



2010 Hellenic Studies Awards

Maintaining a tradition of recognising academic excellence that began in 1995, the Australian Hellenic Educators' Association recently held their annual Hellenic Studies Awards. The Awards recognise the achievements and service of students and teachers of Modern and Classical Hellenic language, literature and history across all levels of education.

This year, 110 separate awards were presented to students and educators ranging from Year 1 students to educators with over four decades' service. The presentation ceremony was held at Macquarie University, in cooperation with the Modern Greek Studies Programme. The Australian Hellenic Educators' Association is the statewide body of educators involved in Hellenic Studies, predominantly Modern Greek language and culture at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

As both the keynote speaker, NSW Board of Studies President, Mr Tom Alegounarias, and AHEA President, Dr Panayiotis Diamadis, noted in their addresses to the ceremony, these Awards are about recognising achievement in Hellenic studies at all levels of education, while at the same time encouraging the next generation of students of Hellenism to continue their own personal odysseys.

Future of Hellenic Studies

Throughout his brief address, Dr Diamadis emphasised the importance of recognising and supporting students at the primary level as they are the future of Hellenic studies in Australia. This policy of encouragement was behind the introduction of two new aspects of the Hellenic Studies Awards: the PLATO Awards and the Hellenic Studies Poster Competition. The AHEA President also thanked the parents and friends of the awardees for their support of Hellenic Studies, expressing the belief that it will continue into the future.

Dr Diamadis closed his address with a call for all the 2010 Award recipients to continue their pursuit of Hellenic studies throughout their lives. In a region as linguistically diverse as New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, it is not acceptable that barely twelve per cent of HSC candidates studied a foreign language for the 2009 HSC.

The AHEA believes that education is more than simply a mark at the end of secondary school. It is part of the process of shaping the individual. The process of education is more than about career paths; it is about learning. For most of recorded history, education included "core subjects" such as mathematics and science, alongside languages and the arts. It is this tradition that Australian education authorities need to rediscover as they shape the new Australian Curriculum.

Guests

Amongst the special guests in attendance were Mr Tom Alegounarias (President, NSW Board of Stud-



ies), Dr John Collier, Head of School, St Andrew's Cathedral School; Chair of the AHISA (Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia) Academic Committee; Professor Alanna Nobbs and Dr Ian Plant (Museum of Ancient Cultures, Macquarie University), Ross McGhee (Faculty Marketing Coordinator, Faculty of Arts, Macquarie University), and Mr Albert Vella (President, NSW Federation of Community Language Schools).

Also showing their support of Hellenic Studies were Dr Anthony Dracopoulos (The University of Sydney), Dr Maria Zarimis and Dr Kyriaki Frantzi (University of New South Wales), Dr Elisavet Kefallinou (Macquarie University), Mrs Mantziou and Mrs Terzopoulou (Order of AHEPA NSW and NZ), Kathy Kouvas and Katherine Paloumis (GAPA), Prof Demetrius Tsernoglou (Emeritus, University of Roma, Italy); Mrs Hrisoula Tsambazi (SBS Radio – Greek Program); Helen Voulgaropoulos (representing Mr Bob Strachan, Principal, Brighton-Le-Sands Public School), Mr and Mrs Christogeorge (Burwood Council and St Nektarios Burwood Afternoon Schools respectively) and many others.

Sponsors

The major sponsor of the 2009 Awards was the Order of AHEPA (NSW and NZ).

Other sponsors included the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE) – Oceania and Far East Region, the Education Office and the Press and Communication Office of the Consulate-General of the Hellenic Republic in Sydney, the Hellenic National Tourism Organisation, the Greek Australian Professionals Association (GAPA), the Pan-Thessalian Benevolent Federation of NSW "Karaiskakis", Philanthropic Association of Western Sterea Hellas "To Mesolonghi", Federation of Sterea Hellas Australia and New Zealand "Roumeli", Community Pharmacy Earlwood (Mrs Christina Tsatsoulis), Prestige Patisserie (Mrs Menia Kyriakou) Carlton, Hellenic Bakery Marrickville, Sweet Fantasy Bankstown, Sergios Cake Shop

Chullora Market Place and Mega Digital Technologies Bexley.

Laiki Bank Australia was the Major Sponsor of the 2009 Hellenic Studies Awards Poster Competition.

As emphasised by the Master of Ceremonies and AHEA Treasurer Mr Manuel Condoleon, the AHEA is truly grateful to all the sponsors of the Awards. Without their generous support, the annual Awards presentation ceremony would not be possible. Their example is one to be copied by all sections of the Australian Hellenic community.

Future events

It is hoped that with the generous support of sponsors such as these and of the Australian Hellenic community as a whole, the AHEA looks to holding successful Hellenic Study Days later this year, as well as the 2011 Hellenic Studies Awards at The University of Sydney.

2010 Hellenic Studies Awards Awardees

Below is the complete list of the students and educators whose achievements and service to Hellenic Studies were recognised at the 2009 Hellenic Studies Awards. In all 74 individual awards were presented.

PHOEVIOS AWARDS for excellence in Hellenic s

