

**PEOPLE  
LIKE US...**

Every week, "Kosmos" newspaper will be presenting stories of Greeks in Australia. If you would like to share your story with us, send us an email and your favourite photo at: [kosmos@kosmos.com.au](mailto:kosmos@kosmos.com.au)



**Two words about me:**

Determined and Hilarious.

**Where was I born?**

Sydney, Australia.

**Age:**

17

**My origins:**

Greek Australian .

**Two words about my family:**

Unconventional and Loving/Accepting.

**About my work:**

I am a year 12 student at Beverly Hills Girls High school. I have been studying Greek for about 13 years and completed my Greek HSC as an accelerant last year. I am a very determined student and an active member of the SRC, working to make the schooling experience interesting and fun. The most important part of my day is laughter, essential to the survival of a year 12 student!

**My interests:**

International- Liberal Studies and History.

**About my life in Australia:**

# Despina Fantakis

## @ Beverly Hills Girls High School

I have proudly attended a public high school in the St. George area and grown up in Bankstown. From a young age, under the influence of my household I have been an active young member of the Greek community. I strongly believe that Greek Australians should maintain the language by eliminating old-fashioned teaching methods and stereotypes.

**My relationship with Greece:**

I'm lucky enough to visit Greece every 2 years or so and experience the European way of life. All of my relatives are overseas and we speak on a regular basis which helps keep my language skills up to scratch. I also speak to my teenage cousins and their friends in Greece, seeing and reading about their interests and day to day activities.

**What I like about living in Australia:**

Socialising with people from different backgrounds and learning about various cultures is one of the best parts of Australian society.

Living in a multicultural country means that you are not ignorant to the beliefs of different cultures and are therefore more respectful and accepting of others.

**What I don't like about living in Australia:**

The obvious answer is that European nightlife will just never compare to the Australian one!

**If I would like to live in Greece one day and why:**

I would not want to live in Greece, simply because the employment opportunities aren't as good as those in Australia. In saying that though, Greece is the ultimate holiday and party destination! I absolutely love the atmosphere



in Europe and the social lifestyle is just amazing. It's called kefi!

**My personal big dream:**

To see the world!

**My life philosophy:**

Life is what you make of it.

# Primary Schools welcome funding

SOUTH-EASTERN primary schools will benefit from the second round of federal government funding for major new infrastructure projects.

Kingsford Smith MP Peter Garrett attended an assembly at Mascot Public School to announce that 20 primary schools in the electorate would receive \$38,650,725 for infrastructure projects under round two of the Primary Schools For the 21st Century program.

Mascot Public will receive funding for a new hall, canteen and a covered outdoor learning area.

Principal Annette McKeown said the facilities would make a huge difference at the school.

"We don't have a school hall, so we can't have a whole-of-school assembly," Ms McKeown said. "We don't have an appropriate place for school performances. This funding is absolutely fantastic and the whole school community is thrilled".

Randwick, South Coogee, Botany and Chifley public schools will also receive funding for new halls and



**Kingsford Smith MP Peter Garrett with Mascot Public School students (from left) Alper Gonul, Aydin Kumbulu, Taylor Minslow and Niki Kalimnios**

covered outdoor learning areas.

Mr Garrett said the investment in local primary schools was overdue and would go a long way to support local jobs during the global recession.

"Teachers and students in our local schools should be teaching and learning in 21st-century facilities," Mr Garrett said. "It is great to see principals, parents and tradespeople working together to deliver these important projects".

The \$12.4 - billion Primary Schools For the 21st Century program delivers funding for major infrastructure projects including libraries, multipurpose halls and covered outdoor learning centres.

The \$1.3 billion National School Pride program has also delivered \$7,244,785 of minor infrastructure and maintenance projects to 47 primary and secondary schools in Kingsford Smith.

## Medallist and Fellows 2009

The Australian College of Educators (ACE) National Council is delighted to announce the College Medallist, and fellows for 2009. These awards were granted to educators who have been judged by their peers to have made a distinctive contribution to education in Australia. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Ms Helen Symeonakis FACE: For outstanding leadership as a school principal and in particular for her contribution to the education of disadvantaged youth.



**Principal of Salisbury High School, and member of Northern Adelaide Secondary Principals Network (NASSPN).** Helen is the Principal of Salisbury High School - Australia's first Enterprise High School. Helen arrived at Salisbury High School in 1983 and is still working there, apart from a short stint in the SA Education Department Equal Opportunities Unit. During that time she held a range of leadership positions and since 1999, Principal. Although Helen did not have any burning ambition to be a Principal, she loves her job and derives enormous satisfaction from leading a school community to provide the best educational outcomes and service for its students. She is passionate about working with her staff and local community to develop new initiatives and innovative programs to address issues of educational disadvantage.