaking, works to combat violence against women as a White Ribbon Ambassador, and is developing a microinsurance scheme to reduce the vulnerability of the poor in developing countries. His future pro-bono services include continuation of work in 180 Degrees Consulting, and volunteer work in the Philippines, Botswana and South Africa.



Lions, Canines and the Australian Army

In early April, led by 1st Vice President Jason Zhang, a number of Sydney Chinese Lions and guests paid a visit to the Australian Army Steele Barracks at Moorebank, Sydney.

They were invited to observe a bomb disposal drill arranged by the School of Military Engineering. Major John Adam Riley, Officer Commanding the Specialist Engineering Wing and Lieutenant Colonel Mark A Coyle, Deputy Head of Corps - Training and Heritage gave them a warm reception. Prior to the drill, in the observation area, Major Riley provided a brief introduction of the drill. He forewarned that there would be loud explosion noises during the drill, just so the visitors were not caught unawares. This did not cause any concern nor diminish the interest of the visitors. Rather, it helped raise their curiosity and enthusiasm. They simply couldn't wait for the drill to begin.

The drill commenced with a member of the bomb disposal squad showcasing his best loyal friend - a detection dog - in a bomb search exercise. The dog searched in a compound lined with an array of vehicles, in one of which an explosive device was hidden. The canine cautiously went about sniffing at the vehicles one after another, eliminating the safe ones as it went along. Finally, it accurately identified the vehicle with the hidden explosive device. It stopped searching, squatted



Sydney Chinese Lions and guests with members of the Army Bomb Disposal Squad



**1st VP Jason Zhang exchanging souvenirs with
Lieutenant Colonel Mark A Coyle**

still next to the identified vehicle and signalled at its commander. The skilful and intelligent performance of the detection dog won loud applause from the audience.

Next, a bomb disposal robot, like the one seen in the award winning movie *The Hurt Locker* made its appearance. It looked fairly ordinary but in reality, due to its advanced functions, it is worth more than a fortune. The robot makes it possible for bomb disposal experts to perform their tasks at a safe distance thus minimising casualties. It is an indispensable tool and a reliable friend in the modern battlefield. One visitor asked the commander jokingly, "If you are to choose between this robot and a Ferrari, which would you like to own?" The commander responded wittily, "it depends on where I am!" It is so true that a bomb disposal robot is far more useful and essential than any other gadgets in the perilous fields infested with insurgents like Iraq or Afghanistan. Next, the commander demonstrated his skilful manoeuvring of the robot by remotely commanding the latter's mechanical arm to dispose of the bomb with the agility of a real human arm. Then the disarmed bomb was detonated with a powerful water jet from a hydro cannon. This perfect collaboration between the human soldier and robot is evidence of the excellent skills and capability of the Australian Army. Following the sound of the bomb explosion, the soldiers again won equally loud applause from an appreciative audience.

After the drill, the organizers kindly allowed the visitors some free time with the squad. After watching such a splendid show, many Lions members marvelled at the Army's advanced level capability and were very interested in their training and missions. They seized this very rare opportunity and chatted freely with the soldiers and officers. The visitors had always understood that the key responsibility of the Army is to protect the country, but now they further realised that the job of the bomb disposal squad is pitted with perils. Throughout the bomb disposal process, squad members have to unrelentingly demonstrate professionalism, prudence and concentration. The Lions also had the opportunity to come into closer contact with the detection dogs. They were also shown

some techniques on how to train the canines successfully. The seamless cooperation between the dogs and their trainers display the purest trust and harmonious coexistence between animal and human.

Sadly, the visitors also learnt that in the year before, one of the squad members unfortunately lost a limb while performing his task in the battlefield! They felt even greater respect and appreciation for the soldiers who secure our country, directly or indirectly, bringing about peace to us.

At the conclusion of the visit, both parties exchanged souvenirs and delivered speeches. 1st Vice President Jason Zhang of Sydney Chinese Lions maintained that the Australian Chinese community has always greatly recognised and appreciated the vast contributions made by the Australian Army to this country and to the world at large. He affirmed the valuable and long-standing friendship between the community and the Army. During the visit, the Lions felt very privileged because of the warm reception they received from the Army together with the rare opportunity of learning some of the trade secrets of the bomb disposal squad. They vowed to relay this memorable experience to the wider Australian Chinese community with a view to encouraging the younger generation to seriously consider taking up a career with the defence forces.

In the battlefield, the bomb disposal squad performs their tasks tirelessly, selflessly and professionally, serving their country and keeping world peace. This spirit matches the Lions' motto "We Serve". It is anticipated that further interactions and cooperation will occur between the Australian Defence Forces and Sydney Chinese Lions in the future.



Lions donning the outfit of the Bomb Disposal Squad



For those who wish to see more of the work of the Australian Defence Forces, they are welcome to attend their public Open Days held around the country throughout the year. Advertisements for such events will appear in the online Service newspapers below.

The Royal Australian Navy:

<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/NAVYNEWS/editions/4713/default.htm>

The Australian Army

<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/armynews/editions/1101/Default.htm>

The Australian Air Force

<http://www.defence.gov.au/news/raafnews/editions/4401/default.htm#story11>



The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.

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We Serve

The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is a member of Lions Clubs International, an international non profit community service organization, upholding a common motto "WE SERVE". Today, there are Lions Clubs in 205 countries and geographical areas all over the world. In District 201N5, which covers the Sydney area and Norfolk Island, there are some 75 Clubs with around 1,750 members. Amongst these, there are around 6 Chinese-based Clubs. Sydney Chinese Lions is the first of these Chinese-based Clubs chartered in April 1995.

Over the past fifteen years, under the leadership of President Mei Cheng, Hon. President Dr Anthony Cheung and other Past Presidents, in conjunction with the relentless effort of its members, and on top of all these, the generous donations and sponsorships received from the community, the Club has donated over \$350,000 to a number of charities including the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, St John (NSW), the Australian Red Cross, the Sir David Martin Foundation, the Fred Hollows Foundation, Westmead and Concord Hospitals, the Children's Mobility (Hart Walker) Foundation and the Elderly Australian Chinese Homes. Thousands have reaped the benefits. The Club is also mindful of encouraging young adults to participate in humanitarian services, hence, since 2003, it has been offering its humanitarian scholarships. In 2009, they set up the Inaugural Sydney Chinese Lions Teal Ribbon Scholars Scheme to promote and facilitate experience sharing between medical doctors and medical personnel of the People's Republic of China and Australia.

Visit us at our Award Winning Website
www.sydneychineselions.org.au

Upcoming Events

Function	Venue/ Dress Code	Date & Time	Cost per person
Changeover & Fundraising Dinner Sydney Innerwest Lions	Emperor's Garden After 5	Wednesday 2 June 2010 7:00 for 7:30pm	\$100 per person
Changeover 2010 & Welcoming International 2nd Vice President Dr WK Tam Sydney Chinese Lions	Zilver Restaurant After 5	Saturday 26 June 2010 7:00 for 7:30pm	\$50 per person
Twinning Ceremony with San Francisco Chinatown Lions Sydney Chinese Lions	Bayside Lounge - Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre Club uniform	Thursday 1 July 2010 12:00 noon	\$35/\$40 per person for lunch
LCI 93rd International Convention	Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	28 June to 2 July 2010	Registration Fee US\$200

For bookings please contact:
Secretary Crystal Siu (mobile: 0400 228 823, email: ccsiu@hotmail.com)