



澳洲雪梨華人獅子會
The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.

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MEDIA RELEASE

For the seventh year running, The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is offering The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship, and invited for applications in February 2009. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

This year the response to the Scholarship offer was again 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 Australian Red Cross, Mission Australia, St John Ambulance, St Vincent de Paul Society, Cancer Council, Oxfam, overseas work for remote and poor villages in Uganda, South Africa, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, and others. These services are all highly commendable. As such, in addition to the original award of one winner receiving a scholarship of \$2,000, the Club also offered two consolation prizes of \$1,000 each.

The adjudicating panel comprises Lion Dr. Anthony Cheung, Lion Sylvia Chong, Lion Anna Sannibale and Lion Arthur Kwan. The selected **Scholarship Award Winner** is **Ms Annabelle Chauncy**. The **Consolation Prize Winners** are **Mr Dominic Bowen** and **Mr Adam Long**.

Ms Annabelle Chauncy is from the University of Sydney. She has always been involved in humanitarian aid work. Back in 2001-03, she was school leader of Youthbeat - a youth project which addressed drugs, alcohol, and other youth problems. In 2007, she travelled to Kenya and Uganda on a self-funded three month volunteer program, living in a remote village, teaching over 50 children in a mud hut, and renovating a small orphanage there. Recognising education as a means to breaking the poverty cycle, she undertook the voluntary role of Project Manager of Hands of Help's Uganda and facilitated volunteers on a school construction project. Since 2008, together with another co-founder, she created United Future Foundation (UFF), a non-profit organisation. UFF is planning to build a primary school/vocational training centre in Uganda in July 2010, focussing on children and youth with limited access to education. Their goals are expansive and aim at benefitting the whole community, offering sustainable and free education for disadvantaged individuals such as orphans, HIV/Aids victims and school drop-outs. UFF has received sponsorships from a number of professional firms, as well as the Ugandan High Commission in Canberra. These sponsorships will ensure the viability and perpetuation of the project. Annabelle will continue to work on a pro bono basis for UFF to undertake humanitarian services for those in need.

Mr Dominic Bowen is from the University of New South Wales. For many years he has been providing disaster and humanitarian assistance in a variety of complex environments around the world. As a founding member of Australian Aid International (AAI), a non-government humanitarian organisation, he provided invaluable coordination and management expertise in the aftermath of the 2005 Pakistan earthquake, deploying relief to Kashmir to assist with emergency response immediately after the disaster. In mid 2006, he was deployed to Indonesia, taking part in the management of humanitarian programs for the provision of medical aid, health professional training, medical-clinic reconstruction and the re-building of a school over there. He conducted medical training with Burmese refugees and medics along the Thai-Burmese border. He also volunteered as an unpaid trainer in disaster simulation and training exercises in Northern Thailand, an initiative that aimed at improving the skills of humanitarian responders from Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore, Mongolia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Recently, he conducted workshops in Timor-Leste to teach ways on how to be best prepared for emergencies and disasters. In the foreseeable future, he would be ready to jump in and assist should any countries in our region require urgent humanitarian assistance.

Mr Adam Long is from the University of New South Wales. In early 2005, in the wake of the Boxing Day tsunami, he worked on a pro bono basis with a charitable organisation called International Volunteers for Peace for 3 months, managing volunteers travelling to Sri Lanka to aid in the clean up and rehabilitation of affected communities. In the same year, he travelled to the Philippines building houses with Habitat for Humanity International for a month. He also joined Engineers Without Borders Australia and founded the Development Education and Leadership Program – a work experience and short term volunteer program that equips students and young professionals to involve themselves further in the development of long term volunteering. Since then for many years he was involved in leading the management team in the day-to-day running of the Program. To date, 90 people have travelled on this program to the Philippines, Cambodia and India undertaking humanitarian engineering work there. Recently, he spent four months as a social enterprise consultant in the Philippines, helping disadvantaged communities develop their own businesses. Currently, he is assisting a Philippines non-governmental organisation in the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure to improve the Philippines public transport system for environmental and humanitarian purposes.

The Scholarship and Consolation Awards were presented to the winners by the Club's President Lion Dr. Anthony Cheung during the Changeover Ceremony & Dinner on 3 June 2009. 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.

A further offer for the Scholarship will be made in February/March 2010.

Date: 3 June 2009