



MEGISTI MESSENGER



Newsletter of the

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn WA 6016 Phone 94432110

December 1st 2010

Volume 4, Issue 1

Family Christmas Function 2010

By Allan Cresswell

Please do support our family Friday Night Christmas function next week, December 10th, commencing 6.30pm. Full details are on page 5. A very special dinner has been planned for our Christmas windup for 2010 and we look forward to your support.

This is a chance to bring family members and friends to our Association and to provide links for the next generation to develop a stronger knowledge and an affiliation to our Castellorizian heritage.

We need your support to ensure that our Association does not decline over the next few years and that the heritage, the principals and the ideals of our ancestors continue on through to the next generations.

Let us ensure that our hundred years of existence continues onwards through the support for functions such as this.

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NEED TO CONTACT THE EDITOR?

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Greek Dancing Classes



HERITAGE

TRADITIONAL GREEK FOLK DANCING
ΠΑΡΑΔΟΣΙΑΚΟΙ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΙ ΧΟΡΟΙ

Heritage Traditional Greek Folk Dancing classes have commenced at Castellorizian House on a Sunday.

Stephen Livanos is conducting three classes every Sunday commencing at 12.45pm.

To obtain further information on these classes do visit his website at: <http://www.hellenicdance.com.au/>

Alternatively you can contact Stephen on his email address at Stephen@hellenicdance.com.au or on his mobile at 0424657751

On page 14 of the Megisti Messenger background information on Stephen Livanos can be viewed.

Our Association is providing Castellorizian House at no cost for these classes as a contribution to assist in the fostering of Greek traditional folk dancing. Stephen is an enthusiastic and professional dance teacher and has been highly recommended to us.

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

**Cordially invites you and your family to the
FRIDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER**

**To be held at
CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE
160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn WA**

**Friday 10th December 2010
Commencing 6.30pm**

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PAGE 5

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

The Castellorizian Association of WA AGM was held on October 27th 2010. It was very pleasing that we obtained a quorum and that the meeting flowed smoothly. Once again I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and devoted support throughout the 2009 - 2010 year.

At our AGM the President Award for 2009/2010 was awarded to Allan Cresswell for his dedication and commitment to our association. Allan has worked tirelessly over the last three years as Vice President of the Castellorizian Association of WA and as the editor and a regular contributor to our newsletter, the *Megisti Messenger*. Our association members are always looking forward to receiving and reading the newsletter every three months. Once again, well done Allan for your contributions, both to our association and to the Castellorizian Community in general.

The President Award is an annual award for services to the Castellorizian Association of WA by a committee member or an association member. The inaugural award in 2009 was presented to Michael Paul.



President Jim Manifis presenting Allan Cresswell with the President Award for 2010 at the AGM on October 27th 2010

Photo Courtesy Tony Samiotis

The new committee for 2010 - 2011 is as follows:

President - Jim Manifis

Vice President - Allan Cresswell

Secretary - Kevin Kannis

Treasurer - Michael Paul

Committee - Tony Samiotis, Michael Spartalis, Michael Palassis, Catherine Papanastasiou, Con Kannis.

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I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Darcy Pappas for his continued support as auditor of our accounts and for his support to our Treasurer, Michael Paul. I would also like to thank Tony Coufos for his continued dedication in organising membership and distribution of the Kassi News.

As you are all aware, we will be celebrating our Centenary year in 2012. The planning of this auspicious milestone is well underway and we need the support of all our members to contribute to the events in 2012. Over the 100 years there have been a number of our members who have contributed to the establishment of our association and its progress. For this reason there are a number of families that have been involved and therefore they need to support us in the future. As President my theme for this year will be concerning - "where the Castellorizian Association will be in the next 20 years". We need the support of all our members to promote our association and to attract the next generation of Castellorizians to become involved in our activities.

On Friday the 10th of December, our association will be having its Christmas function at the Castellorizian house at 6:30pm. We are promoting this occasion as a family night; therefore we are hoping our members will bring their children and grandchildren. This is the first function where we are trying to involve the next generation of Castellorizians. Tickets are \$40 a head including a 3 course Christmas meal and drinks. Cost for children under 15 is \$20. There will be a festive atmosphere with fun and activities to make it a great success.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Samiotis family on the recent passing of Mrs Chrissie Samiotis (nee Drimatis). Mrs Samiotis had kindly donated the Icon of St Constantine and Helene to our association, which will now be proudly displayed at Castellorizian House. The Icon was presented by her son, Tony, at the Santrape Memorial Luncheon on October 24th 2010, a month before her passing.



Tony Samiotis displaying the Icon of St Constantine and Helene at the Santrape Memorial Luncheon October 24th 2010
Photo Courtesy Allan Cresswell

SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepared by Cath Papanastasiou and Allan Cresswell

Every issue of *Megisti Messenger* will display details of Birthdays, Engagements, Anniversaries, Marriages, Deaths, Get Well, Congratulations, Travelling Abroad/Interstate and other announcements of interest to the Castellorizian community. It is **not** a requirement that a person be a member of our Association. Please contact the Editor or a Committee Member to advise of the event so it can be included in the next newsletter.

MARRIAGES



Congratulations to Emilia Galatis and Raffaele Brotzu on their marriage on September 25th 2010 at Castellorizo. Emilia is the daughter of John and Katherine (nee Kailis) and the granddaughter of Peter and Bianca Kailis (see photo below). Congratulations to Jessica Kounis and Julian Pritchard who married in October.



VALE

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Angela Anastas (nee Papalia), Chrissie Samiotis (nee Drimatis), Katie Mavros (nee Antonas), Despina Kalaf (nee Sevaston), Michael Marazis (NSW), George Varnavides, Theo G Kailis, John (Jack) Sofoulis, Johnny Antonas, Peter Fermanis and Steve Kakulas.



BIRTHS/BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Michael and Deborah Spartalis (nee Kounis) on the birth of their second daughter, Alexia Dionne, born 24th November 2010. Congratulations to Nick and Natusha Wenn (nee Petrelis) on the baptism of their daughter, Sophia. The godmother was Maria Karageorge. Congratulations to Vasilios and Lisa Zempilas (nee Fogliani) on the baptism of their son, Apostolos. The godmother was Fotini Creemers.



BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to Sylvia Gregory (nee Kikiros) - 60th, Helen Anastasas (nee Manifis) - 60th, Con Tringas - 70th and Paul N Paul- 80th who celebrated these special birthdays recently.



Wedding of Emilia Galatis to Raffaele Brotzu at Castellorizo on September 25th 2010

Photo Courtesy Allan Cresswell

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

The 2010/2011 Castellorizian Association of WA Inc Annual Subscriptions are now due. Please do forward your \$10.00 membership fee to 160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn WA 6016.

If your Membership is outstanding you will have received notification with this newsletter. Your co-operation is appreciated so that membership can be maintained.

FRIDAY NIGHT CHRISTMAS DINNER

10th December 2010



To be held at

Castellorizian House
160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn

Commencing 6.30pm

Your family is most welcomed to attend our Christmas function. This is a special family night where children, grandchildren, family members and friends are all invited.

Could you please phone Jim Manifis (9344 4574 or 0433 165 601) to confirm your attendance as we need to know numbers for catering purposes. Cost is \$40 per head, including food and drinks with children under the age of 15 \$20.

The committee has worked continually all year to provide opportunities to celebrate these special occasions and relies on the support of members to make the day a success.

CATERER REQUIRED FOR CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE

Commencing in 2011 our Association will require a new caterer to operate our kitchen on a regular basis. Catering will be required for Friday evenings and for various luncheons, dinners and special functions throughout the year.

Please contact President, Jim Manifis on 93444574 or 0433165601 if you are able to assist, or know of a person, family or catering firm that might be appropriate for our catering needs.

Jim looks forward to receiving suggestions ASAP.

HISTORICAL FINDINGS OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE IN KASTELLORIZO

Written by and photos from Doctor Paul Boyatzis

Whilst carrying out routine maintenance work to the walls of the Cathedral of Saints Constantine and Helene in Kastellorizo, stone structures have been unearthed which may well be part of an earlier Church on the site believed to have been built by Saint Helene on her return journey from the Holy Land following her find of the Holy Cross.



Church of Saints Constantine and Helene

Tradition has it that following the finding of the Cross and returning to Constantinople, Saint Helene took refuge in the safe harbor of Kastellorizo in order to avoid the treacherous seas that prevailed, as it was a common practice with sailors of times gone by. It is believed that by way of thanks giving the devout Christian and mother of Emperor Constantine, commissioned the building of a small church on the island.

Various photographs taken by me during my recent visit to Kastellorizo reveals an arched structure on the south eastern wall of the Church building with a cross at the apex which according to the island's well known priest, Father George Maltezos, may well be the entrance to the small original Church.



Entrance to the small original Church?

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

According to Father George permits for extensive excavations are imminent and if the findings are as suspected the significance for Kastellorizo and indeed for Christendom as a whole is mind boggling.

A reason for my visit to Kastellorizo with family and friends, including Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell and wife Jean, was to participate in the commemorative services on the 65th anniversary of the Empire Patrol Disaster, 29 September 1945.

The religious significance of the Patron Saints of Kastellorizo, Saints Constantine and Helene, in the lives of Kastellorizians is well known. Indeed our parish Church here in Perth is named in keeping with the Cathedral in Kastellorizo, even though of totally different structure.



Interior of Church

The current Gothic church building was erected in 1835 on the site of yet another church (apart from the purported initial St Helene's dedication) and has a magnificent interior and superb marble *iconostasion*. The roof structure is supported by 12 ornate giant monolithic granite pillars which were transported by barges from Patara of Lycia (now Turkey). The pillars date from antiquity and formed part of the Temple of Apollo.



Ornate Pillar

WE WANT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY!

“Life and Times of Castellorizians”

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!!!!

Don't miss this opportunity to record your family's story

A few families have given us their stories and we know many of you are still working on contributions to the commemorative book so your family will have the opportunity to publish their story.

Submissions close in January 2011 so you still have some time but you will find it cannot be done in one sitting. You need to start working on it NOW and perhaps discuss it with your extended families at Christmas.

For \$200 your family's story will be part of a permanent record in a quality publication in which you will get;

- A full A4 page comprising about 400 words dedicated to your family
- Photo's may be included but this, will reduce the number of words
- Half pages are available
- Two copies the handbook for each page you contribute and one copy for each half page

Additional copies of the book will be available for purchase and it will also be sold to visitors and the general public.

WE APPRECIATE THAT YOU MAY NEED SOME ASSISTANCE

To help you prepare your contribution we will be publishing some of those already received but if you need further help we are more than happy to assist.

Please don't miss this opportunity to record your story and be a part of the 2012 Centenary celebrations of the oldest Castellorizian Association outside Greece.

If you need any help or more information then please call Bartley KAKULAS (08 9474 4606) or Nick NICHOLAS (08 9204 5889)

Email your submission to centenary2012@iprimus.com.au and post your payment of \$200 (or \$100 for a half page), with a copy of your story, to the Castellorizian Association of WA, 160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn WA 6016. When you send in your payment please provide us with the name of a contact person with their phone number and email address.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES (9 & 10) IS AN EXAMPLE OF A SUBMISSION PROVIDED BY BARTLEY KAKULAS

FAMILY HISTORY EXAMPLE

Written by Bartley Kakulas

Anthony George Palassis
Born Castellorizo 23 March 1901

Panagiota Palassis nee Pengly
Born Castellorizo 1 January 1904

Arrived WA 1916 Arrived WA 1932
Married Castellorizo 25 January 1925



Anthony was the youngest son of George Constantine Palassis and Savathiani Palassis nee Exindari. Anthony had only two siblings, brothers Constantine and Nicholas. Anthony was educated at Sandrape Luca Boys School to age 13 then worked in a drapers shop to age 15.

In 1916 at age 15 with his brother Nicholas he migrated to Australia via Port Said & Singapore to Darwin taking four months to get to Australia. Nicholas stayed in Darwin but Anthony came to Fremantle to join his brother Costa. He obtained employment as a kitchen hand working seven days a week from 6am to 8pm for 12 shillings and 6 pence that converts to \$1.25 per week. He paid 20% of his wage for a shared room.

After a year he with Costa obtained work at the Wyndham Meat Works being paid 4 pounds & 36 pence (\$8.72). Anthony worked hard at various places including Northam, Port Pirie & Greenbushes.

In 1924/25 with brother Nicholas he returned to Castellorizo and they had a double wedding with Nicholas marrying Helen Komninos and Anthony Panagiota Pengly.

Anthony returned to Australia continued to work in the South West including Nannup where he was cutting sleepers for the railway line. In 1928 with his brother Nicholas he rented a wooden empty shop in Manjimup and opened a fish & chip shop.

His wife and son George joined him in Manjimup. During the 1930's Anthony by hard work was able to purchase a home in Manjimup, a block of land and with brother Nick the property of his business. He also purchased another vacant lot where he later built three rental shops.

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In 1940 the wooden shop was demolished and replaced with a brick building comprising a modern restaurant and a large rental shop that was rented as a variety store. The restaurant needed a chef. Castellorizians Angelo Drimatis, George Psaltis & Michael Spartalis were at various times employed as the chef until Anthony learnt the trade and he became the Chef.

Panagiota was the eldest of eight children of Theodosios and Constandinia Pengly. Her siblings were Anthony, Dimitri, Irene Christopher, Peter, Nicholas, Dialecti Kondilios & Evangelia Penklis. Panagiota went to the Santrape Luca Girls School. As was the custom in those days Panagiota as the oldest daughter assisted her mother in the home.

Panagiota and Anthony had three children as follows:

George born Castellorizo 1925. George married Margaret Anastas and they had three children Anthony, Michael and Vanessa. Nellie born Manjimup 1935. Nellie married Bartley Kakulas and they had four children Peter, Anthony, Pelagia and Pamella. Theo born Manjimup 1939. Theo married Elaine Pappajohn and they had two children Anthony and Pippen.

The family stayed in Manjimup until 1946 when due to Panagiota's ill health they came to Perth and Anthony retired. Anthony came out of retirement in 1949 and opened a restaurant with brother Nicholas in one of Anthony's shops in Manjimup. Three months later Nicholas returned to Perth and Anthony's son George became his partner. After three years they sold the business and Anthony once again retired.

Anthony passed away in 1989 aged 88 years and Panagiota passed away in 1990 aged 86 years.

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE EMPIRE PATROL WEBSITE

The launch of the *Empire Patrol* Website was held at Castellorizian House on Friday September 10th 2010 at a mixed husband and wife evening. Doctor Paul Boyatzis gave an excellent visual and descriptive overview of the website whilst Allan Cresswell operated the projector. The website was the brainchild of Dr Boyatzis who had support and webpage construction from Allan. Special guests included Reverend Father Elpidios and the WA Greek Consul, Sofia Choli.



BACK ROW (from left): Doctor Paul Boyatzis (survivor and creator of the website), Antonis (Tony) Koufos (Perth correspondent for *Kastelloriziaka Nea*), Konstandinos (Dino) Houlis (survivor), Allan Cresswell (creator of website and Vice President Castellorizian Assn of WA), Jim Manifis (President Castellorizian Assn of WA)

FRONT ROW: Katina Yiannakis (nee Athanassiou) (survivor), Nicholas Loukas (survivor), Sophia Choli (Consul of Greece in Perth WA), Reverend Father Elpidios (Parish Priest Church of Saints Constantine and Helene Perth WA) and Athanasios (Arthur) Athanassiou (Athans) (survivor)

BOOK LAUNCH – Kastellorizo: My Odyssey

By Allan Cresswell

Australian Friends of Kastellorizo illustrated children's book, *Kastellorizo: My Odyssey* was officially launched by His Excellency, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael, at Castellorizian House on 7th November, 2010. The opening address was provided by Norman Ashton followed by Dr Ken Michael. Both gave a wonderful account of the importance of such a great reference book that children and adults alike will enjoy. Co-authors Marilyn Tsolakis and J Andrew Johnstone gave speeches on the background behind the compiling of the book and talked on the aims and objectives of such a book. Nearly 300 people were in attendance during the afternoon.

Initially my wife and I purchased three books but after viewing the wonderful text and the beautiful illustrations by Dr Platon Alexiou we rejoined the queue to purchase more. We wanted to ensure that all our family would have a copy of this most informative book.

Although our family household contains many books of historical importance relating to Castellorizo I later saw for the first time my wife actually reading the fascinating history of the island. She had never tackled the detailed history that other books contain. Now through just one sitting she had a much better understanding of the turbulent and tragic history of such a special island. Well done to all those involved in producing such an excellent book. This is a wonderful book for every family of Castellorizian descent.

Contact the AFK Coordinator, Marilyn Tsolakis on email coordinator@australianfriendskastellorizo.org or telephone (08) 93871681 to purchase a copy of this limited edition book.



Dr Norman Ashton and His Excellency, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael



Co-authors Marilyn Tsolakis and J Andrew Johnstone signing *Kastellorizo: My Odyssey* at the book launch



Marilyn Tsolakis, His Excellency, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael, Dr Norman Ashton and J Andrew Johnstone



Part of the large crowd at Castellorizian House for the book launch of *Kastellorizo: My Odyssey*

EMPIRE PATROL 65TH COMMEMORATION AT CASTELLORIZO

Written by and photos from Allan Cresswell

Doctor Paul Boyatzis and his family, together with Allan Cresswell and his wife, Jean, arranged to visit Castellorizo for the 65th anniversary of the *Empire Patrol* disaster. A special Commemorative Church Service was conducted by Reverend Father George on Wednesday September 29th 2010 followed by a luncheon at Lola and Komninos' restaurant.



GROUP PHOTOGRAPH AFTER 65th COMMEMORATION CHURCH SERVICE SEPTEMBER 29th 2010 IN CASTELLORIZO



Whilst at the new *Empire Patrol* memorial Doctor Boyatzis and Allan Cresswell met a local Castellorizian survivor, Maria Papastatikou (nee Koungra).

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Dr Boyatzis meets local *Castellorizian Empire Patrol* Survivor, Yannis Kizalas (Past Mayor of Castellorizo)



Dr Boyatzis meets local *Castellorizian Empire Patrol* Survivor, Maria Lazarakis (nee Roditi)

Numerous visits to the recently completed *Empire Patrol* memorial outside St George Church was a feature to our visit to Castellorizo. Doctor Boyatzis also made renewed connection with local Castellorizians who, along with him, survived the *Empire Patrol* disaster.



View of the front of the memorial



View of the memorial showing the sculptured relief

A CASTELLORIZIAN MUSEUM?

Prepared by Allan Cresswell

Preliminary discussions are invited from our association members on the possible creation of an association museum.

Comments or suggestions should be directed to our President, Jim Manifis, preferably by email or by letter.

Preliminary suggested items that may be subject to discussion or comment are:

- Possible formation of a museum sub-committee
- The location of the museum within Castellorizian House
- Security of donated items
- Register of items donated
- Recording of donors of items
- Re-location of existing glassed items in main hall
- Display cabinets – design and placement
- Access and availability of museum to our members
- Appointment of a museum supervisor or responsible person

HERITAGE TRADITIONAL GREEK FOLK DANCING

By Stephen Anthony Livanos - Artistic Director - Heritage Traditional Greek Folk Dancing



Stephen is conducting Greek Folk Dancing Classes at Castellorizian House. For further information and his contact details please refer to Page 1 of this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*.

I would like to thank Mr. Allan Cresswell, for inviting me to be introduced as an Australian friend of Kastellorizo, in my capacity as a lifetime dancer of the Dora Stratou Theatre, Athens and artistic director of the Heritage Traditional Greek Folk Dancing project, in Western Australia. In addition to this, I will use this opportunity to acknowledge those who have shown me so much unconditional love and support, as well as those I am yet to meet, who will be supporting the Heritage Traditional Greek Folk Dancing project. At this point, it is with great pleasure that I invite you to refer to my website www.hellenicdance.com.au as this article can only be understood after an overview of its contents.

I have chosen not to direct this article towards myself but rather to focus on why I have established a dance school in Western Australia and where it is taking me.

I was born on the 27th of January 1981 in the city of Johannesburg, South Africa. I am the son of Greek parents who were also born in Africa, of Greek parents. I love my family and it hurts, because after living 20 years of my life in Africa, I as well as my immediate family took a collectively correct and informed decision to immigrate to Australia. Having grown up within a large loving family and huge Greek social network, I suddenly found myself in Perth. I awakened to the immeasurable worth of my Hellenic roots and traditions, role modeled by my grandparents and elders. Not having them around, I realised my obligation to retain and share these treasures with others. Please let me take this moment to thank those whom have so warmly welcomed my family and I, into our wonderful community.

Over time I have grown to understand that immigration is a part of our rich culture and feel that its challenges have refined me as a Greek. It has helped me grasp a better understanding the words “ethos” and “filotimo”. Two words repeated to me and fellow students, by Mrs. Anastasia Krystallidis, Executive Head of the South African Hellenic Educational and Technical Institute SAHETI – sister school to St Andrews Grammar. I graduated from the institute as the lead dancer and realized I had a responsibility to assume in my new home. Subsequent to the completion of a Bachelor of Commerce Degree, Masters in Professional Accounting and commencement of the CPA program, I followed my calling to help develop a community based program centered on Greek Dance. For many years I yearned to participate in a social activity of this nature, I could hold back no more and assumed the duty to lead. Many people suggested that should I long for such an activity, it would be easier for me to live in Melbourne. How could I turn a blind eye on my community in Western Australia?

I chose self sacrifice, a technique I learnt as the national under 13 South African junior chess champion, an achievement which allowed me to walk into any school in South Africa – I chose SAHETI. Thus, I went straight to the world authority for Greek Dancing, the Dora Stratou Theatre. I was declined support. At the time, the theatre had three independent artistic directors totally separate from administration, as to ensure and control the integrity and quality of authentic dance. All I can say is that it is Gods’ Will that I have been welcomed for life, as a theatre dancer of the Dora Stratou Theatre. I am the only person from abroad to have been granted such a status, under such circumstances within the organization since its inception in 1953. “I don’t know how you did it, but you are now a part of the Dora Stratou family and have my full support” Dr Alkis C. Raftis president of the National Dora Stratou Dance Theatre in Athens, and the International Dance Council CID in UNESCO, Paris. I am now in the process of and have been encouraged to secure the presidency of the Australian section of CID.

In closing off, I am delighted to humbly inform you that I am anticipating the highlight and greatest honor of my life, this coming Easter. I have been personally invited to perform in Constantinople for His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartholomew.

PHOTOS OF RECENT FUNCTIONS



**Castellorizian Association of WA
Committee Dinner at Siena's of Leederville
October 26th 2010**



**Castellorizian Association of WA
Melbourne Cup Luncheon at Siena's of Leederville
November 2nd 2010**



**Castellorizian Association of WA
Melbourne Cup Luncheon at Siena's of Leederville
November 2nd 2010**



**Castellorizian Association of WA
Melbourne Cup Luncheon at Siena's of Leederville
November 2nd 2010**

FAMILY HISTORY WEBSITE UPDATE

Webmaster - Allan Cresswell

The Castellorizian Family History (Genealogy) website continues to grow daily. There are now over 18600 persons listed on the website. Since registration became compulsory earlier in 2010 a total of 1008 persons have registered to view the contents of the website. Much of the information has been validated, however a few errors or omissions exist for some families. Once these are identified, adjustments are immediately made.

A total of nearly 1900 media items such as photos and documents are displayed on the website. Please do register to view what information we have on your family. Those persons supplying information are acknowledged by way of identifying them as the 'source'.

The website provides for you to not only look at family information but will display pedigree charts, descendant charts and relationship displays that can also be printed off for other family members to view.

Please do visit the website at www.castellorizo.org – there are no costs involved in viewing or contributing to the Castellorizian Genealogy Website.

CAZZIE TRIBUTE



Reference:

John N. Yiannakis, 'Mandalis, Lazarus Constantine (1896 - 1968)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 15, [Melbourne University Press](http://www.melbourneuniversitypress.com.au), 2000, p. 294.

WW2 Nominal Roll website: <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au>

Australians and Greeks Volume III – **Hugh Gilchrist**

'From Kastellorizo' – Memoirs of a Greek Migrant Family – **Michael (Stratos) Jack Kailis**

Interview in 1990 with **Cynthia Cresswell (nee Karasavas)** – now deceased

Prepared by Allan Cresswell

LAZARUS (LESLIE) CONSTANTINE MANDALIS

Businessman and Greek Community Leader

Lazarus Constantine Mandalis was born on 15 January 1896 at Port Said, Egypt, one of seven children of Greek-born parents, Constantine Michael Mandalis, engineer, and his wife Ekaterini (nee Lazarou). His parents had moved to Egypt from Castellorizo after Constantine had obtained work with the Suez Canal Co. Educated at church schools in Cairo and at Port Said, Lazarus proved an excellent student of foreign languages, including English, French, Italian, Spanish and Arabic.

At the age of 17 years Lazarus migrated to Western Australia in search of adventure and in the hope of making a better living. He settled in Perth where he was employed as a liquor salesman and waiter. During World War I he acted as a Greek interpreter in the Censor's Office.

Mandalis also worked as an interpreter in court and as an accountant, but he was principally an importer of continental foodstuffs. He assisted in founding in 1918 the Hellenic Club Association. Set up for the social and recreational needs of the increasing number of male Greeks in Perth. He became secretary in 1923 of the Hellenic Community of WA, a newly formed pan-Hellenic organization. He was to hold that post for thirty-seven years.

At St George's Cathedral, Perth, on 26 April 1928 Mandalis married with Greek Orthodox rites Marea Auguste, a 21-year-old accountant; she was the daughter of Athanasios Auguste, one of the earliest Castellorizians to arrive in Western Australia. The marriage strengthened Mandalis's standing in the Greek community in Perth. A dynamic and persuasive orator, he convinced members of the Hellenic Community in 1935 to proceed with building the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St Constantine and St Helene in Perth.

As secretary of the H.C.W.A., he nominated a number of Greeks for admission to Australia and assisted them after their arrival. On 22 September 1941 Mandalis lowered his age and enlisted in the Militia. Transferring to the Australian Imperial Force in November 1942, he was commissioned in the Security Section, Intelligence Corps, in January 1943. He was assigned service number WX35563 and held the rank of Lieutenant. He acted as a translator and in 1946 sailed for Italy, guarding prisoners of war who were in the process of being repatriated back to Italy. He was discharged from the A.I.F. on March 14th 1947.

Mandalis was very articulate and was sought after and invited to most Greek weddings, often as a guest speaker. His ability to communicate both in English and Greek made him the ideal person where English people were present. At the wedding of Cynthia Karasavas to an Australian, Ron Cresswell, in 1942, Lazarus Mandalis was invited to attend. In an interview in 1990 Cynthia recalled, "*Mr Les Mandalis was at my wedding as a father figure and Mrs Edith (Anna) Gravis, who was Australian but could speak fluent Greek, also stood at the door and assisted. Mrs Gravis and Mr Mandalis knew all the Greek people and met the visitors with my mother. It was all done so beautifully. There was no language problems as Mrs Gravis and Mr Mandalis conducted conversations with all the visitors and my mother understood all that was going on.*"

Many of Western Australia's State and Federal politicians sought out Mandalis to present their views to Perth's Greek community. He regularly offered counsel to his compatriots. From the late 1930s, as a translator and interpreter, he had been associated with H. P. Downing, the honorary consul for Greece in Western Australia. Mandalis served (from 1951) as a justice of the peace. In 1960 he was appointed to the Royal Order of the Phoenix in recognition of his promotion of Australian-Greek relations. That year he and his wife retired to Sydney to live near their daughters. Survived by his wife, son and three daughters, he died on 6 August 1968 in his Potts Point home and was buried in Botany cemetery.