

George Kambouris – Local Hero Award sponsored by Ross Vasta MP, Federal Member for Bonner

Nominated by Irene Cayas

George has been a member of the Southside Greek Community since his childhood, and has contributed to the Society in many ways. He has also faced many challenges in his youth, due to lack of facilities for persons in wheelchairs

George's sporting achievements have seen him represent Australia in Power lifting, be ranked first in Queensland and second in Australia for handcycling as well as win medals in swimming, track and basketball. In 2000 he was inducted into the Greek-Australia hall of fame for powerlifting.

He has been an integral member of the PCYC Blue-Light Disco for youth with disabilities, for whom he advocates and mentors. Sergeant David Bear from PCYC Carindale says "George has helped and supported the Carindale PCYC in many ways. Such as volunteering at fundraisers like BBQ's and Dances as well as running independent programs about disabilities to the children in vocational Care".

This has proven invaluable, and led to the establishment of "Living on Wheels" enabling participants to interact, learn life skills and have fun whilst fundraising to help others. Others now have a chance to tap into his expertise through the programme he developed, which aims to help kids with day to day lifestyle tasks as well as sporting pursuits.

His 6 year involvement with Rotary Club of Carindale (of which he is currently President) has further enabled him to contribute to the general community – e.g. in Youth Programs Social Media, Billycart Racing and more.