

Bankstown's Grand Dame celebrates

It was another milestone month for Bankstown's Mamma Lena who celebrated her 85th birthday with a dizzying round of parties.

On June 27, 250 people joined her at the Conca D'Oro Reception Centre at Riverwood where \$16,000 was raised towards the construction of St Mary's Cathedral spire.

On July 7 at the APLA Club in Camperdown another 150 people joined with her family to wish her a happy birthday.

The last party occurred on July 13 at the Marconi Club where the club's president, Tony Labbozzetta, wished

Mamma Lena all the best in front of 200 guests.

The Italian Government also came to the party. To celebrate Italy's National Day, Mamma Lena was awarded The Cross of Commendatore (Dame) on June 6.

The award recognises 40 years of Mamma Lena's selfless work for the Italo-Australian community.

This last award follows those given in 1967 by the Italian Government



Mamma Lena (second from left) is pictured with her family: son Robert, husband Dino, daughter Rosalba and son-in-law Peter Campbell.

(Knight of the Italian Republic) and the Queen's MBE given in 1968.

She is the only woman in Australia to have been recognised with these three awards.

USA beckons

Responding to a magazine contest, Condeff Park High student Lori Richards has been given the opportunity to be a contestant in the Youth Post of the year competition in Washington at the end of this year with \$100,000 prize money and a publishing contract up for grabs.

Lori's poem entitled "War" was recognised by the International Society of Poets and accordingly included in an anthology called, "The Liquid Mirror".

Lori is only in Year 10 and she hopes an organisation or fund raising drive through Condeff Park High to cover

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