



澳洲雪梨華人獅子會

The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.

District 201N5 of Lions International
P.O. Box K422, Haymarket Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

MEDIA RELEASE

For the fourth year running, **The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.** is offering *The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship*, and invited for applications in February 2006. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and recognise the humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

This year the response to the Scholarship offer was 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 the Red Cross, the Rotary Club, Villawood Detention Centre, overseas work for remote and poor villages in Africa, South America, Fiji, Indonesia, and others. These services were all highly commendable. As such, in addition to the original award of one winner receiving a scholarship of \$1,500, the Club also offered two consolation prizes of \$500 each.

The adjudicating panel comprises Lion Dr Anthony Cheung and Lion Norma Ingram. The selected **Scholarship Award Winner was Ms Phoebe Williams**. The **Consolation Prize Winners were Ms Yael Sakker and Ms Donna Lau**.

Ms Phoebe Williams is from the University of Sydney. In 2005 she established a charity namely Hands of Help, and is currently the President of the charity. The object of Hands of Help is to alleviate poverty, advance education and provide for relief from sickness and disability of disadvantaged people. Her humanitarian services include raising charity funds of over \$100,000.00, and organising 17 volunteers, most of them were university medical students, to perform humanitarian work in Uganda for 2 months, helping to re-build badly deteriorated classrooms of a school, running educational talks for people there on problems associated with malaria and the importance of water sanitation, and providing them with insecticide treated nets and water treatment tablets at very low and subsidised prices. She is planning to organise 73 volunteers from Hands of Help later this year, in different groups, to travel locally to Wilcannia, a remote indigenous community in NSW, and overseas to Uganda and Kenya, to perform humanitarian services there.

Ms Yael Sakker is from the University of Technology Sydney. Her humanitarian experience started at the early age of 15, and includes active involvement in the fundraising program for the Rotaract Club of Crosslands, volunteer work with a charitable organisation known as Youth Challenge International for 10 weeks helping to build a medical dispensary in Enkul, a remote and poor community in Vanuatu, and to run health and hygiene education session there to bring greater understanding and awareness of malaria, HIV/AIDS, family planning, etc. to the local people. Also she is planning establish a fund to finance the re-building of the badly deteriorated classrooms of a primary school in Enkul, and to work on a project of collecting second-hand text books here then delivering these to disadvantaged students in Vanuatu.

Ms Donna Lau is from the University of Sydney. Her humanitarian services include volunteering in Guyana, South America for two months to educate people from remote rural villages there on issues such as HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, domestic violence, and so on; and to provide training for the youth, as well as educational games and sporting activities for the children there. She also undertook volunteer work in an after school mentor program for primary school children, and in the 'Sounds Against Racism' musical charity event. Her long term goal is to work with Medicen Sans Frontiers (Doctor's Without Borders) to provide medical help to communities located in extremely remote regions or affected by natural disasters. She has further plans to do volunteer work with a charity called Hands of Help later this year to participate in humanitarian projects in Africa.

The Scholarship and Consolations Awards were presented to the winners by Lion Dr Anthony Cheung, the Club's President, during the Changeover Ceremony & Dinner on 7 June 2006. Also a special letter of appreciation was sent to all applicants commending them for the good and valuable humanitarian work they had undertaken for the community, and encouraging them to keep up the good effort.

Another offer for the Scholarship will be made in February/March 2007.

Date: 7 June 2006