

# Megisti Messenger

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 Volume 6, Issue 1

Newsletter of the  
Castellorizian  
Association of WA Inc  
160 Anzac Road  
Mt Hawthorn WA 6016

Tel/Fax: 94432110

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**Apokries Function**  
**March 10 2013**  
*See Page 3*

**St Constantine &  
Helene Day Family**  
**Picnic May 19 2013**  
*See Page 3*

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Articles for the  
*Megisti Messenger*  
are always welcomed.

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Deadline for May 1 2013  
edition is Apr 27 2013.

## **President's Report**



President  
Jim Manifis

As this is the first *Megisti Messenger* for 2013 I still need to reflect on the year 2012. As you are all aware the 100 year celebrations in 2012 were the most important in the history of our association. I was so proud to be president of the Castellorizian Association of WA in the year 2012. We must all thank the previous presidents, committee members and members of our association in reaching 100 years. We are the oldest Greek association in Australia and the second oldest ethnic association in WA.

We received so many compliments and congratulations from associations and individual people indicating it was the best celebrations they have ever attended. For this reason I must thank all members of the steering committee for their contribution over the 3 years.

I congratulate the following committee members on their election at the AGM in October 2012. Allan Cresswell - Vice President, Tina Kyros - Secretary, Michael Paul - Treasurer, Sion Xanthis - House Manager, Catherine Papanastasiou - Committee Member, Phyllis Samiotis - Committee Member, Kevin Kannis - Committee Member, Tony Samiotis - Committee Member.

I would like to congratulate Kevin Kannis who was awarded the President's Award for 2012. Kevin's contribution, not only in 2012 but the entire period that he has been on the committee has been of the highest standard. As secretary of the association in 2011 and 2012 and also a member of the steering committee, Kevin's involvement in the association has been greatly appreciated by myself and all the members of the association.

In relation to the Castellorizian national body, little progress has been made since our initial meeting. The formation of the association was discussed in detail at the AGM and the members were all in favour in forming the national body. It was indicated that further discussions and issues need to be resolved before we could progress any further. The members believe for the benefit of Castellorizians in Australia, a body of this type needs to be formed.

The committee has discussed many topics at its meetings and the year 2013 we will be looking at improving facilities at the Castellorizian house for the benefit of our members. We have already commenced working on a display unit which will be used to house a number of artefacts of Castellorizian history. We are also considering replacing the store rooms at the back of the house.

The committee is planning a number of social events during the year and your support as members is imperative. The first of our functions will be Apokria' on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March at 6pm. The cost is only \$25.00, with food and drinks included. The second of our functions the committee is planning to hold is a picnic on Saint Constantine Helene Celebrations on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. I would have to go back many years to recall the last Greek picnic in Perth. As a child I recall attending these picnics and there would be hundreds of people in attendance and enjoying the festivities. The committee suggested something different to encourage our members to attend. Towards the end of 2012 one of our functions was badly patronised by our members which upset me immensely. May I just remind you all the committee works very hard to promote **your** association, therefore your support at our functions is important.

I'd like to thank John Pitsikas for his presentation of the certificate which congratulated all the members of the steering committee. Also I'd like to thank Peter and Despa McDonald for their presentation of the framed chocolate wrapper that we had for our centenary ball. Both of these items will be displayed in the Castellorizian House.

# SOCIAL NEWS

Compiled by Tina Kyros, Kevin Kannis, Cath Papanastasiou and Allan Cresswell

## Births

- Anthony, Marisa (nee Mavromatis) Ruby and Jonathon welcome **Zoe Chrisanthi** into their family. Granddaughter for Angelo and Krissi (nee Kannis) Mavromatis, John and Margaret Bellantoni.
- Stephen and Sarah Kostarelas are delighted to announce the arrival of a baby girl **Rhea Alison**. Rea is the fourth granddaughter to Tony & Merrill (nee Kannis) Kostarelas and the first granddaughter to Leslie & Alison Craig.
- Gemma and Troy MacMillan are delighted to announce the arrival of a baby boy **Alexander John**. Another grandchild for Tony & Merrill (nee Kannis) Kostarelas.
- Congratulations to Michael and Kylie Mavromatis on the birth of their first child a daughter, **Eva**. Proud grandparents Angelo and Kriss Mavromatis.
- Congratulations to Michael and Eveena Palassis (nee Anastasas) on the birth of their son **Austin Michael** on 16 November 2012. Grandson for Stan and Evelyn Palassis and Steve and Helen Anastasas.

## Christenings

- Congratulations to Louis and Evangeline Anastasas (nee Athanasiou) on the baptism of their daughter **Marina Eve** on 11 November 2012. Granddaughter of Father John and Presvitera Marina Athanasiou and Steve and Helen Anastasas.

## Engagements

- Congratulations to **Michael John Kannis** and **Jenny Kovac** on their engagement (Michael is the son of Con and Jenny Kannis).
- Congratulations to **Alicia Miriklis** and **Angus Faulkner** on their engagement (Alicia is the daughter of Paul and Fay (nee Stavrianou) Miriklis).

## Marriages

- Congratulations to **Sotiria (nee Grapsas)** and **Todd (Vasilios) Harnett** on their wedding in November 2012.

## Birthdays



Congratulations to **Michael Kakulas** who celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> 2013.



Congratulations to **Michael Tsolakis** who celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> 2012.



Congratulations to **Peter Kanganas** who celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.



Congratulations to **Michael Paul** who celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 2012.

- ❖ **Angelo (Bill) Spartalis** will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Mar 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

## Holidays

- ❖ **Allan and Jean Cresswell** returned recently from a seven week trip visiting Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Greece and France.
- ❖ **Darcy and Cath Papanastasiou** and their two daughters, **Nerina and Cerissa** had a wonderful trip to the Gold Coast earlier this year and encountered the aftermath of the cyclone.

## Congratulations

- ❖ Congratulations to **Nicholas George Pappas** for his AM at the Australia Day 2013 Awards.
- ❖ **Sef Lazarakis** has been awarded with a medal for 40 years of service to Athletics of Australia. In her 40 years of unbroken service she has performed as Chief Timekeeper in WA for a number of years. She still attends Friday night meets and also officiates at special meets such as The Grand Prix series and State Athletics Championships.

## Vale

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

- ❖ **Michael Pynes** Aug 19 2012
- ❖ **Maria Simeon (nee Kailis)** Dec 7 2012
- ❖ **Vayio Panorios (nee Simonides)** Dec 17 2012
- ❖ **Peter Tsapazi** Jan 12 2013
- ❖ **Marjorie Etrelezis (nee Christon)** Jan 20 2013

**APOKRIES BBQ 2013**



**CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**Invites you to an**

**APOKRIES BBQ**

**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

**COMMENCING AT 6PM**

**CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE**

**160 ANZAC ROAD**

**MOUNT HAWTHORN**

**ENTRY: ADULTS \$25.00      CHILDREN \$15.00**

**ALL WELCOME**

**ST'S CONSTANTINE AND HELENE DAY  
PICNIC**

**Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> 2013**

**Venue to be decided**

**Please mark your calendars and keep free this most important  
day where we will be having an outdoor picnic (BYO)**

**VENUE AND FINAL DETAILS WILL BE ADVISED IN THE MAY 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 MEGISTI MESSENGER**

# AGM 2012

## YOUR 2012/2013 CASTELLORIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA COMMITTEE



**2012/2013  
Castellorizian Assn  
Committee**

**BACK ROW:**

**From Left**

**Sion Xanthis**  
(House Manager)

**Cath Papanastasiou**  
(Committee)

**Kevin Kannis**  
(Committee)

**Phyllis Samiotis**  
(Committee)

**Tony Samiotis**  
(Committee)

**FRONT ROW:**

**From Left**

**Michael Paul**  
(Treasurer)

**Allan Cresswell**  
(Vice President)

**Jim Manifis**  
(President)

**Tina Kyros**  
(Secretary)

Photo courtesy Allan Cresswell

The October 2012 Annual General Meeting saw the election of the 2012/2013 Castellorizian Association of WA Inc Committee. Cath Papanastasiou joined the previous year's committee expanding the committee to nine persons. Kevin Kannis received the President's Award for all his work during the past two years, and especially his wonderful contribution behind the scene in ensuring that the Commemorative Reflections Book was an excellent publication. Kevin also had a great input into the Centenary Celebrations arrangements and his efforts as the Association Secretary are to be commended. Kevin has also had great input into the membership rolls and the latest mailing format of the *Megisti Messenger*.

At a meeting held the following week after the AGM the executive committee was elected by the committee. The office bearers are listed above alongside the committee photograph.

Contact details for all committee members are listed on page 17 of this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*.



**President Jim Manifis  
congratulating  
Kevin Kannis  
on receiving the  
President's Award  
for 2012**

Photo courtesy  
Allan Cresswell



## Castellorizian Centenary 2012 events

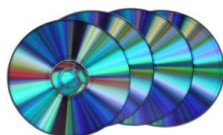
# Available Now as a 3 disc DVD set!

### A wonderful momento for future generations

Relive and reminisce all of the events of the CENTENARY week with your own copy at just \$20 per set.

Available at the Apokries function 10 March and from Cazzie House. Limited copies available so reserve your set either by contacting any of the Committee or emailing: [centenary2012@gmail.com](mailto:centenary2012@gmail.com)

Interstate persons can forward their payment to Castellorizian Association of WA 160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn WA 6016



## HIRING CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE

Members of the Castellorizian Association are reminded that the headquarters in Mount Hawthorn is available for hire for small family functions and community gatherings.

Anyone interested in using the facility should contact the House Manager, Mr Sion Xanthis on 0417326271.

The building has food preparation and serving facilities as well as access to catering services if necessary. There are some restrictions on the use of the building and kitchen area which will be advised by the house manager.

### HIRE CHARGES

#### SCALE OF CHARGES

TYPE OF HIRE	RATE
Casual hire, seminars etc, up to 3 hours	\$100
Casual hire, parties, reunions etc, 3 hours and over. Bond required for extended events (\$300members) Non members (\$500)	\$350    members \$250
Regular weekly or monthly hire.	POA

# CAZZIE COOKING CLASSES 2013

Article by Phyllis Samiotis  
Photos courtesy Tony Samiotis

## Katoumari Second Time Around.

The first Cooking class for 2013 held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February was highly successful. Thirty eight enthusiastic participants eagerly listened to Phyllis Samiotis' instructions as she deftly rolled the pastry to make the irresistible Katoumari. Cazzy House was filled with the lovely aroma of cloves and butter of the freshly made sweet. Everyone was very happy with their attempt.

It was pleasing to see visitors from Hong Kong (Andrea Yiannakis) and Melbourne (Nellie and Bartley's daughter Pamela) attend. It was also lovely to see young children come to learn about our traditional recipes. They were Tiani Glasglow, Nellie and Bartley's grand daughter and Ellie Anastasas Helen and Steve's grand daughter. Philip and Georgia's son Ben Bullock was a notable attendee - it would be great to see more males attending future classes.

Our next demonstration will be in late March and there will be an array of Greek dips prepared by Fay Katris and Helen Anastasas. Meanwhile, Happy Cooking to all.







# MUSEUM PROJECT REPORT

By Allan Cresswell

The Museum Project at the entrance area of Castellorizian House has been moving very slowly towards completion. The shopfitter have yet to place the Perspex on top of the safety glass or install the display shelving. So things are at a standstill until these items are completed.

Once it is completed all items in the old existing display cabinet will be moved to the new display area. It should look great when completed. Security will be paramount so that any items donated or loaned to the association will be safe. A register will be kept of all items on display including who donated or loaned the items. If practical this register will be on display on an adjoining wall as an acknowledgement of the contributors.

It is intended to dismantle the old display cabinet and replace it with a new lockable timber cabinet with a glass frontage. Within this cabinet will be held a library collection of all books pertaining to, or mentioning, Castellorizo. These will be books that form a reference library for research and will include books written about the history of Castellorizo, migration to Australia and Brazil, family histories and the like.

We have already onhand a copy of Nicholas Pappas' book 'An Island in Time' and I would like to donate a spare copy of the much sought after books 'The Greeks in Brazil' and 'Visual Memory of the Greek Colony at Florianopolis'. If you have any spare copies of books on Castellorizo or about Castellorizians to donate they would be much appreciated for this worthwhile project.

The new timber cabinet will also hold CD's and DVD's relating to Castellorizo and will include any available audio interviews, Castellorizian music and movies/film clips relating to the island. Again any donated items will be much appreciated.

Later in the year when the museum display and the cabinet are up and running it is planned to have an open day to formally open the museum project and perhaps have people talk about some of the personal history associated with the items, in an open forum format. There are many options available to us once the museum project is in an operational state.

Please contact Allan Cresswell (see page 17 of *Megisti Messenger* for contact details) if you can contribute to any of these projects.

## THESIS RESEARCHER REQUESTING INTERVIEWS

Prepared by Allan Cresswell

Renée Doropoulos (granddaughter of Peter and Katie Georgis) is seeking contact with Castellorizians who she may be able to interview. She is currently writing a thesis through Deakin University for a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in History. She also works in the History Department of the WA Museum. Her research is looking at the migration from Castellorizo to Western Australia, and what people brought with them.

In her email to me she states in part,

**"To conduct my research, it would be imperative that I would be able to access the objects amassed by the Castellorizian Association and Community. I would like to gain access to the community's collection by making contact with those community members who have "donated" items to the virtual museum. I am interested in discussing those objects and documenting their history. I am open to this discussion taking place informally, but if participants are willing, I would also be interested in conducting a formal interview (i.e. recorded).**

**Currently there is very little material in museums in Australia related to Castellorizian migration, if any at all. I am interested in the community's proactive engagement with preserving its own history of migration to Western Australia. I feel this is a very important story, not only for the community, but for the broader history of Western Australia and Western Australians."**

Initially she is seeking to interview those Castellorizians who migrated to Western Australia post World War Two. If you can assist in this most worthwhile research please contact Renée on mobile 0417040078 or email her at [renee.doropoulos@gmail.com](mailto:renee.doropoulos@gmail.com)



## CASTELLORIZIAN WAR SERVICE HONOUR BOARD

Compiled by Allan Cresswell

Tina Kyros and myself are preparing the framework and background to create an honour board to commemorate the War Service of Western Australian Castellorizian Servicemen and Servicewomen. A similar board is displayed at the Victorian Kastellorizian Association headquarters.

When I first saw the Victorian board in 2009 I immediately realized that our State should also have one. Later when I spoke to the now late Jack Kyros he also told of a desire that a board should be constructed. So it is very appropriate now that his daughter joins me in this project.

It has been tentatively decided that ALL Castellorizian service personnel should be honoured on the board. This includes both for service abroad and within in Australia. This approach eliminates the difficulty in establishing whether a person saw active duty or not, or overseas duty or not. The army particularly causes problems in that it distinguishes Active Duty as a 'WX' number and Home Duty as a 'W' number during WW2. However many 'W' numbers did go overseas (New Guinea and associated islands in particular) and many were at Rottne, Darwin, etc when they were deemed at certain times as 'Active Duty'. Likewise many 'WX' numbers who were willing to go overseas remained at home for various reasons. The simple solution is to include them all. They were all willing to serve their country in time of war.

The next stage is to establish which Castellorizians in Western Australia enlisted for service. There are many sources of information to obtain lists of Greeks who saw service but determining whether they are Castellorizian or not is often difficult. Many of the records list birthplace as Asia Minor, Rhodes, Athens or Egypt. Some families living at these locations were Castellorizians and others not. Likewise some Greek families in WA with the same surname came from Castellorizo and others did not. So the difficulty remains in establishing for some individuals as to whether they are Castellorizian or not. In addition some non Cazzies married Castellorizian women in WA and their children associate themselves as Castellorizians (rightly so) and their surname is associated as Castellorizian – however the father is not so and is not be included on the board.

Then there is the issue as to who are Western Australian Castellorizians. Working on the service records there are many servicemen who joined in WA but the family relocated (mainly to Sydney) immediately after the war. Some were even here working whilst their family already lived elsewhere in Australia. The question is should they be included on the board? Then we have the situation where men enlisted elsewhere in Australia but were from a WA Cazzie family or were born here. Who to include and who not to include?

So the task is rather daunting as we do not wish to leave someone off who should be included nor do we wish to display someone on the board who should not be there.

Going through the official records we have located 160 persons who completed war service, who we believe to be of Castellorizian descent and who are associated in some way with WA. This has been compiled mainly from those who enlisted in WA and may not include those who were connected to this State but enlisted elsewhere. The task is now to go through each name and validate them using our established protocols.

This is where you come in – we require your assistance to confirm if you know of a family member who had war service during WW2 and is Castellorizian or of Castellorizian descent. It is only WW2 where we have issues as the other wars are so well documented and the numbers are small. Contact numbers for Tina and myself are on page 17 of this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*. Your contribution to this project is appreciated. In the May 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the *Megisti Messenger* a provisional list will be published of those persons we have identified, together with known queries.

## USE OF CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE

On page 5 of this edition of the *Megisti Messenger* costs are shown for the hire of Castellorizian House. Daytime use for the premises for members is only \$100 for three hours. It is an ideal venue for seminars and funeral wakes, very central and with all facilities including airconditioning, toilets, verandah and a pleasant outdoor area. Contact Sion Xanthis whose contact details are on page 17.

Also 'In Memory' donations to the associated are appreciated and a letter goes to the family advising of the donation received. An excellent way to pay your respect to the deceased and the immediate family members.

# CHRISTMAS DINNER 2012

Article by Phyllis and Tony Samiotis

Photos courtesy Tony Samiotis and Tina Kyros

Happy Hour on Friday December 14<sup>th</sup> was the scene of our Christmas Dinner. The room was beautifully decorated with a large Father Christmas, laser lights and strip lighting courtesy of our President Jim Manifis.

A festive meal comprising of an antipasto opener, seafood entrée, rolled turkey breast with vegies and plum pudding with custard was served followed by coffee, tea and cake.

At this point we would like to thank Prokopi and John for all their efforts in providing this special Christmas meal. In the background a DVD of the Centenary Ball was on display, creating great interest. We would like to thank Peter McDonnell for presenting a specially framed souvenir of the Centenary chocolate wrapper to the Association. It will be a great keepsake to remember the Centenary celebrations.

Entertainment was provided by belly dancer with some of our members participating with her in style. A small but appreciative crowd attended the function and an enjoyable time was had by all. It was a great way to start the festive season.









## CHRISTMAS DINNER 2012 - CONT



## ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Compiled by Kevin Kannis

### YOU CAN NOW PAY YOU MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS BY ELECTRONIC TRANSFER

The membership subscriptions for 2012/13 became due on 1 July 2012 but there are a significant number of members who have not renewed their memberships. There is an insert with this edition showing your membership status.

Your subscriptions fund the *Megisti Messenger* and other activities that support the objectives of our Association so it helps us all if you pay your subscription promptly and ensure you remain as a member of our Association to build on the success of the 2012 Centenary year.

Annual membership fees are \$20 (or \$30 for a couple). Please forward your payment to the Castellorizian Association of WA at 160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn WA 6016 or make your payment by **electronic transfer** using **BSB 066-129 Acc 00800217**. Please put the **member code**, shown at the bottom of the address cover sheet, for this *Megisti Messenger*, in the payees description so we can identify your payment. The deposit receipt number will be your proof of payment as paper receipts will not be issued to members who pay electronically.

We are continually endeavouring to get our membership records complete. You can assist by advising us of your email address and letting us know if your name is shown correctly and is the title you prefer.

# Dr Stan's Olive Corner – Olives, Oil and Religion

Written by Dr Stan Kailis

Olives and olive oil have been associated with religion since ancient times. Early references can be traced to the Bible (old testament). Olive oil has religious representation for healing, strength and dedication, possibly related to its ancient use as a healing and cleansing agent.

From the time of christening, during life and at funeral services, olive oil has special significance. At christening the infant is immersed in the baptismal font and anointed with holy oil (olive oil). The godparent then carefully rubs oil over the baby's body during the ceremony. The sacrament of holy unction, anointing the ill person, gives physical and healing with holy oil (olive oil). At the end of the holy Wednesday service worshippers go to the front of the church where the Priest with a cotton swab dipped in oil (olive oil) makes the sign of the cross on the forehead, cheeks, chin and front and back of their hands. To conclude the funeral service traditionally the Greek Orthodox priest sprinkles oil (olive oil) on the body in the form of a cross then the casket is closed. Alternatively olive oil and wine are poured over the casket after it is lowered into the ground.

Olive oil is also the fuel for the kandili (olive lamp) in Greek Orthodox churches. At home the kandili, symbolic of the light of Jesus, should be constantly glowing as reminder that Christ is present. Dr Stan remembers when his paternal grandmother, Kostantinia, passed away a kandili was placed on her casket as relations and friends paid their last respects. It was the only light in the room and all that could see was their kandili lit faces.

Olive growing has always been associated with Christian missions, monasteries and religious ceremonies. Dr Stan has visited Christian monasteries in (Greece - Crete and Thessaloniki) and California (San Juan Capistrano) where ancient olive trees are still producing olives that yield extra virgin olive oil.

Extra virgin olive oil is obtained from the olive fruit by first grinding the whole fruit, flesh and stone then pressing the paste at room temperature to extract the oil – cold pressed virgin olive. Virgin olive oil of the highest quality is called extra virgin olive oil.

Dr Stan advises that only extra virgin oil should be eaten, either drizzled over salads and vegetables or used in preparing hot foods and frying. As extra virgin olive oil is the oil from the olive juice, without any other treatment, it retains all its natural essential fats, vitamins and antioxidants that are considered to contribute to better health especially reducing the risk of heart disease and some cancers. Other food oils including pure olive oil, olive pomace oil, sunflower oil, canola oil although generally less expensive than extra virgin olive oil, are often refined, losing health promoting ingredients during processing. Additional uses for olive oil include cosmetics and soap.

Dr Stan has been instrumental in the development of new olive groves at Western Australia monasteries firstly at the Benedictine Monastery at New Norcia complementing olive trees planted by early Monks in 1856, and at the Greek Orthodox Monastery St John of the Mountain at Forrestfield. He also advised Greek Monks at St Anthony's Monastery Arizona, USA regarding table olive processing.

At New Norcia the new olive grove he assisted in the planting of around 400 trees including the following varieties – Kalamata, Manzanilla, Mission, Frantoio, Pendolino and Leccino. Recent pressings of olives from these trees have resulted in the production of prize winning extra virgin olive oil.

At St John of the Mountain Monastery, the Monks under the direction of Father Evagrios and with the help of Fathers' Thalassios and Prodromos and volunteers, Dr Stan provided and assisted in planting several hundred olive trees for their new olive grove. Many of the plantings are of Greek varieties including Kalamata, Koroneiki and Volos. The Monks, with the help of numerous donors have also established their own modern olive oil milling facilities at the Monastery site for the production of extra virgin olive oil. To date the new olive grove is around 3 years old and will be productive soon. In the meantime the Monks have produced extra virgin olive oil from donated olives.

Dr Stan tasted the oil from the donated olives. He found the oil had a distinct pleasant fresh aroma and when he tasted the oil it was sweet and buttery followed by a peppery sensation. The latter is important because it signals the presence of natural antioxidants. He found that when added to mashed potato and garden salad, the monastery oil enhanced the flavour, an invitation to eat more. Dr Stan predicts that when the Monastery olive trees yield their fruit, the resulting oil will be greener and more aromatic and reminiscent of the Greek extra virgin olive oils produced in Peloponnese and island oils such as from Crete, Kythera and Lesbos.

Dr Stan Recommends planting new olive trees during March/April.

For further information contact Dr Stan at email: [stan.kailis@y7mail.com](mailto:stan.kailis@y7mail.com) or 0417261644. If this article is reproduced in another publication, please acknowledge the author.



# AFK NEWS

## *Australian Friends of Kastellorizo Student Exchange Program*

*Australian Friends of Kastellorizo* would like to thank the Kastellorizian Association of Western Australia for hosting an evening at the Kastellorizian House on Friday 17 August 2012. It was advertised as a family night where young teenagers could meet Eleni Karavelatzis, an Exchange Student from Kastellorizo. For some young people it was a time to forge new friendships, not only with Eleni, but with other young people from Perth. I am told that some of these friendships continue today as a result of this function. Eleni accepted gifts most graciously from the Kastellorizian Association as well as the President and his wife, Jim and Anna Manifis. Eleni was touched by such generosity and would like to express her thanks.

The photos on the following pages capture the lively atmosphere in which the energy of young people transformed the Kastellorizian House. Eleni told me that this was one of the highlights of her time in Perth.

Perth hospitality left an indelible mark on her. Eleni stayed with Katherine, Lambi, Socrates and Phillia Bakaimis family whilst she was in Perth. "Australia is a place I would love to live. I loved everything, especially Perth."

Eleni participated in some lessons at St Andrew's Grammar and Duncraig Senior High School, as well as taking in the cultural and social sights that our city has to offer, before she left for Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

### **Student Exchange 2013**

If any of you know of a 15 year old who would like to apply for exchange to Kastellorizo in the October school holidays, please contact me. Preference is given to students who do not always have the opportunity to travel. It is a wonderful experience for young people to gain a greater understanding and connection with their cultural heritage.

Marilyn Tsolakis

[coordinator@kastellorizo.com](mailto:coordinator@kastellorizo.com)

0423776896

Photos courtesy Marilyn Tsolakis





## EXCHANGE STUDENT FUNCTION PHOTOS - CONTINUED



# LEFFY (ELEFTHERIOS) BOYATZIS

Submitted by Dr Paul Boyatzis



Leffy Boyatzis, as a 3 years old, was arguably, one of the youngest survivors when he was rescued from the Empire Patrol disaster. His whole immediate family and extended relatives left Castellorizo in 1943 with the exception of his elder brother, Vasilis who didn't survive the German bombing.

Leffy's father, Andony, played a significant part in the rescue of survivors from the burning ship. Andony, desperate to ensure that at least some of his children may have some chance of survival lowered with ropes Leffy and eldest brother Paul, to the Carley float to join his aunt Zoe and cousin Paul. The float carried 12 survivors, women and children who floated submerged in water for 24 hours before being rescued the following day by the British navy and taken to Port Said. The two brothers were reunited with the rest of the family and eventually transferred to Castellorizo.

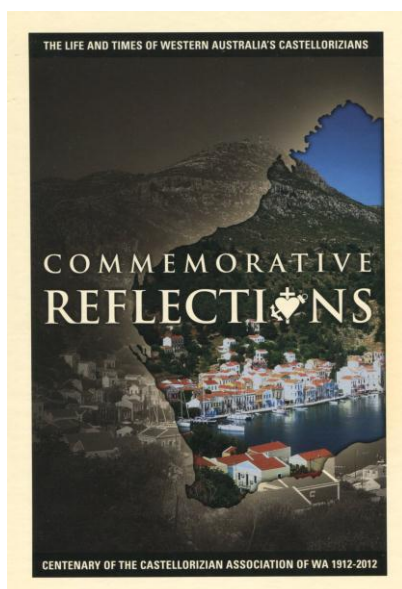
Leffy obviously does not remember the disaster but he often narrates the story as he heard from his cousin Paul. Due to his young age he spent the period in the float nursed on his aunt Zoe's knee and innocently even though floating up to his neck in water he would periodically ask permission to urinate.

The Andony Boyatzis family in 1948 migrated to Perth to join relatives when Leffy was six years old. Hence the nick name "Leffy Six". For even at that age the young boy's intelligence was apparent. When he was asked his name, it came to his notice that the next question would be regarding his age. To save time therefore his response to "what is your name" was "Leffy Six", by which he is fondly referred to up to this day.

Leffy completed his schooling in Perth and worked and travelled widely. Eventually he graduated as a school teacher attaining the post of headmaster in London from which he retired several years ago. He is now a property owner, British citizen in London, whose hobby and pleasant past time is to entertain friends and relatives from Australia and other parts of the world. If one goes to the UK and happens to have had some connection with Leffy invariably he or she will be a house guest or at least be invited home for a roast pork meal. "Leffy Six...our Man in London" is now a more appropriate "title". If you are unable to travel, you can still catch up with Leffy at one of his frequent holidays in Perth.



## **“COMMEMORATIVE REFLECTIONS” REPRINT**



The Commemorative Reflections Book – The Life and Times of Western Australian Castellorizians was so well received when it was released for purchase that it sold out in a short period of time. Some families missed out in obtaining copies.

The printing company has since been approached to produce a very small extra run of this wonderful book and it is now available at Castellorizian House for \$45.00. The availability is very limited so to obtain a copy of this reprint you need to be quick. Contact any committee member of the association.

This hard cover book tells 131 stories of Castellorizians families and individuals within the 164 pages.

### **BOUQUETS TO CAZZY COMMITTEES 2012**

As a former Treasurer of the Castellorizian Association from 1993 to 2004 it gives me great a great deal of pleasure to congratulate the two committees that successfully promoted the centenary celebrations and presented a very profitable Treasurers Report for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012. All this success can be attributed to the four years of the very dedicated Cazzy Association Committee and the three years of hard work by the honorary, self-elected Centenary Committee.

We now have over 500 members and I hope all members endorse my elation and continue being financial for many more years. We owe it to posterity to preserve our existence for the next one hundred years. Once again a big THANK YOU! Jack Pitsikas

### **CONTACT DETAILS FOR OUR 2012/2013 COMMITTEE:**

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# CAZZIE TRIBUTE

Taken from an article compiled by Mea Hewitt (Daughter)



**Constantine Michael Malaxos**  
**Aka Kostas Malaxos-Alexander**  
**Nickname - 'Kazamias'**

Constantine Malaxos was born in 1902 of Castellorizian parents at the small town of Pheonikas, Asia Minor. His origin was Cretan, dating back to the eighteenth century when one of his forefathers left the village of Malaxa, in Chania, to escape the Turkish authorities and went to the neighbouring Dodecanese. This explains the origin of his surname Malaxos. Later on, in Australia he added the name Alexander to the surname Malaxos, taken from his great-grandfather's family name Alexandrakis.

He attended elementary school for only a few years because in 1911 his father, who then worked at the law court of Pheonikas, heard that a war would break out and therefore sent young Costas (nine years of age) to Perth, Australia, to stay with their uncle, Peter Michelides, a cigarette factory owner. In Perth he worked for the first few years at his uncle's factory and then later at Simon Lekias's 'Sydney Cafe' as an oyster opener, while attending evening high school classes.

At the beginning of the decade of the 1920s he worked in Fremantle and at gold mines in the inland of Western Australia. In the middle of that decade he went to Greece where, for a few months in 1926, he worked at the water supply works in Marathon. But for political reasons he had to leave, some time after 1927, and went to London, returning from there to Perth in 1930.

Between 1930 and 1935 he studied philosophy at the University of Western Australia-working during the day and studying in the evenings-gaining a Bachelor of Arts (Honours). At the University he also studied English, Greek, French and Italian. After his graduation, while waiting for a teaching appointment, he worked once more at his uncle's cigarette factory for a few months.

In 1935 he was appointed as a teacher at the town of Treesvale in Western Australia. In 1937-1938 he taught at high schools in the Melbourne suburbs of Gardiner and Glenroy. It was at that time he became a close friend of the parish priest and later Archbishop of Australia, Theophylactos Papathanasaopoulos with whom he worked for the encouragement of intellectual activities and the founding of a Greek school in Melbourne, the 'Hellenic School of Victoria', at which he taught.

In 1938 he was allowed to use a classroom in the Melbourne Technical College where he taught foreign languages to immigrants. At the end of November 1938, however, he left his job in Melbourne to go to Perth. He stayed there until the beginning of the Second World War, teaching English to immigrant children, especially Greek children, using teaching facilities at the Perth Technical College.

During the war he served in the Australian Army as an interpreter. After his demobilisation (1944), he, returned at first to Melbourne and then left for Greece, where he stayed until the end of 1954. During this period in Athens he gained certificates in French and Italian, and taught English language to the military academies of the Army, Air force and Navy. He also gave tutorials to high-ranking officers of the Greek forces and to members of the Greek Government of the time. In 1955 he travelled to the United States, Canada and Europe and then, from the end of 1955 to 1963, he taught at a high school in London.

In 1963 he returned to Melbourne. The Department of Education of Victoria approved him as a high school teacher of English and French, but he stayed for two years only. In 1965 he left for Athens, where he lived until 1969 giving tutorials in English. Not able to find a permanent position in Athens, he returned to Perth. Finally, in 1971, he returned again to Greece. He lived there with relatives in Piraeus, but in the meantime his health was deteriorating (he suffered from Alzheimer's disease) and on 17 October 1973 his daughter brought him back to Perth. Two weeks later, on 2 November 1973, he died of pneumonia in a hospital in the city.

His interests extended to literature, language and philosophy, both European and Oriental, and for that reason his friend gave him the nickname 'Kazamias' (Fabled astrologer of older times whose name was given to an old book of prophecies). He wrote literature in Greek and in English, and published poems, short stories, feature articles in literary style and articles of sociological, philosophical and politico-philosophical content although in 1926-27, the period of his first stay in Athens, he wrote poetry and prose (such as the long poem 'Rose Leaves' and an untitled political novel in verse in English) these remained unfinished and unpublished.

His first literary publications were poems in English, which he wrote during the period of his university studies in Perth (1930-1935). A number of them appeared in the periodical Black Swan and (along with articles) in the students' newspaper Pelican. His first literary works appeared in 1937 in the Melbourne newspaper Phos, in which he used to publish regularly. Ever since then, during the times he was in Australia, he contributed to To Ethniko Vema, Panellinios Kirykas and Ta Nea and the periodical Krikos (London).

Several of his poems have been published in the newspaper Mesoyiaki Foni and in the journal Antipodes.

Sighs in the Mist, Melbourne 1965 (Greek). This work was edited and the introduction written by his friend and fellow-poet Nikos Ninolakis, who wrote the last poem in the collection which, as an epilogue, was dedicated to the poet and entitled 'A Vagabond of Knowledge'.

Many of his poems, prose pieces and philosophical essays, in both languages, remain unpublished. He translated into English the poem 'Further on from Moulamein...' by Nikos Nonolakis (Antipodes, Vol 1, No 1, 1974, p. 7). In 1963 in Melbourne he organized a literary philosophical circle of young Greek writers of the time (N. Nikolakis, T Kalagas, K. Amanatides, D. Amanatides (then Papandreopoulou) and others. In 1964, assisted by the nucleus, he was instrumental in founding the Association of Greek Writers of the Commonwealth of Australia (S.E.L.A.S.), which was the first literary association in Australia.

Malaxos' leading and intellectual personality inspired several Greek writers of Melbourne to dedicate literary works to him, especially his friend Nikos Ninolakis who, apart from editing the poetry collections, Sighs in the Mist, also composed a poem entitled 'dedication to C. M. Alexander (Malaxos)' (Ta Nea, July 1964).

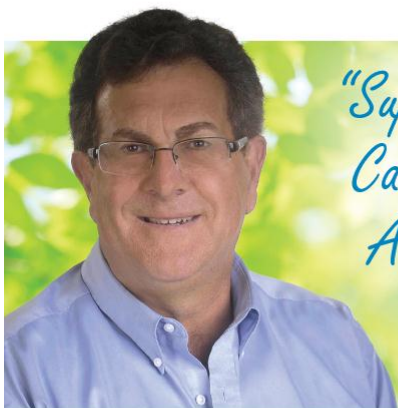
And from Australians and Greeks Volume 1 The Early Years Author Hugh Gilchrist Page 250 .....

**“Another 1911 arrival was Konstantinos Alexandrou, known as Kostas Malaxos-Alexander. This slightly eccentric intellectual was born in Kas in Southern Turkey of Kastellorizon parents, whose forebears had lived in Malaxos, near Khandia in Crete. When he was nine his father sent him and his elder brother to Perth in order to escape eventual Turkish call-up for military service a motive not unusual among Greek parents in Asia Minor. Under the wing of his uncle, Peter Michelides, he worked in the latter's tobacco factory, and later as an oyster-opener in Simon Lekias's Sydney Cafe in Barrack Street, and studied at evening school. His mental precocity earned him the nickname Kazamia (the name of an 18th century Turkish fortune-teller and later the pen-name of an erudite Athenian columnist.); at the age of 11, it is said that he was discovered in the shop's lavatory reading Shakespeare. Largely self taught he became the University of Western Australia's first Greek graduate and a significant figure in Greek-Australian literary life.”**

# Michael Sutherland



Your State Member for **Mount Lawley**



*"Supporting the  
Castellorizian  
Association"*

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