



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 sixth year running, **The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.** is offering *The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship*, and invited for applications in February 2008. 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 St John Ambulance, Oxfam, St Vincent de Paul Society, World Vision, Cancer Council, Starlight Children's Foundation, overseas work for remote and poor villages in Africa, Vietnam, Thailand, India, 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 Jack Lee and Lion Arthur Kwan. The selected **Scholarship Award Winner** is **Ms Marianna Leishman**. The **Consolation Prize Winners** are **Ms Mimi Zou** and **Mr Jonathan Greenacre**.

Ms Marianna Leishman is from University of Sydney. Whilst studying she has undertaken numerous pro-bono tasks. She has recently returned from self-funded internship with the United Nations Population Fund in Eritrea, Africa on adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes. In 2007 she interned with the Kimberley Land Council in Broome assisting with indigenous claims for Native Titles. She volunteered at Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre working on domestic violence and sexual assault cases. She drafted submissions for the Refugee Advice and Casework Service and published articles on experiences of Muslim women as victims of discrimination. In early 2007 she interned with UNIFEM Australia, the National Committee for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, researching expert discussion papers on 'The Elimination of all forms of Discrimination and Violence against the Girl-Child'. In 2006 she founded and edited as a volunteer the 'Sydney University Law Society Women's Journal' to give voice on indigenous studies, economic, social, cultural and gender issues. She also has voluntarily assisted in projects for the Homeless Persons Legal Service, the Stolen Wages Project, the Sydney Children's Hospital, and Cana Communities Darlinghurst Shelter. Next year she will continue her humanitarian services with UNIFEM Australia, Oxfam Australia and other charities or non-profit organisations both local and overseas.

Ms Mimi Zou is from the University of Sydney. She has always been passionate about empowering young people in her local community, and working together to meet the challenges of their generation. Over the last decade, upholding the belief of ‘Think Globally, Act Locally’, she has volunteered for many community organisations that seek to improve access to and equity in the areas of education, employment, housing, health, law and justice for all young Australians – including Indigenous Australians, refugees, migrants, young mothers, people with disabilities among others. The organisations she has volunteered with include Oxfam, Canterbury Youth Council, Chinese Australia Service Society, National Council of Women Australia, NSW Community Relations Canterbury-Bankstown Harmony Roundtable, International Labour Organisation, and various students societies in university. In recognition for her community services, she has been awarded the NSW Community Relations Commission Young Volunteer of the Year Award, Order of Australia Youth Community Service Award, International Year of the Volunteer Award from the Prime Minister, and so on. In April this year, she was selected as a delegate to the Australia 2020 Youth Summit held in Canberra. Currently, she is coordinating a project to establish a community legal clinic in the University of Sydney, run entirely by student volunteers on campus, with the aims to encourage students to utilise their legal education to assist those who are disadvantaged and marginalised in the community.

Mr Jonathan Greenacre is from the University of Sydney. He is founder and President of a non-profit organisation - Step Safe (www.stepsafe.org.au), a group which raises money for the poor in Cambodia, particularly landmines survivors. His work has included meeting with the then Foreign Minister, Alexander Downer, to help lobbying successfully for \$100 million for the landmines causes; raising over \$50,000 for the organisation’s Cambodian beneficiaries; and representing Australia at conferences in Africa, the United Kingdoms and Middle East. He was nominated Young Australian of the Year for his efforts. He helps monitor human rights around the world, and has volunteered for the International Commission of Jurists (Australia), the United Nations Society of the University of New South Wales and Australian Coalition for Transitional Justice in East Timor. He also serves as a committee member of the Grameen Foundation to help provide financial services to the poor in the Philippines. Next year, he aims for Step Safe to raise another \$100,000 for the poor in Cambodia by building relationships with American donors, and will continue his role with the International Commission of Jurists (Australia), and Grameen Foundation. He will also visit a number of Asian countries including Indonesia, the Philippines, China and so on, to further explore how microfinance (that is, granting small loans and other credit services to low income people helping them to start income-generating business) can reach more of the poor in those areas.

The Scholarship and Consolations Awards were presented to the winners by the Club’s President Lion Dr. Anthony Cheung during the Changeover Ceremony & Dinner on 4 June 2008. 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 2009.

Date: 4 June 2008