

Oceania's Living for Others Awards Night

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UPF Oceania: On December 7, 2015 at the Oceania Peace Embassy in Sydney, the Living for Others Awards night was a fitting way to conclude an active year of peace building for UPF Sydney. Six people, widely recognized in the community for their service to others, were presented with Living for Others Awards. This event has been held regularly over the past ten years in Sydney to honor the Founder of UPF, Father Sun Myung Moon, who promoted and exemplified the ethic of living for the sake of others so extensively during his life.

After the traditional welcome to country by aboriginal elder Ms. Pearl Wymarra, an introductory video of UPF was shown and then each of the awardees was welcomed up in turn to receive their award. The emcee Mrs Jynene Helland read an description of the remarkable contributions that each awardee had made to the community and they each responded with a talk about why they liked to live for the sake of others.

The six awardees were: Mr Andrew Chalk, founding Chair of the community development organization Gawad Kalinga Australia; Ms Elizabeth Tehoiahoi Corner, President of the Melanesian Fellowship and member of the Sydney PNG Wantok Club; Dr Barbara Ferguson OAM, teacher, social worker, and counselor with refugees and orphaned children in Australia and overseas; Earnest Kulanovic, architect, charity worker, prison chaplain and project manager for Affinity Intercultural Foundation; Fr Chris Riley AM, Founder and CEO of "Youth Off The Streets" working with disadvantaged youth; and Vo Dai Ton, highly decorated retired Colonel in the Republic of Vietnam Army, noted poet, author, artist and human rights activist. Please refer to the accompanying program for further details of each awardee.

The room was packed and it was truly an inspirational evening. It was particularly moving to hear about the lives of the awardees; everyone felt uplifted by their examples and we felt a renewed impetus to live for the sake of others in our own lives.

