

## Kastellorizian of the Year Process

Prior to 2019 there was a concern about the transparency of the process for selecting the Kastellorizian of the Year. Some of the issues in the past were:

- No disclosure of any conflict of interest
- Documentation arriving late and in a range of formats that made the applications very difficult to read.
- Panel (formerly the entire KAV committee) not having opportunity to thoroughly read and discuss the sheer amount of information submitted.
- Panel using information about the applicant to form judgments when it was not explicitly in the nomination form information.
- Material submitted not fulfilling basic requirements for nomination.
- Material arriving in a variety of formats and after the due date.

**BECAUSE THIS IS NOT ONLY A NATIONAL BUT AT TIMES AN INTERNATIONAL AWARD ACKNOWLEDGING POSITIVE WORK DONE BY A KASTELLORIZIAN, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT ALL PROCESSES BE ABOVE BOARD AND CONDUCTED WITH UTMOST DISCRETION AND INTEGRITY.**

In order to address the inequities of the application process the following was put into place:

- A subcommittee was formed late in 2019 to review and revise the nomination form which was passed through committee.
- A KOY panel was formed comprising one member of current committee (as the convenor) and two former KOYs, so as to be as impartial as possible.
- Applications are valid for three years, but each year the panel contacts unsuccessful nominees from the previous two years to ask the nominator if the -
  - ⇒ nominator is willing to nominate that person again.
  - ⇒ nominee is willing to be put up for the current year.
  - ⇒ nominator would appreciate any support to improve the nomination or if they have additional information to add.
- The convenor sends all information to the panel members as soon as possible after the closing time of 5pm on June 30<sup>th</sup>. (For 2023 only, the closing date is 5pm Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup>.)
- The panel meets as soon as possible after that.
- Any conflict of interest is clearly stated and considered in the discussion.
- Information supplied is authenticated as required.
- Each application is evaluated exhaustively against the criteria and a ranking score is allocated for each criterion.
- A summary sheet is prepared.
- As soon as is possible, after that, the panel presents the information and a summary of the applications to a full KAV committee meeting.
- A decision is reached by the full committee after the full committee has fully discussed and disclosed any conflicts of interest. The decision is motioned by the committee.
- President informs the winning candidate by August 14<sup>th</sup>.
- A bulletin is distributed about the winner with a synopsis of their achievements.

It is essential that:

- every section of the nomination form must be completed.
- In Section 2, the criteria are clearly stated in the application form and each nominee's application is measured against the following criteria:
  1. **The Nominee must be of Kastellorizian descent.**
  2. **(i) The Nominee must have demonstrated excellence in a field of endeavour.**  
**(ii) The Nominee has made an outstanding contribution to the Kastellorizian, Greek and/or Australian community.**
  3. **The Nominee must be an inspirational role model for Kastellorizians.**

An electronic nomination form is being investigated to ensure that, in the future, all information is collated consistently and that applications are not adversely affected by postal services.

**It is essential that it is understood that any information NOT submitted in the nomination form cannot be considered. This puts the onus firmly on the nominator to ensure that their research has been completed and that nominees are not adversely advantaged by local hearsay.**

**The nominators are encouraged to contact committee for application writing support.**