



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 2010

### **Future leaders from North Shore awarded \$12 500 scholarships**

Roseville resident, Andrew Thomas, and Lane Cove resident, Martin Seneviratne, are the worthy recipients of the McDonald's Charlie Bell Scholarship for Future Leaders.

The scholarship, created in memory of Charlie Bell, who died tragically from cancer at the height of his career as Chief Executive of McDonald's worldwide, encourages people to realise their academic and professional goals.

Andrew Thomas, a second year student studying a Bachelor of Economics/Law at Sydney University, and Martin Seneviratne, a third year student majoring in Physics and Neuroscience as part of the Science (Adv)/Medicine program at Sydney University, were each awarded \$12 500 for their outstanding academic achievements and commitment to their community.

Andrew has been actively involved in a diverse range of community service activities including volunteering at St Canice's Homeless Shelter in King's Cross, being a carer at the Ignatian Children's Holiday Camp, mentoring young refugees at the Catholic Intensive English Centre's camp and volunteering as an ambassador for Opportunity International.

Andrew is thrilled with his award and explains how it will assist his studies and community involvement.

"The Charlie Bell Scholarship will reduce the financial pressure of everyday life, allowing me to devote more time, not just to my studies, but also to my community projects," said Andrew.

Andrew is also preparing to travel with a friend to Uganda to assist at the African Foundation for People In Need by building a chicken farm to provide a sustainable source of revenue for its residents. When Andrew graduates, he hopes to work in the area of development economics.

Martin too, has been actively involved in community activities both in Australia and while studying at UCLA in Los Angeles. While overseas, Martin assisted in running a health clinic in Mexico and mentoring underprivileged children in downtown Los Angeles. In Australia, Martin has volunteered with Hands of Help, the University of Sydney Union School Tutoring Program and at the Glebe Youth Service's Friday night 'after-dark' program.



# The Charlie Bell Scholarship for Future Leaders 2010

When Martin graduates, he would like to combine scientific innovation with clinical medicine and in the long term work for a humanitarian organisation like Medecins Sans Frontieres or the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Martin is also delighted to have received the award.

“This award is such an honour. It means I can focus on my studies and the money also contributes to my long term desire to work for a humanitarian organisation,” said Martin.

Catriona Noble, Managing Director of McDonald’s Australia, who will present Andrew and Martin with their award at McDonald’s headquarters on 25 February, is impressed by their dedication to their studies and the community.

“Andrew and Martin should be very proud of their achievements,” said Catriona.

“McDonald’s has always encouraged Australia’s youth to look to the future and strive to achieve their goals. For the deserving recipients, the Charlie Bell Scholarship can go a long way toward helping the winners attain those goals,” concluded Catriona.

McDonald’s St Ives Licensee, Sam Alvaro, is proud that residents from his local area have been rewarded for their dedication to the community.

“It is so exciting to see two fantastic young people from Sydney’s North Shore contributing to their local community and beyond. It is clear that Andrew and Martin have a stellar future ahead of them,” said Sam.

The Charlie Bell Scholarship is awarded to both McDonald’s employees and members of the general public. The Scholarship was created by the Bell family in memory of Charlie Bell, a former McDonald’s employee who at age 15 moved up the ranks before becoming the president and Chief Executive of the global McDonald’s system in 2004. Charlie Bell was the first non-American to head the McDonald’s US Corporation. He passed away in 2004 after a courageous battle with cancer.

## **Presentation details**

**WHEN:** Thursday 25 February, 2010  
10.30am – 11.00am

**WHERE:** Charlie Bell School of Management  
21-29 Central Avenue  
Thornleigh NSW 2120

**For information, images or interview requests, please contact:**

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