

Sydney Chinese Lions

Humanitarian Scholarship 2007

This is the 5th consecutive year that the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is offering their Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship. The purpose is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

Throughout the past years, this scholarship has received excellent recognition and acknowledgement from the public.

In February, they invited for applications and the response was excellent. A total of 23 applications were received. The quality of applications, compared to previous years, is the highest ever. The reported humanitarian services performed by the applicants included volunteer work for such local charities as St Vincent de Paul Society, World Vision, Macquarie Hospital at North Ryde, Villawood Detention Centre, St Canice's Kitchen in Kings Cross, overseas work for remote and poor villages in Africa, South America, Fiji, 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 \$1,500, the Club also offered two consolation prizes of \$1,000 each.

The adjudicating panel comprised President Anthony Cheung, Vice President Sylvia Chong, Member-

ship Chairman Wandy Kerr, and Lion Arthur Kwan. They selected 3 finalists, and each finalist made a brief presentation at the Club's dinner meeting on 2 May.

The finalists were Marianna Leishman, Mark Longhurst and Angela Titmuss. The following is a brief description of their humanitarian work.

Marianna Leishman is from the University of Sydney. Whilst studying, she undertook numerous



pro-bono tasks. She volunteered with 'Mahboba's Promise', a charity that provides food, shelter and education to widows and orphans in Afghanistan. She also served 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 'NSW Young Lawyers for Human Rights'. She published articles on experiences of Muslim women as victims of discrimination and harassment. She has also vol-

untarily 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 is travelling to remote rural Australia for the Aurora Native Title Internship.

Mark Longhurst is from the University of Sydney. In 2004, while he was still in high-school, he single-handedly ran the World Vision Forty-Hour Famine at Newington College, raising over \$6,000. He worked in South Africa for six months, caring for 93 Zulu children who were affected by HIV/AIDS and domestic violence. He volunteered as Assistant Manager of the 'Koori Kitchen Project', assisting Aboriginal teenagers in Redfern to learn about meal preparation and healthy eating habits. He spent some three months in Manila, volunteering as Regional Office Manager of an organisation named 'VOICE', providing legal





Angela Titmuss Presenting her Case at the May Meeting

services to stateless Vietnamese refugees. In the next 10 months, he will be travelling to Washington DC to continue volunteer work in refugee-resettlement and counter-trafficking of Vietnamese nationals. He will also be actively involved in a university society's humanitarian project in Uganda.

Angela Titmuss is from the University of New South Wales. She has been extensively involved in humanitarian activities over the past 10 years. In 2002, she was President of Rural Allied Health and Medical Society, a university society with the objective of increasing the health workforce for remote rural Australia. Since 2003 she has been involved with the National Rural Health Network, undertaking rural school visits, health programs promotion, running workshops for Indigenous school students and others. In 2005, she worked as a volunteer in Walungurru, a remote Australian town, coordinating youth activities that aimed at diversion against petrol sniffing, as well as

training local youth there, and promoting health programs. Earlier this year she received the Janie Dade Smith Award for Outstanding Contribution to Rural, Remote and Indigenous Health. She

also undertook Night Patrol and youth program development for the 'St Vincent de Paul Society'. In the next 12 months, she will continue to perform humanitarian work with the National Rural Health Network and St Vincent de Paul Society.

The finalists were invited to the Club's Changeover 2007 Dinner

Meeting on 6 June during which the results were announced. The Scholarship Award Winner was Ms Angela Titmuss while the Consolation Prize Winners were Ms Marianna Leishman and Mr Mark Longhurst.

The Scholarship and Consolations Awards were presented to the winners by President Dr Anthony Cheung, together with members of the Scholarship Adjudicating Panel, during the Changeover Dinner. 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 great effort, for the good of the humankind.

Another offer for the Scholarship will be made in February/March 2008.



Winners of Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship 2007 with the Scholarship Adjudicating Panel at the Cheque Presentation Ceremony at the Club's Changeover 2007