

\$100,000 Gift to Celebrate 100 Years of Humanitarian Service

During his recent visit to Sydney, International President Joe Preston and wife Joni were invited to a special Plaque Unveiling Ceremony by the Australian Red Cross (NSW). The plaque recognises the contribution of Lions, particularly Sydney Chinese Lions over the past decade.

On 5 September, IP Joe and Lion Joni, accompanied by Council Chairman Warren Latham and Lion Marilyn, District Governor (N5) Dr Anthony Cheung and Lions Lady Emma, together with Club President Jason Zhang and a group of Directors of Sydney Chinese Lions paid a visit to the Headquarters of the Australian Red Cross (NSW) at St Andrews House, Sydney.

Awaiting there were Ms Jody Broun, Executive Officer of Red Cross and her full team of staff including Margaret Piper, National Board Member, together with Maureen Smith, Ann Rocca and Paul O'Sullivan, NSW Advisory Board Members. John MacLennan, Chairman of the NSW Advisory Board was an apology as he was overseas. They were given a warm welcome. A tea party followed and everyone mingled and had their photos taken in small groups.



Then the big moment arrived. Jody gave the first speech. She welcomed the Li-

ons and gave IP Joe and Lion Joni a special welcome. She thanked the Lions for their continuous effort and support in assisting the Red Cross to enhance their preparedness in emergency relief and life saving operations.



Club President Jason thanked Jody and her team for featuring the function and announced that Sydney Chinese Lions were going to donate a sum of \$30,000, being proceeds of the Club's Charity Ball 2014 when Red Cross was the Major Beneficiary. Clearly, Lion Jason's announcement was warmly received.



DG Anthony, being the lead liaison of the Club throughout the past decade with Red Cross,



was invited to speak. He stated that since

2006, Sydney Chinese Lions have been fundraising for Red Cross on numerous occasions. Including the \$30,000 donation, the total amount donated by the Club to date was just over \$100,000. He pointed out that this aggregate amount was somewhat fitting since 2014 was the year that Australian Red Cross celebrated their 100th year of humanitarian service in Australia.

IP Joe was invited to do the anchor speech. He praised the work of Red Cross, both worldwide and in Australia. He congratulated



the Australian Red Cross on their Centennial Year Anniversary. He expressed gratification that the contribution of Lions is being recognised. He also harked back to the MOU signed between Lions Club International and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in March 2009 in Geneva - an agreement to join forces on a common goal :

strengthen the essential role volunteers play in preparing for disasters and in responding to emergencies at community level. He pointed out the long



\$100,000 Gift to Celebrate 100 Years of Humanitarian Service (contd)

term relationship between the Australian Red Cross and Sydney Chinese is an extension of that spirit of cooperation. IP Joe's speech earned a fervent round of applause.



A brief Cheque Presentation followed as a \$30,000 cheque was presented to the Red Cross. The final event of the Ceremony was a Plaque Unveiling ceremony officiated by IP Joe and Jody Broun.

The plaque carries this citation, "Fundraising Achievement Award Presented to the Lions Club of Sydney



Chinese Inc. in recognition of your continued support and outstanding fundraising contribution to Australian Red Cross over the past decade. 5 September 2014"



ber 2014"

The plaque is now permanently mounted inside the HQ of Australian Red Cross (NSW) paying tribute to the cooperation of humanitarian work of Lions and the Red Cross.

IP Joe's visit to Sydney has been most inspirational. It provided much encouragement and impetus for Lions in this part of the world to re-invigorate and rededicate themselves in their Service work to the less fortunate. We wish them God speed in IP Joe's International Presidency to lead us to further Strengthen the Pride.

By Lion DG Dr Anthony Cheung

