

## Paul Dracakis is awarded an Order of Australia Medal (OAM)

**Paul Dracakis** have been honoured on the Queen's Birthday Honours list with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM), this medal has been awarded for Paul's commitment to the community in the Manly-Warringah area and to Business. The ceremony will take place at Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney in August 2012 by the Governor of NSW Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO. The **Order of Australia** is an order of chivalry established on 14 February 1975 by Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, to recognize Australian citizens and other persons for achievement or for meritorious service. Paul has always be a community orientated person, it initially started as a member of the local Chamber of Commerce or as a Committee member of the Australian Retailers Association; Paul Dracakis has allowed his actions to speak louder than his words. Whether it was with the Manly Council as an Alderman or the Manly Chamber of Commerce or as member of the Manly Warringah Leagues Club or the Manly Rugby Union Club or as a member of the Hellenic Club, Paul was also a strong contributor to decision making within the community. Paul has over a period of many years sponsored, in some way, each of these organisations, whether by cash donation or by a contribution of a piece of jewellery. Paul never forgets his cultural birth place and has involved himself with his local Greek Community. Paul has been member of the Local Manly Warringah Greek Community and President of the Kytherian Association, whose tentacles spread across the entire Kytherian Community in Sydney.

Whilst a very proud Greek Paul is also a very proud Australian and is a person who has very successfully mixed both cultures and is very happy in the company of other persons of all cultures. Paul has been nominated for a knighthood in the Order of St John of Jerusalem through the local Italian community, for instance.

Paul has also chosen to become a Justice of the Peace and has for many years enjoyed this selfless role in the community as a Justice of the Peace in assisting others with issues requiring his services as a Justice of the Peace. There has been many Australian-born Kytherians that have also been awarded with an OAM, but Paul is the first Greek-born Kytherian to be awarded with this prestigious award. *"I thought someone was playing a joke on me, when I received my nomination, but after the realisation sunk in I felt like shouting out loud and dancing Zorba the Greek with excitement."*

## DRACAKIS

### About Dracakis

Like many people did in the 50's, Paul Dracakis left Greece for Australia, at the young age of 17, looking for a better life. After many challenges and a lot of hard work, Paul opened his first Dracakis jewellery store in 1980.



*"My dream was to own my own jewellery store and sell nothing but the best."* Over the years, Paul and his wife Helen have passed on their wealth of knowledge to their children. Today the brothers bring their own distinctive skills and flair to the business, while continuing the family tradition of design excellence and quality. Dracakis have always been at the forefront of the jewellery industry. They were the first jeweller to represent Hearts on Fire diamonds in Australia and a founding member of the Diamond Guild Australia. Their many awards are a testimony to their passion for quality. Dracakis are traditional family jewellers, with two generations working together in their boutiques – Mosman and Warringah Mall. Dracakis stock the largest selection of fine diamond engagement rings on Sydney's Northern Beaches. They are renowned for their quality jewellery and friendly, personal service.

### Contact

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