

SYDNEY CHINESE LIONS AT LIONS DISTRICT 201 N5 CONVENTION IN LITHGOW



From Friday, 16 to Sunday, 18 November 2012, District 201 N5 of Lions Club International held their Annual Convention in Lithgow. The Convention was an official gathering of Delegates of Lions Clubs in the District. Each Club is entitled to one Delegate for every ten members on its roll. The Convention was chaired by Lion District Governor Greg Dunn and hosted by the Lions Club of Crestwood at the recently refurbished Civic Ballroom at the Tony Luchetti Showground in Lithgow.

The Opening Ceremony was on Friday evening and the Convention concluded after lunch on Sunday. During that time, Lions debated many matters of importance, including projects to be supported and amendments to sections of the Constitution. The theme for the Formal Dinner on Saturday night was "Red and Black". Over 200 Conventioneers attended the Convention with many accommodation providers reporting solid bookings for the weekend.

Special Guests at the Convention were Lion Wayne Madden, International President of Lions Clubs International and his wife Lion Linda from Auburn, Indiana, USA. This was their first ever trip to the west of the mountains in Sydney.

There were two key note speakers. The first was Mr Richard Appleby, Chief Executive Officer of Can Assist. He spoke about the importance of supporting the funding for cancer patients from rural Australia in order for them to receive suitable treatment in metropolitan areas. The second was Mr Graeme Hosken from the Dubbo School of Distance Education who spoke about the education services they offer.

The Business Sessions of the Convention otherwise passed various motions regarding (a) Can Assist Building Appeal;

(b) Amendment to sections of the District Constitution and (c) Lions reading action program.

Then it came what was to me the highlight of the Convention - the nomination and election of District Governor, 1st Vice District Governor and 2nd Vice District Governor for 2013-14. Lion Warren Latham, the only candidate for DG and our own Lion Dr Anthony Cheung, the only candidate for 1st Vice DG easily won the hearts of the Convention and the vote of confidence with their passionate speeches. There were two nominations for 2nd Vice DG; including Lion Dennis Halpin and Lion Joanne Sim who both gave inspiring speeches. There were 2 nominations for the 3 available positions of the 3-Year Directorships of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation Board, including Lion Michael Butler and our own Lion May Wong and they were elected automatically. The third position was opened to the floor, for which there were two contenders - Lion Cate Turner from Sydney Host and Lion Cheryl Buffett from Norfolk Island. The voting was conducted in earnest after the speeches. Similar to previous N5 Conventions, the results were held in suspense until the following morning. Then it was announced that the 2nd Vice DG went to Lion Joanne Sim and the third Director's position of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation Board went to Lion Cheryl Buffett.

This convention saw Sydney Chinese Lions deeply involved in the three

following areas:

- (1) Lion Dr Anthony Cheung's successful election as First Vice District Governor of N5 (2013-14)
- (2) Lion May Wong's successful election as a 3-Year Director of the Lions Nurses Scholarship Foundation Board (2013-2015)
- (3) Our Club's successful bid to host the N5 Convention in November 2014 at the Castle Hill RSL Club.

At the Bidding, Convention Bid Chair Lion Dr Danforn Lim and Deputy Bid Chair Lion Emily Hung gave a humorous and informative presentation and proclaimed what our Club could bring to the Lions District. The session ended with the enthusiastic exclamation by Sydney Chinese Lions members "Danforn, we are all behind you!" which drew a round of roaring applause from the crowd. This presentation helped raise the profile of Sydney Lions Chinese among the Conventioneers. We look forward to hosting the Convention in 2014. We are fully committed and determined to work really hard towards making the Convention a huge success.

Next year's N5 Convention will be held in Bathurst on 15-17 November 2013. It will be hosted by the Lions Club of Epping-Eastwood. It will surely be an exciting event and Sydney Chinese Lions are welcomed to join the Convention so that we can get a taste of the proceedings before we host our own in 2014.

Reported by Lion May Wong



Sydney Chinese Lions with International President Madden at N5 Lithgow Convention