

# Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship 2011

## Scholarship Offered for the 9th Year Running Superb Quality Applications Received

For the ninth year running, The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is offering The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship, and applications were invited in February 2011. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

This year, the humanitarian work performed by the applicants is of superb quality and greatly impressive. The reported humanitarian services performed by the applicants included volunteer work for such local charities as World Vision, the Cancer Council and MS Foundation. St John, Open Skies Foundation, 180 Degrees Consulting, White Ribbon Australia Project Futures, St Canice's Homeless Shelter, James Milson Nursing Home, Redfern Legal Centre, Ignatian Children's Holiday Camp and the Bear Cottage as well as overseas work in Cambodia, Solomon Islands, Uganda, Peru and Hong Kong. These services are all highly commendable. As such, in addition to the original award of one winner receiving a scholarship of \$2,000, the Club also offered two consolation prizes of \$250 each. On 1 June 2011, at the Club's Awards Presentation Dinner, the results were announced. The winner of the Humanitarian Scholarship 2011 was May Wong, a medical student from UNSW.

The adjudicating panel comprises Lion Dr Danforn Lim, Lion Eleanor Khaw, Lion Carolyn Gan, Lion Henry Leung and Lion Dr Anthony Cheung while Lion William Wong served as Coordinator of the project.



The 3 Humanitarian Scholarship Finalists at the May Members Meeting

# The 3 Finalists

**Daniel Baker** is passionate about humanitarian work and considers it a huge part of his life. In 2009 he went to Peru, South America to build classrooms and teach English in an underprivileged school. In 2010 he co-founded the Open Skies Foundation, a charity dedicated to the provision of microfinance services in Third World Countries. He has also recently become involved with 180 Degrees Consulting, and over the last year has consulted White Ribbon Australia to help curb violence



against women, and Project Futures to help prevent sex-trafficking in Australia and Cambodia. In 2011, Daniel also became a volunteer with the Australian League of Immigration Volunteers (ALIV), and since then has been a camp counselor at a holiday camp for young refugees in community detention, and has participated in their 'Kids Excursion Program'. Over the years, he has also participated in Movember and the 40 Hour Famine, and has raised money for the School of St Jude.

**Andrew Thomas** is from the University of Sydney. He has been involved in social justice from a young age. While still in High School, Andrew first volunteered at St Canice's Homeless Shelter and James Milson Nursing Home in North Sydney. Inspired by these experiences, he also volunteered on the Ignatian Children's Holiday Camp and coordinated the fundraising of over \$6000 for Bear Cottage, a children's hospice. In the past two years, Andrew has made two trips to Luigazi, Uganda. In 2009, he raised \$40,000 with a colleague and oversaw the construction of a classroom block, before returning the following year after securing sponsorship for many of the children at the school. Andrew also currently volunteers at Redfern Legal Centre and as an Ambassador for Opportunity International, a microfinance organization. He is currently writing his thesis on micro-finance and hopes to conduct volunteer fieldwork with microfinance organizations overseas at the end of the year.



**May Wong** is from the University of New South Wales. She has been involved with humanitarian work since high school, assisting in charity fundraisers for World Vision, the Cancer Council and MS Foundation. She was also a St John's representative for her local division which involved public awareness events aimed at school-age children. In 2006-2007 she founded the ESLM classes organised by CSSS- a project which involved English classes for children who come from migrant backgrounds. From 2007 onwards, she shifted her focus towards medical efforts in concordance with the completion of her degree in Medicine. In 2009, she travelled overseas and hosted a Toys Fair Day for children with Multiple Sclerosis and raised HK\$15,000 and was an expo ambassador for the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department. As a medical student, she believes that a fundamental part of her efforts is through health promotion to the general public. She is actively involved in medical research, and published an article in oncology in an international journal this year. She hopes that such involvement will benefit the larger community more effectively. In the next 12 months, she plans to undertake an 8 week placement in Cambodia and the Solomon islands, in particular with the MOEI (Migrant Outreach Education Initiative) at Battambang.



# Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship 2011

## Scholarship Offered for the 9th Year Running Winner Selected

For the ninth year running, The Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. is offering The Sydney Chinese Lions Humanitarian Scholarship, and applications were invited in February 2011. The purpose of the Scholarship is to encourage and recognise humanitarian services undertaken by university students.

At the Members Meeting on 1 June, results of the Humanitarian Scholarship 2011 were announced. The winner was Ms May Wong, a final year medical student from University New South Wales. May received a cheque for \$2,000. The 2 Runners-up, Mr Daniel Baker and Mr Andrew Thomas, both from the University of Sydney, each received a consolation prize of \$250.

The adjudicating panel comprised Lion Dr Danforn Lim, Lion Eleanor Khaw, Lion Carolyn Gan, Lion Henry Leung and Lion Dr Anthony Cheung while Lion William Wong served as Coordinator of the project.



A Thank You Note from Ms May Wong  
Winner of the Sydney Chinese Lions  
Humanitarian Scholarship 2011



Ms May Wong

When I started my humanitarian efforts, I did not expect to be recognized or acknowledged for such efforts. However, I would like to thank the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc for their enthusiasm and support. This scholarship has encouraged me to embark on larger projects and also to widen my appeal to more people. With this in mind, I hope to place the funds awarded on medical research in Australia. Lions Clubs have strong philanthropic values and beliefs and as such have garnered high regards from the Australian community and beyond. -

*May Wong*