

TOP VOLUNTEERS HONOURERED IN NSW PARLIAMENT TODAY

In his first official ceremony as Minister for Citizenship, John Hatzistergos, today recognised the enormous contribution made by volunteers in NSW by announcing the winners of the 2009 Community Relations Commission Awards for Volunteering.

“I congratulate all these wonderful Australians and all of those who were nominated for their selfless and tireless contributions to the New South Wales society,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“The huge contribution that immigrants make to our community is not always noticed or acknowledged but these annual awards conducted by the Community Relations Commission are an important way of fostering that recognition.”

At the official awards ceremony at Parliament House today, Mr Hatzistergos named Perla Lombardi, a migrant from Argentina, as the 2009 Volunteer of the Year.

“For 18 years after arriving in Australia, Perla Lombardi has devoted herself to improving the health and wellbeing of women in South-West Sydney,” the Minister said.

“Perla’s tireless efforts have made a huge difference to the lives of many elderly people by breaking down social isolation and improving their knowledge of good health in old age.

“She has established community support groups of women from different Spanish-speaking countries and has personally delivered talks on women’s health issues including hepatitis C, arthritis, domestic violence and nutrition.”

The winners of 2009 Awards for Volunteering also include:

- Malaemie Fruean, a youth and family volunteer from Campbelltown, won the Community Service Award;

- Erin Chew was highly-commended in the Community Service Category for helping disadvantaged young people in the Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas;

- Jasmine Kaur was named Young Volunteer of the Year for her dedication in helping young people in the Sikh community;

- Jean Paul Ndayiragije was highly commended in the Youth Volunteer Award for organising sporting events and activities for young African people; and

- Nola Randall-Mohk was named winner of the Lifetime Achievement Community Service Award for her selfless contribution to the care of multicultural and refugee communities.

Minister for Volunteering, Peter Primrose, presented the awards and praised the winners for their valuable contribution to communities in NSW.

“All the volunteers recognised today have made a tremendous contribution towards their communities and I am proud to present these awards,” Mr Primrose said.

“Their stories provide inspiration for others and prove that one person can make a difference, no matter where they live or what their background is.”

Mr Hatzistergos said Malaemie Fruean of Campbelltown won the Community Service Award for 2009 for her work over the past 24 years to help dysfunctional families and youth at risk, from all backgrounds.

“Malaemie is a driving force behind the Pacific Achievement Awards and is instrumental in assisting community members with court support, family disputes, youth homelessness and education to create better lives for those



she helps,” he said.

“She has specifically worked to break down negative stereotypes of Pacific communities in New South Wales.”

Erin Chew was highly-commended in the Community Service Category for helping disadvantaged young people in the Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas

“As part of the Youth Mentoring Program, Erin teaches leadership and communication skills to help boost self-confidence amongst young people,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“She also is currently an Ambassador for the Australian Red Cross.”

Jasmine Kaur was named Young Volunteer of the Year for her dedication in helping young people in the Sikh community to engage harmoniously with other communities, whilst preserving their own culture and heritage.

“Jasmine crossed the age gap to foster closer understanding between youth and the elders in the community as part of the Sharing Sikh Culture project,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“She mentored school students for

the Youth Peace Parliament, a one-day mock Legislative Assembly sitting, and is active in spreading understanding of the Sikh faith.

“Jasmine is a wonderful young Australian and serves on various mainstream charities including Red Cross, Clean-up Australia and NISAD - Schizophrenia Research.”

Jean Paul Ndayiragije, who came to Coffs Harbour only four years ago from his native Burundi, was highly commended in the Youth Volunteer Award.

“Jean Paul is passionate about organising sporting events and activities for young people and has created an environment that enables Africans, especially those without a significant male figure in their lives, to socialise with other young men and women,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

Nola Randall-Mohk was named the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Community Service Award for her selfless contribution to the care of multicultural and refugee communities.

“For 10 years, Nola has led the work of the Baulkham Hills Migrant Resource Centre developing programs for low-skilled workers, homeless men, women to regain self-esteem, and the Afro Beat program for African Youth in western Sydney,” Mr Hatzistergos said.

“She has focussed her efforts on meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged adults and their access to suitable vocational opportunities and has given particular assistance to the Khmer community contributing strongly to the management of the Cambodian Australian Welfare Council since its inception in 1982.”

*Hon. John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General
Minister for Industrial Relations*

SYDNEY NOW HOME TO AUSTRALIA’S RICHEST RACE

The NSW Greyhound Breeders, Owners and Trainers Association (NSW GBOTA) in partnership with Greyhound Racing NSW (GRNSW) is pleased to announce that Australia’s richest greyhound race will now call Sydney home.

The prestigious Golden Easter Egg will net the winner an unprecedented \$250,000 in 2010 following the signing of Macro Meats – Australia’s leading producer of Kangaroo and wild game meat – as the event’s major sponsor for the next five years.

The 2010 Macro Meats Golden Easter Egg will be the highlight of a three-week carnival at Wentworth Park that will culminate in the running of the final on Saturday 3 April 2010.

The Golden Easter Egg has long been recognised as one of the Nation’s greatest events but the quarter of a million first prize has simply put the race into a league all of its own. NSW GBOTA Executive Officer, Brenton Scott, said his Association was delighted to be working with Macro Meats in re-positioning the Golden Easter Egg.

“Macro Meats is one of Australia’s fastest growing businesses and the NSW GBOTA is excited at the

opportunity to further build the company’s brand as we showcase what is now the richest event in the southern hemisphere,” explained Scott.

“The absolute cream of Australian greyhound racing will be coming to Sydney to compete and the benefits, both on and off the track, will be enormous.”

NSW GBOTA Chairman, Bill Mangafas, said that the prizemoney hike ensured the event would be looked upon as greyhound racing’s Holy Grail.

“Greyhound racing does not come any better than Easter Saturday at Wentworth Park and 2010 heralds an even more spectacular future for our flagship event.”

More than \$350,000 in prizemoney will be won during the 2010 Golden Easter Egg series and Macro Meats are delighted with their sponsorship relationship.

“We have been strong supporters of the greyhound racing industry for some time and we saw this as an amazing opportunity to further expose our brand,” Macro Meats Managing Director Ray Bor-da said.

“In our industry, Macro Meats is Australia’s leading company so associating our brand with the Golden Easter Egg is, given the National and International profile it now has, a natural fit.”

The three week carnival will feature themed race nights, special functions and entertainment as well as the best greyhounds Australia has to offer.

“This is a major coup for the New South Wales greyhound racing industry,” GRNSW Chief Executive Brent Hogan said.

“Macro Meats saw the benefits of involving themselves with a growing sport that has thousands of participants, fans and television viewers. We are extremely happy to be supporting the NSW GBOTA and Macro Meats in what is another very positive step forward for NSW.”

“Sydney is now the home to the biggest and richest greyhound race in Australia. That is a testament to our code and the many wonderful people that are involved in the NSW industry.”

Further announcements regarding the 2010 Macro Meats Golden Easter Egg Carnival will be made in the coming weeks.