

International Club Twinning

LC Sydney Chinese, Australia

with

LC Järvenpää/Ainot, Finland

Recently, Sydney Chinese Lions (the Club) received an International Club Twinning patch and a Letter of Congratulations from LCI Headquarters dated 20 June 2007. This signifies that the Twinning process between LC Sydney Chinese (Australia) and LC Järvenpää/Ainot (Finland) had been completed and formalised.

Below is an account of the sequence of events which led to the completion and formalization of Club Twinning between the two



IDE Tapani Rahko and Helena at Members Meeting of Sydney Chinese Lions in February 2007

Clubs.

On 21 November 2006, the Club received an email from a Lion Helena Rahko. Helena stated that she is a member of LC Järvenpää/Ainot, Finland and that she had just arrived in Sydney working for the NSW Ombudsman's Office for a few months. She indicated that she would be very much interested in visiting the Club. As

their Christmas Party was just round the corner, the Club invited her to go along as their guest. And went she did but when she turned up at the party alongside 200 other attendees, she was pleasantly surprised and thrilled at what she saw. That evening, she had a great time with the members and guests. She subsequently attended the Club's January Members meeting and exchanged club bannerettes and other niceties with them.

Helena also attended the Club's February Members meeting. But this time she was accompanied by her husband Lion Tapani Rahko. Only when Helena introduced Tapani to the Club, then the members realized that they had an International Lions leader among them. Tapani is an International Director Elect and a Past Council Chairperson of the Finnish Multiple District. They also exchanged bannerettes and badges with Tapani at the meeting.

Chinese New Year this year fell in



Helena Rahko at Christmas Party of Sydney Chinese Lions



Helena Rahko at Members Meeting of Sydney Chinese Lions in January 2007



**IDE Tapani Rahko, Helena and Minna Rahko
at Chinese New Year Parade with Sydney Chinese Lions**

early February. On 11 February, the Sydney City Council organized its annual CNY City Parade. It was a colourful event attracting tens of thousands of spectators. The Rahkos, together with their daughter Minna, were invited to march alongside the Club's members. When the time came, they were on location, soaking in the atmosphere and enjoying themselves. When it was the Club's turn to move, the Club Banner led the way, then there were two ceremonial lions dancing in the midst of the rhythmic beats of the drum and cymbals, followed by the Club's members marching alongside their Finnish friends.

A week later, at the request of Minna, who had to conduct a research project on Leos in Sydney, President Anthony organised a dinner meeting with the Rahkos and President Michelle of Oatley Leos during which they discussed a number of interesting Lions issues. Amongst these, they discussed the possibility of International Club Twinning between LC Sydney Chinese and LC Järvenpää/Ainot.

All of them thought it would be a great idea if the two clubs should decide to go ahead with the project to set up a valuable international tie. Helena promised to

raise the matter with her club as soon as she returned to Finland.

So soon after Helena's return to Finland, an email from LC Järvenpää/Ainot reached the Club expressing their willingness to go ahead with the Twinning process. At a meeting of the Club's Board in May, a resolution was passed to go ahead with the project. Following several rounds of correspondence between the two clubs and LCI HQ, the process is now completed and formalised.

The two clubs can now look forward to fruitful social and cultural exchanges ahead.



**The Rahkos, President Anthony and VP Mei
with Oatley Leos**



**Members of LC Järvenpää/Ainot
Web address: <http://www.lions.fi/district107-CI/paaAinot/>**