

Aroney Awards 2011

The Kytherian Association of Australia again hosted the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards and Dinner Dance on the 9th April 2011. It is with much pride that we hold this event every year to not only honour our last year's HSC students but also to remember our great benefactor, Nicholas Aroney, whose vision has provided the opportunity to present such events on a regular basis. In this regard, the Association extends its thanks to the Nicholas Aroney trustees for their continued support. It is much appreciated.

The purpose of the night was not only to acknowledge Kytherian students who excelled in last year's HSC but also to present a tribute to the late Professor Manuel Aroney. Professor Manuel was a great supporter not only of this event but all of the Kytherian Association's activities generally. He was great man with a great community spirit. His mentoring and drive will be missed by all of us.

Fortunately, we have Professor Manuel's three sons and their families to help us carry on the work of the Association and to especially support us at events such as this year's Aroney Awards night in honour of their father. To this end, we were pleased to have Jim, Theo and Stephen attending this year's function along with their wives, and for Stephen Aroney to make the presentations to the 2010 HSC awardees. Stephen is also a member of the Nicholas Aroney Trust.

The night was overall a great success with much KEFI. We thank all of the people who were able to attend and help make the night so enjoyable. Sorry to the people on the waiting list.

Special thanks to His Excellency the Consul-General of Greece Mr Vasilios Tolios and his wonderful wife Theodora for their presence and to the Consul-General himself for his assistance in the presentation of the awards. Thanks also to the committee members of the Hellenic Lyceum, GAPA, the Greek Orthodox Central Coast Parish, AHEPA, the Mytelinian Association and the Leros Association who also attended.

Much thanks also to Angelo Notaras who gave a moving tribute to Professor Manuel Aroney, which included a one minute's silence where everyone was up standing, and for his role as MC.

Thanks also to the Friday night senior dancing group who provided the night's entertainment and to teachers Joanna and Penelope for their great efforts. Indeed, Joanna and Penelope danced their own routine, in addition to the senior dancing group's, which was much applauded by those present.

Big thanks also to John Fardoulis who was photographer for the night and gave his own presentation on his upcoming Kytherian Dig, to Eleni Malanos for doing the guest and table lists (while really ill), to George Giouris and Peter Calligeros for manning the front desk, and to other Committee and non-Committee members who assisted in selling raffle tickets and folding those tickets for the draw.

Certificates of Achievement and

prize money cheques from the N A Aroney Estate were handed out to each of the 2010 HSC awardees. The overall winner was Amelia Zaunders with 99.6 ATAR. The other awardees were Byron Economos, Nathan Notaras, Victoria Venardos, Lambros Hatziplis-Photios, Alexia Patrice Fuller, Andrew Carras, Nicholas Symeou, Andrew Tzannes, Adam Nicholas Papadakis, Michael James, Ruby Smith, Yianni Petrohilos, Anna Malanos and Nicholas James Calligeros. We congratulate all of the awardees and wish them well for the future.

The Kytherian Association remains indebted to the sponsors and long time supporters who have donated raffle prizes. These include Laiki Bank who donated a TEAC 66cm Colour Television with DVD Player (won by Nick Fardouly), the Central Coast Greek Orthodox Parish who donated a Basket of Quality Manchester (won by Christina Mormanos), the Kytherian Ladies Auxiliary who donated a Royal Doulton Crystal Saturn Vase (won by John Tzannes), Tina Feros from Hairbiz at Rose Bay who donated a Reconditioning Treatment, Shampoo & Blow Dry plus a Parlux 3800 Professional Blow Dryer (not claimed – ticket no. 52000), Nick and Kathy Haros from St George Smallgoods who donated a Gift Voucher (won by John Comino), Fardoulis Chocolates who donated a Basket of Chocolates (won by Sophia Aroney), John and Hellan Ventouris who donated a Diethnes Greek Restaurant Lunch or Dinner Voucher (won by Kathy Kouvas), the Management of Omeros Restaurant who donated an Omeros on the Beach Restaurant Dinner for Two (won by Stephen Marinos), Nadine Veitch of Nadine Veitch Jewellery Sales who donated a Sterling Silver Filigree & Green Amethyst on a 45cm Sterling Silver Snake Chain (won by Arthur Sathakis), Valet Hair and Vicki Beauty Salons at Kogarah who donated a Valet Hair and Vicki Beauty Gift Voucher (won by Marina Efthimiou), the Bulldog Theatre who donated a Double Pass to "Alex & Eve, The Baby" at the Factory Theatre Marrickville (won by Pamela Haros), John and Anna Psaltis who donated a Wine Magnum Basket (won by Michael Tsouroutis) and Peter and Chrissa Vlantis who donated a Ballinger Champagne (won by Pat Fardoulis). The Kytherian Association donated a Navma MY651 (won by Zeljko Milanou) and "George, His Passion" by Ruby M Feros (won by James Aroney).

The success of the function was also contributed to by the great food and service provided by Theo Lazaris, owner/manager of the Twin Reception Centre and for this we are much appreciative.

Again, warm thanks to all those who attended this year's Aroney Awards night, to all of the sponsors and supporters and to those who assisted in its organisation. Best wishes to the awardees and don't forget to keep attending our functions in the future.

Kathy Samios



(L-R): Cynthia Dearin CEO Australian Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc., Michael Yabsley CEO Australia Gulf Council, Dr Nassar Saidi Chief Economist Dubai International Financial Centre, James Wakim MD & CEO Beirut Hellenic Bank, James Harb Director Australian Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc.

Dubai Chief Economist Lunch Hosted by Beirut Hellenic Bank and AACCI

James Wakim Managing Director & CEO of Beirut Hellenic Bank proudly hosted a lunch in honour of Dr Nassar Saidi Chief Economist, Dubai International Financial Centre on Monday 9 May at the Mazzaro restaurant on Elizabeth Street in Sydney. Dr Saidi delivered an engaging speech providing an insight into the increased global significance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in world finance and offered the growth and development of Bank of Beirut in the establishment of Beirut Hellenic Bank as an example. Mr Saidi stressed that now was the time for organisations to position themselves to take advantage of the opportunities that exist and that are emerging as a result of these shifts in the global financial system.

The lunch was made possible as a result of the successful Inaugural Australian Arab Business Forum & Expo held at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins during Thursday and Friday last week, organised by the Australian Arab Chamber of Commerce & Industry Inc., represented at the lunch by members of the AACCI including the Chamber's CEO Cynthia Dearin and Sydney Director Mr James Harb. The lunch was also attended by the Australian Gulf Council represented

by CEO Michael Yabsley and the Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce represented by Mr Joe Khattar.

Mr Henri Catoun the Consul General of Lebanon in Melbourne, Mr Maher El-Kheir Consul of Lebanon in Canberra, Mr Vasilios Tolios Consul General of Greece in Sydney, Mr Greg Gav Director of Beirut Hellenic Bank, Mr Nik Hatzistergos Director of Beirut Hellenic Bank were also in attendance, as were key customers and associates of the Bank.

Mr Wakim recognised that the success of the Bank of Beirut, reflected by its entry into the Australian market, was a result of the hard work and vision of the Bank's Chairman Mr Salim Sfeir and his team and the strength of the Lebanese financial system for which Dr Saidi has made a significant contribution having been Vice-Governor of the Lebanese Central Bank twice in his career.

He also noted the foresight of APRA in approving the Bank's entry in the Market, while emphasising the critical role that the Australian Government has in promoting trade in Australia. He went on to add that building a bridge between these two regions was a key strategic focus of the Beirut Hellenic Bank.

Australian Human Rights Award for Julian Assange

The Sydney Peace Foundation's gold medal has been awarded to Julian Assange 'for exceptional courage in pursuit of human rights', on Tuesday 10th May, in London. The Sydney Peace Medal acknowledges Assange's courage and determination to increase the capacity of citizens all over the world to engage with democratic principles, emphasizing that truth is integral in any quest for justice. This award is made in recognition of the need for greater transparency and accountability of governments. Director of the Sydney Peace Foundation and founding Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, Professor Stuart Rees, says: "By challenging centuries old practices of government secrecy and by championing people's right to know, WikiLeaks and Julian Assange have created the potential for a new order in journalism and in the free flow of information.

"Instead of demonizing an Australian citizen who has broken no law, the Australian Government must stop shoring up Washington's efforts to behave like a totalitarian state. The treatment of alleged whistleblower Bradley Manning confirms a US administration at odds with their commitment to universal human rights and intent on militaristic bullying."

The award of the Sydney Peace Medal was made by the highly respected veteran Australian broadcaster, member of the Australian Human Rights committee of inquiry, and former Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation, Mary Kostakidis. The Sydney Peace Foundation is supported by the City of Sydney.