



26-27 November 2011



Sydney Chinese Lions and Guests at Norfolk Convention

Sydney Chinese Lions at Lions District 201 N5 Convention on Norfolk Island

written by Lion Henry Leung

From 26 to 27 November 2011 the Lions Clubs of District 201 N5 held their Annual Convention on Norfolk Island. The Convention comprised an Annual General Meeting for the delegates from all the clubs in the District. Each club is entitled to one delegate for every ten members on its roll.

In 1774, Captain Cook aboard *HMS Resolution* discovered the 5 km by 8 km island about 2 hours' flight to the north east of Sydney and named it as Norfolk Island in honour of his patron the Duchess of Norfolk. On 14 September 1844 the administration of the Island was passed from New South Wales to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). In 1856, Queen Victoria granted the island to the descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers on Pitcairn Island and the Island was declared an independent Colony on 31 October 1856. By 1897 the administration of the island was returned to New South Wales. On 1 July 1920, the Commonwealth of Australia accepted Norfolk Island as its first external territory.

In 1974 when Queen Elizabeth made a one-day visit to Norfolk Island, the Lions District 201G held a Convention on the island. Since the establishment of District 201 N5 in 1977 which includes Sydney and the Norfolk Island



Lions clubs, four Conventions had been held there, namely, in 1979, 1986, 1991 and 2001. Convention 2011 is the sixth Lions Convention on the island.

This year over 60 delegates registered at the Convention. Together with observers from other Districts like V2 in Victoria and New Zealand, plus guests, family and friends - over 175 people attended the Convention.

There were three Keynote Speakers. Multiple District Leo Chairman, Lion Martin Peebles talked about the development of Leos in Australia. Mr Bruce Baskerville, Site Manager of Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area of Norfolk gave a presentation on Norfolk's local history. Ms Sorrel Wilby, adventurer, author, television producer, reporter, photographer and artist shared with the Conventioneers some of her exciting and interesting experience over her 17,000 km solo ride throughout Asia and her 3,000 km solo trek across Tibet.

The AGM of the District was not convened as there were insufficient clubs present to make a quorum. The 2010-2011 financial report of the District was presented but was not adopted due to an error relating to a double entry in the audit fee. A further General Meeting of the District has to be convened on a date to be advised to approve the revised audited financial report.



Sydney Chinese Lions and Guests at a Lookout on Norfolk Island

At the Convention, the General Meeting of Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation was duly convened. A new member was inducted into the Norfolk Island Lions Clubs.

The Business Session of the Convention otherwise passed various motions regarding (a) preschool Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Education and Therapy project; (b) amendment of Constitution of Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation Limited; (c) the publication of the District Bulletin on District Website only.

Then it came the highlight of the Convention - the nomination and election of District Governor, 1st Vice DG and 2nd Vice DG for 2012-13. Lion Greg Dunn, the only candidate for DG and Lion Warren Latham, the only candidate for 1st Vice DG easily won

the hearts of the Convention and the vote of confidence with their passionate speeches. Both Lion Peter Worden of Winston Hills Lions Club and Lion Dr Anthony Cheung of Sydney Chinese Lions Club gave excellent and impressive campaign speeches for the position of 2nd Vice District Governor. The voting was conducted in earnest after the speeches. But the Convention was held in suspense until the following day. Then it was announced that the 2nd Vice DG position went to Lion Dr. Anthony Cheung who then became the first elected officer of Chinese descent for this key leadership position in the District. This was indeed a great historic moment for Australian Chinese Lions in N5.

The Norfolk Island Lions Clubs staged a solemn Flag Ceremony to mark the beginning of the Convention and a very touching Remembrance Service towards the closing. On Tuesday, 29 November 2011, the Norfolk Island Lions Clubs went on to arrange with the island's Forestry Department to plant 24 tree seedlings at the Cockpit Waterfall; a tree each to remember the 23 Lions and a Leo who have sadly passed away during the year.

The host clubs provided everyone at the Convention a fantastic hospitality programme. We all enjoyed immensely the Garden Party at the Government House and the Social Night at the RSL Club. All in all, the Convention was so wonderful that we are already looking forward to attending the coming District Convention in Lithgow in November 2012.



Sydney Chinese Lions and Guests at Convention Dinner on Norfolk