

# N5 Convention 2014 Recap

## Day One

Day ONE of N5 District Convention 2014 fell on Friday, 14 November. As early as 8:30 am, I was at the Castle Hill RSL Club, preparing to dress up the stage in the Lyceum Auditorium for the Opening Ceremony of the convention.



Members of the Castle Hill Lions led by Lion Enio Dona together with Lions Elizabeth Lessells and Helen Rose from Crestwood Lions, soon joined me. They were there to help.

Within the next three hours, we performed the following tasks:

Hoisting four drapes displaying the Lions Emblem in the main lobby of the club.

Delivering and putting in place 300 convention bags and inserting items in them that we received at the last minute.

Posting convention signage at strategic points.

Placing stand up banners in strategic positions.



The 4 Lions Banners Hoisted at the RSL Foyer



The Lyceum Stage ready for the Opening Ceremony

Installing a big Lions Emblem in the centre of the Lyceum stage.

Installing the Convention 2014 Stage Banner (the banner is by compliment of Lion Grahame Utley).

Installing a "sea of flags" on stage to symbolise the 209 countries and geographical regions where Lions clubs meet.

Organising a dozen or so flags to be paraded at the Flag Ceremony during the Opening of the convention.

Laying out Certificates of Appreciation and other gifts required at the Opening Ceremony.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of all, by 12 noon, all the above tasks were accomplished.

I then left for the Northwest Novotel, the Convention HQ hotel. I was hoping to be there early enough to welcome the arrival of my fellow District Governors, Lions Ian Warren (N4) and Kevin Tait (V1-4).

As soon as I got to the parking lot of the hotel, I saw DG Kevin wheeling his luggage up a ramp with wife Coralie. Thank goodness, Emma and I were just there in time to greet them. Shortly after that, DG Ian and wife Marilyn arrived.

After a quiet lunch, we took a short break be-

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## Day One (contd)



Some Guests at the Civic Reception

fore meeting again for the Civic Reception held in Lions' honour by the Hills Shire Council. This was hosted by Mayor Councillor Andrew Jefferies.

That day was exceptionally hot. Although the Council Chambers were just next to the hotel, by the time we had walked there, I was already sweating a fair bit!

Mayor Andrew was a great host. In conjunction with several of his fellow Councillors, they hosted a warm reception for us. All the invited guests had a wonderful time enjoying the company, the friendly atmosphere as well as the food and drinks.

Thanks must go to Convention Chair Lion Kevin Yau assisted by Lions Bob and Helen Rose, who first made the arrangements with the then Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne, for the reception to be held.

After the reception, it was time to go back to the RSL for the Opening Ceremony. When we arrived, the Luxe Room, which is the foyer area outside the Lyceum Auditorium was already packed with Lions and guests. Convention registrations had already



Bannerette Presentation by DG Anthony

started in earnest. Led by Cabinet Secretary Jennifer Touzel, six Lions from Epping Eastwood and others assisted in a very efficient operation. Many conventioners were happy to find the loaded contents in their convention bags and expressed their appreciation. I wish to take this opportunity to thank the individuals and organisations below who so generously gave us the goodies.

Heng Fai Trading Pty Ltd:  
Convention bags  
Fried garlic  
Crispy powder

Crestwood Lions:  
Bless it notes  
Birthday cards  
Pens

Goodwyn Legal:  
Desk calendars  
Fridge magnets

Printworks Australian:  
Note pads

The Convention Hosting Committee:  
Convention program booklets  
DG Anthony's lapel pins  
Lions Mints & Christmas Mini Cakes  
Oranges  
Bottles of water



The 8 Green Jackets at the Civic Reception

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## Day One (contd)



Two of the 300 Convention Bags

I also wish to thank Lion Cheryl Landon-Jones for organising ten volunteers from Castle Hill Lions to put the above items into 300 "Convention Bags" prior to the convention.

At 7:10 pm, the doors of the Lyceum opened. As Lions entered the auditorium, they found a 68 piece orchestra welcoming them with light music. This was the Castle Hill Youth Wind Orchestra led by Mr James Brice, their Musical Director.

The formal proceedings promptly commenced at 7:30 pm with Convention Chair Kevin doubling up as Sergeant at Arms. He set the protocol, presented the Welcome to Country and invited the Official Party to enter.

Next, Lion's Lady Judith Dunn OAM gave an interesting and enlightening presentation on the history of Castle Hill. It was so substantive and informative that many conventioners learnt a great deal about Castle Hill within those 8 minutes of the presentation.



Lions Preparing for the Flag Ceremony

Then it was the Flag Ceremony organised by Castle Hill Lions. Lion Enio Dona took up the role of narrator. He conducted a very professional presentation. In sync, a number of selected flags were paraded. The ceremony commenced with the Lions, Lioness and Leo flags followed by the flag of the United Nations, then flags of our neighbouring countries, those of the ethnic Australian based clubs in our District and the flag of the United States of America.

As I am a proud Australian of Chinese heritage, it was fitting that the two flags to be paraded last were the Chinese and Australian flags. Just before the Chinese flag was to be paraded, the stage lights turned into red and Lion Enio invited all the conventioners to stand. Next, into the auditorium came Lion Henry Leung, Charter Member of Sydney Chi-



The Lions, Lioness and Leo Flags ready for the Parade



The 68-piece Castle Hill RSL Youth Wind Orchestra

# N5 Convention 2014 Recap

## Day One (contd)



The Singing of the Australian National Anthem

nese Lions bearing the Chinese flag flanked by Lions Jason, Leo and Richie. Following the flag salute on stage, the orchestra played the Chinese National Anthem with the three Sydney Chinese Lions members carrying out the lead singing.

Then the stage lights changed from red to blue and in came the Australian flag. Council Chairman Warren Latham was the flag bearer and I was there flanking him. Similarly, after the flag salute on stage, the orchestra played the Australian National Anthem. Inspired by the rendition of the anthem at the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000, we sang three verses. The first verse was led by Jess Scot who is a young vocalist in the Youth Wind Orchestra. The second verse was led by myself. The third



The Singing of the Chinese National Anthem

was a repeat of the first one and the lead singers were Jess, the Sydney Chinese Lions singers and me. By that time, it was obvious that everyone in the auditorium were so exhilarated that they were all joining in, singing in unison with great fervour!



Immediately following the Flag Ceremony, the conventioners heard a series of drum rolls, not from the orchestra at the front but from the rear of the auditorium. They turned their heads and looked. It was the sound of a big Chinese drum! As they shifted their attention back to the stage again, they found three



dancing lions had waltzed their way up there. The audience then looked to their left, there were three other dancing lions. They looked to their right, there were yet another three!



The Lion Dance is usually performed during the Chinese New Year and other Chinese traditional, cultural and religious festivals. It may also be performed at many other important occasions such as business opening events, special celebrations or wedding ceremonies. It may also be used to honour special guests.

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## Day One (contd)

The Lion Dance that evening was to celebrate the opening of the District N5 Convention 2014 and to pay tribute to all the Lions attending the convention as special guests and friends of the Chinese Australian Lions community.

NINE lions took part in the performance. In the Chinese language, NINE rhymes with the words *endurance* and *long-lasting*. The nine lions salute the relentless and painstaking efforts of Lions in Serving the less fortunate. Long Live Lions!

Then came the speeches. There were only two speeches. Having the privilege of speaking first I extended a warm welcome to all the conventioners and guests. PDG Patrick McApion should be acknowledged for suggesting to me early on that Convention 2014 be best held in Sydney, hence the convention theme "Coming Home to Castle Hill". I also expressed my deepest gratitude to the Hosting Committee and to all those who had contributed in making the convention a success.

The second speaker was David Elliott MP. David is one of the Directors on the Castle Hill RSL Board and he was instrumental in assisting



David Elliott's MP Address

us acquiring the convention venue free of charge. Towards the conclusion of his presentation, David declared, "It's an absolutely great honour to be here tonight and officially announce the Convention 2014 open!" and then he struck the District gong. To me, that was the climax of the evening.

After the speeches, the conventioners were treated to a mini concert featured by the Youth Wind Orchestra. When popular numbers like "We Call Australia Home", "We Are One, We Are Many ...", "Waltzing Matilda", "The Road to Gundagai", etc were played, many Lions heartily joined in with the singing. Clearly, the lyrics provided on the giant screens helped.

Well, that was Day One - a most memorable day indeed!

By Lion Anthony Cheung



The Nine Dancing Lions - Long Live Lions!