

# SYDNEY CHINESE LIONS



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## Editorial

Changeover 2010 of Sydney Chinese Lions is just round the corner. The function will be held on Saturday, 26 June at the Zilver Restaurant. Many would notice that the date this year is significantly later than previous years. This is because we wanted to match the availability of International 2nd Vice President Dr WK Tam - we are hoping to throw a party in honour of him and to have the 2010-11 Board inducted by him. At present, bookings for the function is filling up fast. If you are yet to RSVP, please phone Secretary Crystal on 0400 228 823 to see if there is any room left.

As you may be aware, the 93rd LCI International Convention is held in Sydney from 28 June to 2 July. It is very rare for an international convention to be held in our own backyard. Quite a number of us have already registered for the convention. If you wish to join us then, please give Secretary Crystal a ring and she'll be happy to assist you to register.

On Thursday, 1 July at 12:30pm, a twinning ceremony between the Lions Club of San Francisco Chinatown and us will be held at the Bayside Lounge of the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre. The

ceremony will be conducted by VP Dr Tam. Do come along and support. Again, RSVP Secretary Crystal is vital.

On 24 May, led by President Mei, Lions Jason Zhang, Henry Leung and Anthony Cheung attended the Grand Opening of St John House at Burwood. The ceremony was officiated by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. It was very well attended, with the top brass of St John together with their key supporters and friends. See Pages 3-5 for further details.

### THE LIONS CLUB OF SYDNEY CHINESE INC.

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Sydney Chinese Lions Changeover 2010
- 93rd LCI International Convention
- Twinning Ceremony with San Francisco Chinatown Lions
- Grand Opening of St John House

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The Emergency Communications Centre at St John House

# A Letter from Our International President

June 28, 2010

Dear Lion CHENG,

Greetings my dear Lion friends. As we approach the final days of 2009-10, I'm pleased to report that our overall net membership growth this year should likely be around +26,000 or even better -- marking the third consecutive year of positive growth and the best results in the modern history of our association. This is truly great, and I'm so proud of you all.

Moreover, it appears all areas will have improved results over the recent past. More districts are now showing positive growth, the average club size is improving, and nearly 1700 new clubs have been formed all over the world. We are also nearing a very historic milestone in reaching 300,000 women members, which by itself is a huge success.

The main reason why I'm writing today is to relay the decisions just taken at our international board meeting concerning the MERL program. I wrote to you previously informing you that a plan was being developed by a special committee to restructure and replace MERL. That work is now done and we have a new direction.

But first let me state that the historic objective of MERL was never in question. Looking back, it's clear that MERL was a good idea when first implemented more than a decade ago - a right idea for that particular time. It brought more emphasis to membership development and its core components. However, today we find its results and its impact are still somewhat elusive.

We also have some important new structures -- such as the Global Membership Team and the new DG Teams -- that have now taken on more responsibility for membership development. So we needed to find a new way ahead to restructure and ultimately replace MERL, to adapt to the new situation and to pursue new opportunities.

#### **Expanding the Global Membership Team (GMT) and creating a parallel Global Leadership Team (GLT) to replace MERL:**

After many, many months of careful planning and deliberation, your board has developed an innovative plan to replace MERL beginning in 2010-11. It involves three important steps: **Expanding the Global Membership Team, Consolidating the Membership, Extension, and Retention (M-E & R) chairs and Separating the Leadership function from M-E & R.**

The overall purpose of expanding GMT and creating GLT seeks to address three basic goals: continued growth, improved club success, and ultimately better leadership development to ensure that LCI remains the world's global leader in community and humanitarian service.

This upcoming year will be one of transition. I know that some districts may not be fully ready to move in the new way right away. That's understandable, but we must at least begin taking the first steps. For those districts and multiple districts with active and hard-working MERL teams, of course they may continue to use them in 2010-11 while preparing a transition to the new structure by 2011-12. But those with inactive or expiring MERL teams can, and should, move more quickly to the new approach.

Be assured there will be many more communications coming out in the weeks and months ahead. But I wanted to share these highlights with you as Lion leaders because it's important that you see the road map and be kept informed.

Again we have much to be proud of this year. But our success will only be clearer if we will help those who are taking over for us to move ahead even farther.

In that regard, I wish everyone great success with each and every step you take. I especially want to extend very best wishes to our incoming leaders - especially our incoming district governors - and of course to my dear friend and close colleague, Sid Scruggs, our incoming international president in 2010-11. He has a wonderful theme emphasizing and seeking to grow our service, which is absolutely critical to our continued success. Please join me in giving him our utmost support as he leads our dear association to even greater success.

In the meantime, next year I will be speaking to you as Chairperson of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). So it's not farewell or goodbye -- just a final greeting and thank you from this side.

With cordial regards,  
Eberhard J. Wirfs  
International President





# Grand Opening of St John House

*After thirty years (1977 to 2009) St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) has outgrown its Surry Hills headquarters. In recent years parts of its operations had to be housed in Marrickville, Rydalmere and Smithfield - reports Lion Henry Leung...*

St John Ambulance (NSW) sold its Surry Hills and other premises in 2008 and bought in 2009 the Deane Street, Burwood building to put all its operations under one roof. As St John Ambulance (NSW) sold into the last peak of the Sydney property market and bought at the trough of the Global Financial Crisis they were able to achieve a debt free position after this major assets swap; certainly not a mean feat for a self-funding charitable community services organization.

On Monday, 24 May 2010, the completely refurbished St John House, Burwood was officially opened by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. In attendance was of course The Patron of St John Ambulance Australia, His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce, AM AE. His Excellency Mr Bryce, the husband of the Governor General, was a former President of St John Ambulance (Queensland) and a Knight of Justice in the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Attending the function were many distinguished guests including the Minister for Fair Trading and Minister for the Arts, Ms Virginia Judge MP and the Mayor of



# At the St John House Grand Opening Ceremony

the Burwood Council, Cr John Sidoti.

Four Sydney Chinese Lions - President Lion May Cheng JP, Hon President Lion Dr Anthony Cheung JP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lion Jason Zhang and Director Lion Henry Leung were there to offer our congratulations. They were warmly welcomed by the leaders of the host; to name a few: Chairman, the Hon Peter Collins; Commissioner and Deputy Chairman, Major General (rtd) Warren Glenny; Chief Executive Officer, Sean Gavin; General Manager, Helen Banu-Lawrence and Manager, Laila Hallam.

After the Governor General declared the Building officially opened, guests in small groups were offered a guided tour of the premises. The Sydney Chinese Lions were very impressed that the refurbished building presented a spacious, warm and friendly, bright and colorful environment for the people of St John. Particularly of note was that the Communication Centre on level 3 was fitted with some of the state of the art communication equipment like television sets, computers, telephones, mobile phones, etc and these were ready to be put into operation any time. During major events similar to the Sydney 2000 Olympics or the 2008 World Youth Day Randwick Papal Mass when St John Ambulance will be providing first aid treatment at the venues and sites, this Communication Centre will swing into operation and it acts as a control centre for the deployment of the St John Ambulance personnel and assets.



**Sydney Chinese Lions  
with Her Excellency  
Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor General  
of the Commonwealth  
of Australia**





# At St John House



## Communications Room

Proudly Supported by: The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.



A plaque on the door of the Communication Centre announced that the Centre is supported by Sydney Chinese Lions. We were absolutely delighted to see such acknowledgement. Nevertheless we felt that our contribution raised from our Charity Ball 2009 was probably only a fraction of the equipment cost of the Centre.

Afterwards, we went to the ground level and found in the garage the ambulance sponsored by Sydney Chinese Lions Charity Ball 2006 in sparkling tip top condition.



In the following week, St John Ambulance is embarking on a marketing campaign for first aid training. The target is to raise the proportion of first aid trained personnel from the current level of one in six households to that of one in every household. This is a very noble target. We, the Sydney Chinese Lions, should offer St John Ambulance every kind of support we can afford.



## 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](http://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](mailto:ccsiu@hotmail.com))