

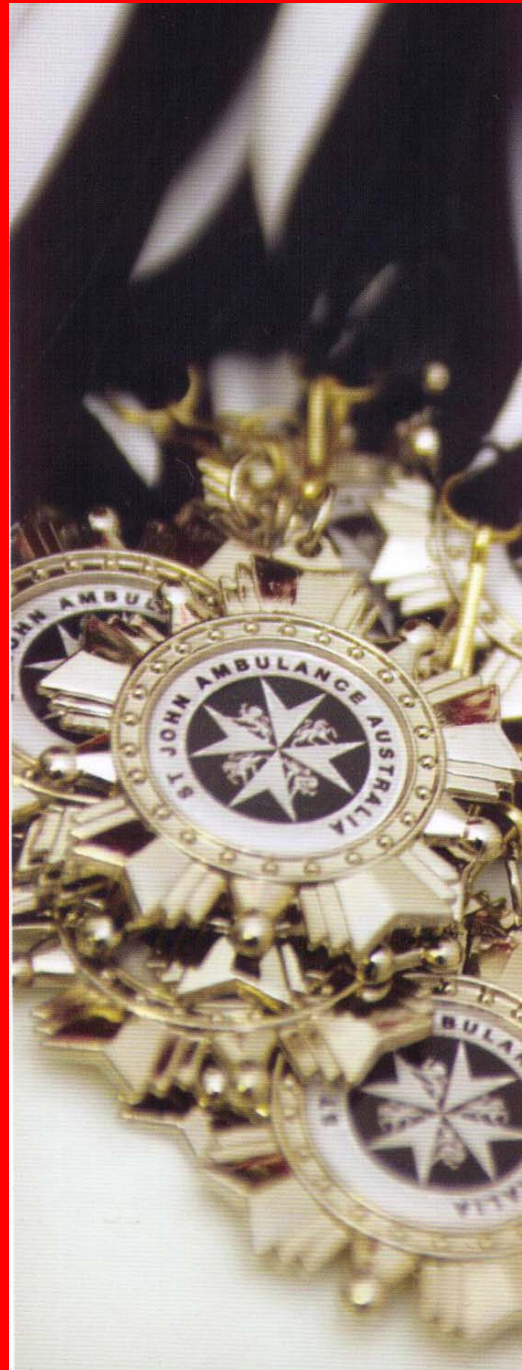
# Grand Opening of St John House

*After thirty years (1977 to 2009) St John Ambulance Australia (NSW) has outgrown its Surry Hills headquarters. In recent years parts of its operations had to be housed in Marrickville, Rydalmere and Smithfield - reports Lion Henry Leung...*

St John Ambulance (NSW) sold its Surry Hills and other premises in 2008 and bought in 2009 the Deane Street, Burwood building to put all its operations under one roof. As St John Ambulance (NSW) sold into the last peak of the Sydney property market and bought at the trough of the Global Financial Crisis they were able to achieve a debt free position after this major assets swap; certainly not a mean feat for a self-funding charitable community services organization.

On Monday, 24 May 2010, the completely refurbished St John House, Burwood was officially opened by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. In attendance was of course The Patron of St John Ambulance Australia, His Excellency Mr Michael Bryce, AM AE. His Excellency Mr Bryce, the husband of the Governor General, was a former President of St John Ambulance (Queensland) and a Knight of Justice in the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

Attending the function were many distinguished guests including the Minister for Fair Trading and Minister for the Arts, Ms Virginia Judge MP and the Mayor of



# At the St John House Grand Opening Ceremony

the Burwood Council, Cr John Sidoti.

Four Sydney Chinese Lions - President Lion May Cheng JP, Hon President Lion Dr Anthony Cheung JP, 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lion Jason Zhang and Director Lion Henry Leung were there to offer our congratulations. They were warmly welcomed by the leaders of the host; to name a few: Chairman, the Hon Peter Collins; Commissioner and Deputy Chairman, Major General (rtd) Warren Glenny; Chief Executive Officer, Sean Gavin; General Manager, Helen Banu-Lawrence and Manager, Laila Hallam.

After the Governor General declared the Building officially opened, guests in small groups were offered a guided tour of the premises. The Sydney Chinese Lions were very impressed that the refurbished building presented a spacious, warm and friendly, bright and colorful environment for the people of St John. Particularly of note was that the Communication Centre on level 3 was fitted with some of the state of the art communication equipment like television sets, computers, telephones, mobile phones, etc and these were ready to be put into operation any time. During major events similar to the Sydney 2000 Olympics or the 2008 World Youth Day Randwick Papal Mass when St John Ambulance will be providing first aid treatment at the venues and sites, this Communication Centre will swing into operation and it acts as a control centre for the deployment of the St John Ambulance personnel and assets.



**Sydney Chinese Lions  
with Her Excellency  
Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor General  
of the Commonwealth  
of Australia**



# At St John House



## Communications Room

Proudly Supported by: The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc.



A plaque on the door of the Communication Centre announced that the Centre is supported by Sydney Chinese Lions. We were absolutely delighted to see such acknowledgement. Nevertheless we felt that our contribution raised from our Charity Ball 2009 was probably only a fraction of the equipment cost of the Centre.

Afterwards, we went to the ground level and found in the garage the ambulance sponsored by Sydney Chinese Lions Charity Ball 2006 in sparkling tip top condition.

In the following week, St John Ambulance is embarking on a marketing campaign for first aid training. The target is to raise the proportion of first aid trained personnel from the current level of one in six households to that of one in every household. This is a very noble target. We, the Sydney Chinese Lions, should offer St John Ambulance every kind of support we can afford.