

# The Kendall National Violin Competition and Forests NSW

## welcome RAY CHEN



The Organising Committee of the Kendall National Violin Competition and Forests NSW welcomed the Australian violinist Ray Chen at the Visitors Centre in the Cumberland State Forest on 8 February 2011.

Ray, who is a rising star on the international music scene and resides in Philadelphia, was the 2005 winner of the competition. He was in Australia to perform a series of four debut concerts with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Opera House to critical acclaim. Despite a tight touring schedule Ray Chen took time to meet guests and young violinists from the Sydney Conservatorium during the reception. He generously performed Bach's "Gavotte and Rondo" and Nathan Milstein's "Paganiniana" on his 1721 Macmillan Stradivarius to a delighted audience of supporters and friends.

Ray Chen, who left Australia in 2006 to embark on an international career, has since won most of the world's most important violin competitions. His flourishing career now includes concerts throughout the world and he has recently re-

leased a solo CD with Sony Classical. He was welcomed back by KNVC's Patron, Donald Hazelwood and the KNVC

President, Douglas Head.

Douglas said, *"the competition was delighted and proud to see one of its recent winners achieving such unambiguous international acclaim as a soloist so early their career."*

Rahmat Khaimi, Executive Officer of Forests NSW, who is the major sponsor of the Kendall National Violin Competition was delighted about the partnership between Forests NSW and the competition: Rahmat spoke

passionately about Forests NSW delight in their increasing association with a competition that so closely aligns young Australian talent, timber and excellence.



Inspired young violinists

The guests at the reception included Professor Peter Zhang, Ray's teacher in Australia, and the eminent international violinist and juror of the competition, Professor Wanda Wilkomirska.

Goetz Richter, who is Associate Professor of Violin at the Sydney Conservatorium and Artistic Director of the Kendall National Violin Competition commented on the consistent, Australia-wide support the competition had enjoyed to date from talented young violinists and their teachers. *"It is marvellous to see young Australian talent like Ray Chen become successful on the world stage. Many of our finalists and winners have achieved great success and have thriving international careers. The Kendall National Violin Competition has often been a crucial experience in their life and has helped to set them on their path."*

The 2011 Kendall National Violin Competition will be launched in April 2011 at the Sydney Conservatorium.



Donald Hazelwood & Wanda Wilkomirska