

# The High Flying Associate Members of Sydney Chinese Lions

On 7 July 2011, inside the Key Arena in Seattle where the Plenary sessions of the Lions Clubs 94<sup>th</sup> International Convention were held, a brief but solemn Induction Ceremony took place. Then International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Wayne Madden and Past International Director Tapani Rahko (Scandinavia) were inducted into Sydney Chinese Lions as Associate Members.

Officiating the ceremony was Club President Mei who was flanked by Past President Anthony, Vice Presidents Jason and Wendy and a group of enthusiastic club members. Other Lions leaders attending the ceremony included Lion Linda Madden, then PID Barry Palmer (Australia) and Lion Anne Palmer, PID Bob Coulthard (Australia), District Governor Helena Rahko (Finland), District Governor John Harrison (Sydney and Norfolk Island) and Lion Tina Harrison, PDG Barbara Toosley (USA) and PDG Richard Silveira (USA) as well as PDG Nigel Jeny (Sydney and Norfolk Island) and Lion Genevieve Jeny.



International VP Wayne Madden & Lion Linda Madden at Induction Ceremony

Sydney Chinese Lions are greatly honored to have inducted Lions Wayne and Tapani as their fourth and fifth Associate Members. To date, Sydney Chinese Lions comprises 131 Active Members and 5 Associate Members. With a total of 136 members, the club enjoys top ranking in Australia in membership terms.

Sydney Chinese Lions' first Associate Member is Lion Barry Palmer. Lion Barry was inducted in August 2009. Their second Associate Member is Lion Sid Scruggs III. Lion Sid was inducted in October 2009. Their third Associate Member is Lion Wing-Kun Tam. Lion Tam was inducted in June 2010, just prior to the commencement of the Lions Clubs 93<sup>rd</sup> International Convention in Sydney. Their first three Associate Members were all inducted in Sydney.



PID Tapani Rahko & DG Helena Rahko with President Mei at Induction Ceremony

On 8 July 2011, as the International Presidency was passed on to Lion Wing-Kun Tam by Lion Sid Scruggs III, 3 pieces of Lions history were made. First, for the first time in the 95 years' history of Lions, a Chinese born International President in Wing-Kun Tam was installed. Second, the first ever Australian Lion in Barry Palmer was installed as International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Third, Sydney Chinese Lions became the first ever club worldwide to have the unique honor and privilege of having the International President, the Immediate Past International President, the International 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and the International 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President all enrolled in its membership as Associate Members.

Club President Mei couldn't hold back her joy as she gleamed, "It is such a great honor for Sydney Chinese Lions that we have the top International Lions leaders amongst us as our Associate Members. They certainly are a great inspiration to us all. We are grateful to our Past President Anthony for his initiative in inviting these Lions leaders to join us and securing their membership. As we conduct our service projects in the future, we'll always be reminded that we are closely associated with our international leaders and look up to them as our guiding lights. As International President Tam teaches us, we BELIEVE as we continually endeavor to make a difference in helping to make the world a better place."