

# N5 Convention 2014 Recap

## The Convention Dinner

For many, the most enjoyable event during Convention 2014 was the Convention Dinner. It was held in the evening on Day Two.



The function started with pre-dinner drinks at the Luxe Room adjacent to the Lyceum Auditorium at the Castle Hill RSL Club. When Lions entered the auditorium at 7:15 pm, they found themselves in a 5-star venue surrounded by a sea of red, white and black as these were the theme colours of the dinner. They also found themselves engulfed in the soft music performed by the Easy Riders Band.

At 7:30 pm, Master of Ceremonies Lion Josh Roney announced the commencement of the formal proceedings. After calling to order, he welcomed the official party in.

No formal proceedings were arranged for the first hour. Guests mingled and chatted with



The Elegant Table Centre Pieces and Menu

each other catching up on old times. Some took to the dance floor. They twirled and swayed to the rhythm of the band's music. A few were taking "selfies" while others took pictures with their old friends and new acquaintances.

After the main meal was served, the key entertainment began. At around 8:20 pm, a drum roll could be heard coming from the rear of the auditorium. This was followed by the signature blasts of bap-pipe music. When the guests turned their heads around, they saw an 11 piece Pipe Band in full uniform marching in. This was the Parramatta RSL Caledonian Pipe Band. Naturally, many made their cameras work overtime to take their own records of this wonderful piece of entertainment.

The performance concluded after 15 minutes and many guests reluctantly watched the band marching out the front door of the auditorium.



The Stage



Lion Josh Roney



Tables inside the Lyceum set for Convention Dinner



The Easy Riders

# N5 Convention 2014 Recap

## *The Convention Dinner (contd.)*



**The Parramatta RSL Caledonian Pipe Band**

Almost immediately afterwards, however, there was another drum roll coupled with the sound of bagpipes coming yet again from the rear door. Some were wondering if the band had made a swift come back and miraculously made its way to the rear door within seconds. When they turned their heads again, they saw yet another pipe band marching in. This was the 15 piece Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band! Clearly, when the guests realised that it was a second band, they were amazed and pleasantly surprised. Again, many cameras were working overtime!

The Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band put on another brilliant performance for a further 15 minutes.



**The Castle Hill RSL Pipe Band**

They captured the hearts and attention of the audience. It was simply a great treat for the Lions!

After the bands marched off, it was time for speeches. I was the first person invited to do so. When I did mine, I gave the Board and Management of the Castle Hill RSL Club due acknowledgement. I thanked them for providing the venue of the 3-day convention to us free of charge, for the professionalism of their staff, for giving us a generous hospitality deal and for letting us have the Youth Wind Orchestra, the Pipe Bands and the Friday Night LIVE Big Band on a complimentary basis. In particular, I thanked Major General (retired) Warren Glenny, President of the RSL, for his assistance and support throughout the past decade, especially in our preparations and



**A Full House at the Convention Dinners**



# N5 Convention 2014 Recap

## The Convention Dinner (contd.)



District Governor Dr Anthony Cheung

lead up to the convention.

Next, General Warren was invited to the lectern. He gave a most heart-warming response. He acknowledged that Lions have been providing a great service to the community and stressed that his Board is most supportive of our cause in Serving the less fortunate.

Mayor Councillor Andrew Jefferies was the final speaker of the evening. He too, was appreciative of the contributions of Lions to the community and showered his praises upon us. Before he left the stage, I invited Lion Grahame Utley to join us. I knew Grahame had known Andrew for decades and had never asked the Mayor to become a Lion. When Grahame was on stage, I prompted him to do so. When asked, the Mayor promptly responded with an enthusiastic YES. There you go, Grahame, you have met International President Joe's challenge of "ASK 1".



Lion Grahame Utley Exercising "Ask 1"

The person who helped us put together the two pipe bands is Dave Wood, a Vice President of the Castle Hill RSL. Dave was an apology that evening as he had to attend his daughter's 40th birthday celebrations. Rick Cumming, the other Vice President of the RSL gave a Vote of Thanks to the bands on behalf of Dave and us.

Towards the end of Rick's speech, he gave the order, "Pipe Major, carry on." A lone piper appeared on the left of the stage playing the very popular tune "The Amazing Grace". At the end of the first verse, the stage curtains opened and the combined pipe band, to the delight of the audience, joined in and continued performing in their full grandeur and majesty.



Warren Glenny

Mayor Andrew Jefferies



The Lone Piper

VP Rick Cumming

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## *The Convention Dinner (contd.)*



The Combined Pipe Band in their Full Grandeur and Majesty

This was the third treat that the guests had that evening, following the earlier separate performances of the two bands. It was simply delightful and amazing.

When the performance of the combined pipe band concluded, a birthday cake cutting segment followed. Guests whose birthdays fell in November were invited to come to the fore to cut a giant 20 pound birthday cake. Unsurprisingly, over 12 individuals came forward. Among them were Mayor Andrew Jefferies, General Warren Glenny, Nicole Brice, wife of Musical Director James Brice and several Lions lead-

ers. It was really pleasing to witness at close range the smiles and happy faces of the birthday cake cutters. We all hear people saying that we need to inject FUN into our Lions functions. The photos taken at this segment demonstrate that FUN was evident and in abundance.

To realise the Lions' Code of Ethics "To be liberal with our praises", I prepared over 80 Certificates of Appreciation. Apart from the various individual contributors, there were three groups of individuals that I had to acknowledge and thank: the Sponsors, key help-



The Birthday Group and Candles Blowing



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## *The Convention Dinner (contd.)*



**Candles Blowing**

ers from Sydney Chinese Lions, the Convention Hosting Club and Members of the Convention 2014 Committee. I had to plan meticulously beforehand what time to give out which certificates so that the convention may proceed smoothly without being overcrowded by excessive certificate presentations.

After the birthday cake cutting, I presented Certificates of Appreciation to our Sponsors and key helpers from Sydney Chinese Lions. I am indebted to all the Sponsors for donating an aggregate amount of over \$20,000 that helped us run a memorable convention with a surplus. I wish to thank Lion Kevin Yau, Convention Chairman in particular for bringing in Winworth Investments who was our Principal Sponsor with a donation of \$10,000.

The generous sponsorships we attained also allowed us to have enough funds to produce a DVD pack comprising two DVDs. One comprises selected video clips of the Convention

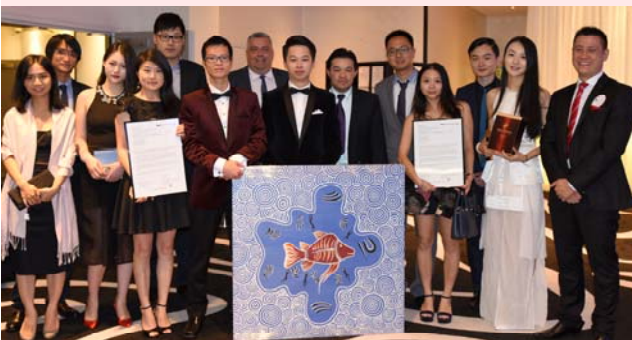


**Guests having a good time on the Dance Floor**

and the other a collection of hundreds of convention photos taken by our four official photographers: Alphonsus Fok of 321 Photography, Lion Bill Wong, Leo Jack Fountain and Allen Tang.

As soon as the certificate presentations were over, we saw the return of the Easy Riders Band. At that point of time, many Lions and guests simply let their hair down and danced the evening away. I did dance a bit that evening as well. Seeing so many Lions there enjoying themselves, I was most pleased indeed!

By Lion Anthony Cheung



**Principal Sponsor Winworth Investments**



**Key Helpers from Sydney Chinese Lions**