



FRONT ROW: Evangelia Adamopoulos (secretary), Maria Sallos (President - Hellenic Lyceum), Marina Efthimiou (vice president). BACK ROW: Kathy Stojanovic - Secretary, Sophia Sotiropoulos, Helen Kristallis (vice president) Katie Valis, Stavroula Papapetros (dancing Teacher) Dimitra Micos, Christina Mormanis (assist secretary), Leana Vertzayias, Olga Lambi (treasurer).



Consulate General of Greece in Australia Mr Vasilios Tolios receiving a gift from the president of Hellenic Lyceum Mrs Maria Sallos.

HELLENIC LYCEUM MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Costume of Epirus: Sarakatsan women

On the 29th April 2009 the Hellenic Lyceum Sydney celebrated its Annual Mother's Day Luncheon at Parliament House. Over two Hundred guests assembled to participate in what was a very Special Day for the Hellenic Lyceum and all its Members. Our host on the day to celebrate with us was the Honourable John Hatzistergos Attorney General of NSW and Maria Hatzistergos, Greek Consul General Mr Vasilios Tolios and Theodora Tolios. Many other prominent members of the Greek/Australian Community came as guests.

The Mother's Day Luncheon has become a tradition with the Hellenic Lyceum, however this year stands out distinctively as the year that the Hellenic Lyceum honoured and awarded its founding members from the 1950s & 1960's. The Hellenic Lyceum Sydney is a branch of the Hellenic Lyceum in Athens and was founded by Mr Angelo Gooma in 1951. He hand picked a number of prominent Greek women from within the community to establish the Sydney Branch. These women became the first Greek ladies association in Sydney. The early role of these women was to support the migrant women and children arriving in Sydney.

On the 29th of April the present Committee of the Hellenic Lyceum decided to officially recognise its founding members. It was important to acknowledge that the task they started led the way for generations of Greek women. Their work allowed women in Australia to participate in forming an association that assists in a charitable way. Over the past 58 years the Hellenic Lyceum can claim to have assisted the Westmead Children's Hospital, the Modern Greek Chairs of UNSW and Sydney University, the Archaeological Department of Sydney University, Estia Foundation and the St Andrew's Theological College, only to name a few.

Beyond raising funds for charities, the founding women performed a large number of selfless acts to assist the community in which they lived. They helped Greek migrant women with translation at doctors and hospitals. They gave out parcels to needy Greek families. They visited migration camps giving lectures, and on many occasions sent buses to pick them up and bring them to church, followed by a lunch. They attended the ships arriving with brides from Greece, helping all of those in need. They even visited jails to assist the Greeks that found