

Anthony's Tidbits July 2014

My Fellow N5 Lions, Lioness' and Leos

First of all, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for giving me the honour and privilege to Serve as your District Governor for the 2014-15 Lions Year.

My journey started in my campaigning for VDG2 in 2011 and this continued through the N5 Conventions at Norfolk, Lithgow and Bathurst, accentuated at the LCI International Convention held recently in Toronto when I was inducted as District Governor.

As DG this year, my only goal is to help create a favourable environment in our District to facilitate the advancement of Lionism so that we can better Serve our community.

Over the next 12 months, to Serve our Clubs and our membership, I envisage that there will be a huge demand on my time, effort and resources. In the spirit of *Serving in Dedication* (my Theme) I have committed to attending to this task without reservations.

Anthony's Tidbits in *Sydney News* is the most important channels that I have to communicate with you on a regular basis. I do not intend to provide you with detailed and comprehensive accounts on what I may have done and where I may have visited over the course of the two months in each reporting period. But rather, I'll be writing about a selection of points of interests of these in a somewhat light hearted manner to make interesting reading.

Let me begin with the Seafest organised by Cronulla Lions. In June, I accepted their invitation to attend the function. Cronulla



Lions is one of the very, very few remaining all male Clubs in N5. No sooner had I sat down, I found that all the 300+ attendees were all male. Before I had time to wonder why, there came around eight young ladies criss crossing the room doing party chores like selling raffles, serving drinks, sitting on guests' laps and chatting with them, etc. It was quite a cold day but the ladies braved the low temperatures by wearing the barest minimum. For me it was an eye opener indeed. That day, Cronulla Lions celebrated their 30th Anniversary of running the Seafest. Later, I learnt that they netted \$30,000 on the day. The amount will be used for purchasing much needed equipment for the Children's Hospital. To have lots a fun and do lots a good, this is what we Lions do best - Go, Cronulla Lions, Go!

Before the Toronto Convention, DGE from the world over had to get together to received a 3-day training prior to being sworn into office. As there were some 780 DGEs in total, we were divided into 28 groups. I was in Group 25, together with 20 Americans, 2 fellow Australians and several Indians and Pakistanese. It was a great networking experience. The intriguing thing is that I later found out that the Americans had all received intensive training prior to Toronto - over the course of

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the past two years, they had got together for 8 separate weekends to learn their trade. So invariably when our group got together at Toronto, they would have viewed all the newcomers including all those of us from downunder with curiosity and interest. Nevertheless, we gelled pretty well and worked closely with each other throughout the training. We all fared rather well and made a lot of friends. We were invited to a good number of receptions during the Convention. We attended the Pennsylvanian, Georgian, German and Belgian Receptions, to name a few. A DG Jim Ott from Pennsylvania likes our green Aussie Lions tie so much that he had left me with a \$50 note asking me to buy and send him one!

Of course, the most precious moment to me was on the final day of the Convention, when newly inducted International President Joe Preston asked our partners to take off the "Elect" ribbon attached to our DGE dinner badge. At the moment when the ribbon was taken off, we were DGEs no more. *This was it!* We were the DGs and our Cabinet Officers for 2014-15 were deemed to have taken office from that point of time onwards.

By the time this issue of *Sydney News* is published, the District ChangeOver will have come and gone. There are three other District events that I wish to draw your attention to and hope that as many of us as possible will be able to attend.

(1) Lions Skills Sharing Exp + Farewell Dinner to International President Joe Preston on Saturday, 6 Septem-

ber at the Castle Hill RSL Club - RSVP Cabinet Secretary Jennifer.

(2) Lions Information Nights held at 6 different areas/locations in Sydney on the same evening - probably Thursday, 9 October (to be confirmed).

(3) District Convention 2014 on 14-16 November at Castle Hill RSL Club, registrations at Convention2014@lionsclubssydney.org.au

Please check the District's new look website for further details of the above events, courtesy of new Webmaster Lion Alex Maitland.

Postscript: Why *Anthony's Tidbits*? In yester years, I put together and presented an English learning program at a local Cantonese radio station entitled *English Tidbits*. Since then, the word Tidbits has a fond spot in my heart. So Lions, it's *Anthony's Tidbits* for now and the next ten months.

By Lion Anthony Cheung



Serving in Dedication