



# Sydney Chinese Lions

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THE LIONS CLUB OF  
SYDNEY CHINESE INC.

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas Party 2007
- Charity Ball 2008
- Letters from LC Järvenpää Ainot
- District Convention on Saturday 13 October
- Lion Therese Bechara honoured with Ethnic Business Award

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## President's Message

My fellow Lions

When you read this Bulletin, our Christmas Party is drawing very close. In case you still haven't heard about this, it will be held on Wednesday, 12 December at Zilver Restaurant. It starts at 7:00 for 7:30pm and the cost is \$45 per person. It is essential to RSVP Crystal on 0400 228 823 by 3 December. At this stage, we've already had quite a good number of RSVPs coming in and I believe this will be yet another great party that our Club features. Remy Martin is again coming on board as Sponsor, their generosity towards us over the past years has become an essential ingredient to the success of our functions. At the party, Christmas carols will be sung and Santa has already booked an appointment with us. It would be a great function to come to with your friends and associates, your children and relatives.

On a different note, the Organising Committee of Charity Ball 2008 has been working doubly hard. At this stage, with the support of members and the wider community, there's a good prospect of a Sponsorship bonanza. To date, Remy Martin has pledged to be our Principal Sponsor and we've secured another 7 other Sponsors,

posted on the progress.

Please mark Saturday, 1 March 2008 in your diary and help support our Club by subscribing to a ticket or two. With those who have a wider social network, you might consider taking a full table. This is a good way of sharing this very important showcase function with your friends.

Last month, we received 2 letters from LC Järvenpää Ainot, our Twin Club in Finland. They have resolved to further promote our relationship by having a different member writing to us every month. See pages 2-3 for details.



Members of LC Järvenpää Ainot having a great time at their own Fashion Parade

Congratulations to Lion Therese

Bechara. She recently took out the prestigious Ethnic Business Award, Medium to Large business category. Page 4 has the details.

Yours in Lions  
Anthony

namely, Zilver Restaurant, Synergy Medical, Rita & Arthur Kwan, Qantas Airways, Porsche Centre Sydney South, Liteco Constructions and Honey Travel. There's also every possibility for others to come on board as well, including OMEGA, HSBC and others. Surely, I'll keep you



# A Letter from **Lion Helena Rahko** LC Järvenpää/Ainot

Dear Lions friends in LC Sydney Chinese!

Best greetings from your twinning club LC Järvenpää/Ainot.

My name is Helena Rahko and I'm sure that many of you remember me because I visited your meetings several times during my working period in Sydney.

In Finland summertime is so short that we all like to enjoy it as much as possible. Therefore our Clubs are not so active from June to August. My own Club had few activities during the summer but now in September we have been very busy.

We made a decision that one of our members will write to your club once a month. I was given the honour to be the first one.

We have 38 members which is quite much compared to the average size of the Clubs in Finland. Our Club is 12 years old and we are very happy that we still have very many charter members. I think that this shows that our Club is very welcoming and we enjoy staying and serving together.

In the middle of August we made a nice trip by old museum train to a very pretty Finnish town, Porvoo. We ate there delicious snails (escargots) in a famous restaurant and had a Club meeting chaired by the new Club President Terhi Anttila. That was a very nice way to begin a new lionistic year.

We are trying to improve the practices for Club meetings so that they are not too long and not too formal. The Club meeting in September was held outdoors on a lakeside. First we walked together round a little lake, and after that lighted a campfire, we fried sausages and had the meeting by the fire.



**Lion Helena Rahko**

now on we will also be very active because Campaign Sight First II is going on and we want to achieve our goals.

Best greetings to everyone in your excellent Club.

Helena Rahko  
LC Järvenpää/Ainot

In our town we have six lions clubs; four for men and two for women. In addition, we have one Leo Club. Every year all the Clubs in our town have one meeting together. This year it was held in September. Local Clubs do many projects together, and it is important to discuss the distribution of work. From

# A Letter from Lion Pirkko Naukkarinen

Dear Anthony!

Beautiful winter greetings from Finland!

Many thanks for your last letter. I must say that you seem to be very active and surely you have a nice time together in your club. So we try also. I shall tell you later.

It was nice to read that you prepare the same things like we do for example Christmas party.

In Finland all the shops are full of the Christmas things and people start to wait for that big party. Many people have their "little-Christmas" parties at jobs and in the firms.

We have also got the first snow here in the south. White snow is very beautiful and makes so much light on the black ground. You know that our day is very short in November, 6-7 hours.

In the north, in Lapland, where the real Santa Claus is living, the sun doesn't appear at all in the "black-months". But there is usually so much snow that lightens the environment.

So they are living our same people and our Santa Claus. I have heard that if you write to Santa Claus, he will write back to you! You can try! The address is JOULUPUKKI, SAVUKOSKI, FINLAND. He can speak many



**Lion Pirkko Naukkarinen**

languages!

Now I must write about the real things! I always talk and write a lot! Sorry! We "Ainot" have done quite a lot also in October. In the beginning of October we had our normal annual-meeting and in the same evening "every-month" meeting. Then we had a successful fashion show.

Seven "AINOT" girls were showing in the big area the most fashion clothes from the little under clothes to the warm winter coats. Believe it or not I was that one who had those little things, under-clothes. 53-years old and "round" in bikini! It was me, because I

wanted large bath-robe. I got it, but that firm wanted to show their under clothes also.

So I put them all and I put also long black boots on! So show must go on!!!!

I think I was little gracy, so think you too, but people had a fun time, and the best we got money to our Lionwork! People enjoy also coffee and tea and some cakes, which all did by "Ainot". Next year we 'll make the same fashion show! But someone else can be in the bikini!

One of our members is an actor. Marjukka invited in her big house "Ainot" and we had very nice theater-evening. With the other clubs we had also CSF II walking happening in Järvenpää. Some "Ainot" were taking the old people to the church on one Sunday morning.

Now we are selling the tickets for the concert on the 30th of November. There will sing a famous young Finnish woman and young boys are playing with. We hope that it would be our biggest happening in this year! So you hear later about it!

Many, many warm and lovely greetings to everyone in your energetic Club!

Pirkko Naukkarinen  
President 2003-2004  
LC JÄRVENPÄÄ AINOT



Members of LC Järvenpää Ainot Parading at their own Fashion Show

## Lion Therese Bechara

### honoured at the 2007 Ethnic Business Awards

The 2007 Ethnic Business Awards honoured three outstanding migrant business owners for their contribution to the social and economic evolution of Australia. The event, celebrating its 19th year, was held in Sydney at the Hilton Hotel in the presence of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey AC CVO MC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and highlighted the exemplary contributions made by some of Australia's leading and innovative business owners. Our Charter Member Lion Therese Bechara was among the three honoured.

Founder of the Ethnic Business Awards, Mr Joseph Assaf said: "The calibre of finalists at this year's awards have shown unique and extra ordinary qualities that have contributed to their success. Each and every one of our entrants has overcome the obstacles associated with migrating to a new country and way of life, and embraced their new culture and environment. Particularly impressive is the way in which they have embraced technological advancements in each of their respective fields of expertise. I congratulate the winners on their outstanding efforts".

The winner of the Medium to Large Business category was Lebanese born, Therese Bechara of Landria Constructions. Therese Bechara is a property developer specialising in top quality residential premises, high-rise apartments, blocks of villas and townhouses both for the private and public sector. Ms. Bechara has pioneered the luxury housing market using her innate sense of style and business savvy, and brought dignity and comfort to the public housing market.

"I am very grateful to my parents who chose Australia as the new home for our family all those years ago. In 1949 my father arrived in Sydney with nothing more than a suitcase and an Arabic - English dictionary. He taught himself how to speak English and set out using his skills as a stonemason to establish his own business in the building industry. His business acumen must have rubbed off on me along the way. In 1950 my mother and the four children were united with Dad in Australia. It is impossible to think of how things would have turned out had my parents chosen any other country. But what I do know is that Australia provides opportunity to people who are persistent, determined and willing to have a go," said Therese Bechara, Landria Constructions.

The Ethnic Business Award was aired nationally on eight networks including SBS, RAI (Italian Television), Antenna (Greek Television), TVB (Chinese Television), ART and LBC1 servicing Arabic viewers and international to 46 countries on the Australian Network (formally ABC Asia Pacific).

Each year there is a nationwide search for applicants for the Ethnic Business [Awards](#). Criteria for selection include business owners who were born in a country other than Australia and who own and operate [businesses](#) of [excellence](#) in either the small or medium to large business categories. Esteemed judges evaluate each applicant on overall success, innovation, market creativity, hardships endured, future growth and contribution to community and nation. Finalists are awarded five thousand dollars cash, two return business class tickets to any of Emirate's destinations in Europe, Africa or the Middle East, a hand crafted crystal trophy and a one-year subscription to The Bulletin magazine.

Source: *The Middle East Times, Australia*



Lion Therese Bechara (L) with  
H.E. Governor General Michael Jeffery

# DG Carol's Communiqué

## November 2007

Hi everyone,

What a sensational **District Conference** we had at our own Sydney Town Hall! The day started with an impressive flag ceremony with Korean drums on stage.

Our guest speakers Sydney Councillor Chris Harris, Liberal Leader Barry O'Farrell and Benjamin Chow AO welcomed and addressed the Conference. Dr Peter Cooper, Head of the Cystic Fibrosis Service at Westmead Hospital presented an informative and inspirational talk on his work in providing ongoing care for children with Cystic Fibrosis.

We were privileged to be part of the most memorable and moving remembrance ceremony that was presented together by the Venerable Ban Rue Shi and Father Jim Boland

### The Lions Clubs of Sydney & Norfolk Island

Lunch was enjoyable and plentiful with sufficient time spent on socialising together. Due to the number and content of the submitted notices of motion a one day Conference was again sufficient time to action all business requirements while also allowing time to socialise during the day without asking our attending Lions to take extra time, and or committing extra finance, to attend.

Congratulations to our new **VDE Elvio Munzone**, our **VDGE Beryl Payne** and **Barry Palmer** who was endorsed by our District for the position of International Second Vice President.

The closing ceremony was again awash with colour and music thanks to the dancing and music provided by our supporters.

To those who attended I thank you for

your support and sincerely hope you enjoyed your day in the *Forbidden City* and the dinner at Zilver Restaurant which saw people on the dance floor until late into the night. The Conference Committee put many dedicated hours into making this a sensational day with a difference and all deserve our thanks and acknowledgement for what they achieved with the Conference and the Expo which showcased our many Lions projects.

**Peace Poster Contest** - 15<sup>th</sup> November is the postmark deadline to send your clubs one winning poster to me. International winners will be notified on or before 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Please continue to submit your good news submissions to our **Sydney News** Editor. Remember it's your newsletter and it's always interesting and inspiring for us all to read what is happening within our District.

Speaking about our District... **Membership**. It's not a "numbers" game, but we do need the members to continue to effectively contribute to our both our local and wider communities. Our International President has outlined some ideal criteria to look for in our new members, commitment to making a difference, integrity, genuine empathy for others and a willingness to be a team player.

When we invite new members into our club we need to involve them in activities as quickly as possible to help make them feel part of the team. This is no different with all members, we need to ensure we share our knowledge and assist others to learn, we all have weaknesses and strengths and these should be acknowledged and accepted. Part of the positive aspect of being a member of this great organisation is that we all share and encourage each other (*careful with my criticism and*

*liberal with my praise*). Remember the saying "There is no "I" in team".

Are your members having fun? Service, of course, is the highest ideal of Lions Clubs International, but service should be a joyful experience for all involved.

Funds raised to date are **XXX** for **Campaign Sight First II**. For only \$1000.00US you can acknowledge a club member with a **Melvin Jones Fellowship**. To secure your commitment to this project payment can be made from your club or by a tax deductible personal pledge. Pledges are a new concept in Australia and can be made in the following ways: in full, pledges of \$4999.00 and below can be made over 3 years and pledges (*tax deductible*) of \$5000.00US over 5 years. For further information on ways you and your club can assist please contact Chairman **Sam Chu**.

### Lions Environmental Photo Contest

Enter the 2007-08 photo contest by taking a 8 x 10 photo featuring either plants, animals, landscapes, weather phenomenon or the 07/08 theme *Our Changing Environment*. Clubs select their own winning photo and forward to Cabinet Secretary Beryl by 5<sup>th</sup> January with the winning Club photo being sent on to MD. More information can be found at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) click into Other Programs, then Cultural and Environmental.

**Combined Service Clubs Christmas Carols** are being held again on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7pm at Christ Church Auditorium, 1 Cowan Rd St Ives. A light supper is provided afterwards so please let Cab Sec know by 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec if you will be attending as we have to reply with numbers.

**Carol Alderson**  
District Governor

## The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.

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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 200 countries and geographical areas all over the world. In District 201N5, which covers the Sydney area and Norfolk Island, there are some 80 Clubs with around 1,800 members. Amongst these, there are around 7 Chinese-based Clubs. Sydney Chinese Lions is the first of these Chinese-based Clubs chartered in April 1995.

Over the past thirteen years, under the leadership of 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 raised and donated over two hundred thousand dollars to a number of charities including St John Ambulance, 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 had 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.

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
Christmas Party 2007 Sydney Chinese Lions	Zilver Restaurant After 5	Wednesday 12 Dec. 2007 7:00 for 7:30pm	\$45 per person/ \$450 for a table of 10 RSVP by 3 December
Changeover Ceremony International Brilliant People's Association, Australian Chapter 國際傑人會澳洲總會	Zilver Restaurant After 5	Sunday 2 Dec. 2007 6:00pm	\$45 per person
Charity Ball 2008 Sydney Chinese Lions	Parkside Ballroom Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre Formal/National Costume	Saturday 1 March 2008 6:30 pre-dinner drinks; 7:00 function commences	\$168 per person/ \$1680 for a table of 10 RSVP by 16 February

For bookings please contact:  
Secretary Crystal Siu (ph: 9570 8900, mobile: 0400 228 823, email: [ccsiu@hotmail.com](mailto:ccsiu@hotmail.com))