

**PELOPONNESIAN CONFEDERATION OF NSW INC.**

# Peloponnesian Festival

## Greek Australian Awards Greek-Australian of the Year Peloponnesian of the Year

The Peloponnesian Confederation of NSW announced that there are 11 finalists who are in the running to win any one or both of the Greek-Australian Awards. The Awards are being held for the first time and are part of the Peloponnesian Festival starting in Sydney on Saturday 25 September 2010.

There are two award categories:

1. Greek-Australian of the Year
2. Peloponnesian of the Year

The list of the eleven finalists are attached and include individuals who have made significant contributions in the fields of medical research, politics, business, community service, the arts, culture and sport. Profiles of each of the candidates are attached and can also be found on the Confederation website.

The nomination process has unearthed a number of success stories and brought to the limelight individuals whose contributions are not always widely known in the community. The process has also again showed the rich talent that exists within the Greek Community which is not always acknowledged, said the President John Petropoulos.

As previously announced the winners will be

chosen from a combination of public vote and voting by a judging panel. The public vote will represent 50% of the total vote for each finalist, with the remaining 50% being awarded by a judging panel. The President John Petropoulos is encouraging the public to vote so they can have their say in who should be the award recipients.

Electronic voting will commence from 12.00noon on Wednesday 22 September 2010 on the Federations' Website at [www.morias.org.au/festival2010](http://www.morias.org.au/festival2010). Paper votes can be made by completing the attached voting card which can then be sent by email to [awards@morias.org.au](mailto:awards@morias.org.au) or by posting to PO Box 3, Greenacre NSW 2190.

Voting closes Monday 5 October 2010 at 12.00midnight for electronic voting via the internet or email. For posted voted, these must be received by Monday night. Only one vote per award category is allowed.

The Judging Panel will also commence deliberations over the next few days.

The two award winners will be announced and recognized at a gala function to be held on Thursday, 30 September 2010 at the Venus Reception Centre in Kogarah. The gala function will be attended by the NSW Government Minister Hon John Hatzistergos MP who will also present the awards.

**Information on the Festival can be obtained at:**  
[www.morias.org.au/festival2010](http://www.morias.org.au/festival2010)

**Peloponnesian Confederation NSW INC  
Greek Australian Awards  
Voting Form**

Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos	
Dr Maria (Costadopoulos) Hill	
Dino (Konstandinos) Nikias	
Christina Tsatsoulis	
Vasilios Aligiannis	
Katherine Kouvas	
Peter Theophilou	
Paul Nicolaou	
John Pandazopoulos	
Vicky Paranomos	
Dr George Peponis	

Place a cross or tick next to the person who you think should be the Greek-Australian of the Year

**Peloponnesian of the Year**

Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos	
Dr Maria (Costadopoulos) Hill	
Dino (Konstandinos) Nikias	
Christina Tsatsoulis	
Vasilios Aligiannis	
Katherine Kouvas	
John Pandazopoulos	
Vicky Paranomos	
Dr George Peponis	

# Greek Australian Awards Nominee Profiles

**Vasilios Thrasivoulos Aligiannis**

Teacher

Preserving dance history

A passion for all things culturally and artistically Greek

Vasilios Aligiannis has contributed to Greek society in the Arts/Culture through the preservation of Greek culture, folk music, dance history and costumes, since 1992. Vasilios is passionate and enthusiastic in keeping Greek culture alive with his continual demonstrations of Greek dancing based on ethnographic research of areas, attending dancing workshops in Greece and travelling through Greece to research various styles of Greek dancing.

He shares his knowledge through lectures, dance demonstrations, music and displays of Greek costumes to educate Australians on the rich Greek traditional dance and culture. Vasilios has a significant collection of traditional costumes.

His passion with Greek dance began at the age of 5. He joined several dance schools during his childhood and was influenced by teachers such as Jenny Zagaras, Andrew and Sofia Rossidies that fed his traditional dance passion, developing to what it is today! Hi pas-

sion is further fuelled by attending dance workshops in Greece.

At the age of 12 he was teaching junior dance groups and by the age of 16 he established his own dance school. He is the founder of the Greek Folk Dancers of NSW O Thrasivoulos and Paradosi Focus a cultural Newsletter on e-mail. His dance group has performed around Australia and New Zealand, including places such as Adelaide, Barrabba, Central Coast, North Coast, Harvey Bay, South Coast, Tauranga, Auckland and Wollongong.

Over the last 18 years he has taught hundreds of youngsters to dance Greek at various Community and Community groups, the Pan-Macedonian Hellenic Lyceum dancers of NSW, the Pontian Group of Pontoxeniteas, the Zakynthian Association of NSW and the Mytilinean Brotherhood of NSW. He is involved with several committees in the Greek-Australian Community.

Vasilios frequently organises dance workshops with teachers from Greece called Paradosi, has taught workshops around Australia and New Zealand and is a collector of Greek Folk Music, Artefacts and Costume. He is also former secretary on Folk Dance Australia

Inc and a member of UNESCO's International Organisation of Folk Arts - Greece.

Vasilios is also a High School teacher. He coordinates whole school Ancient Greek Days, educates students about the Pontian Genocide and the true history of Macedonia and volunteers his time to teach in primary schools about Greek Dance, culture and history.

Vasili has also developed and delivers a series of lectures called Windows Into Tradition covering the history of traditional Greek dancing.

His heritage stems from the Greek Prefecture of Arkadia in the Peloponnese.

For more information visit his website [www.greekdancing.com.au](http://www.greekdancing.com.au)

**Professor Vasso Apostolopoulos**

Cancer researcher

Academic

Australia Day Ambassador

Leading the fight against cancer

Since 1991, after completing her BSc degree, Professor Apostolopoulos has pursued a career in cancer research. Her intelligence, determination and dedication have led to many major dis-

coveries, an international reputation and the publication of research papers and books.

Her work has been at the forefront of scientific research into the development of the worlds' first vaccine for breast and ovarian cancer. More than 13 human clinical trials on her research work have been conducted since 1994. Her vaccine against breast/ovarian cancer was recently approved by the FDA in USA and is undergoing a large trial in the USA and soon in Europe by a pharmaceutical company. In the last 15 years Professor Apostolopoulos has received over ninety awards and honours in recognition of her achievements.

At a relatively young 39 years of age, Professor Apostolopoulos' achievements have already been recognized with over 70 major awards, including:

Victorian Premiers Award for Medical Research (1996)

Young Australian of the Year Award (VIC) (1997)

Channel 10 / Herald Sun Young Achiever of the Year award (1996)

Greek Presidents' Order of Brigadier General Medal (1996)

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