



MEGISTI MESSENGER



Newsletter of the

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn WA 6016 Phone 94432110

July 1st 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Feedback on the First Issue of *Megisti Messenger* and Info on this Issue

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

The launch of the first *Megisti Messenger* on April 1st 2008 brought excellent response and feedback from our members.

It is great to see such positive comments and various suggestions coming in. The only real problem that occurred was that we failed to print enough copies of the *Megisti Messenger*. This has now been corrected but since then the mailing list has grown even bigger!

In this second edition we include some wonderful articles recently supplied to the editor. This is just what we wanted to occur and they provide a diverse range of topics and articles for our members to read.

The first article is provided by our own Dr John Nicholas Yiannakis who is attached to the Australian Research Institute at Curtin University. It is a great article on the historical background relating to the Dodecanese Islands uniting with Greece. It also brings to focus that this year is the 60th Anniversary of this great event. Many of us have Castellorizian ancestors who migrated to Australia because their island was handed over to the Italians in 1923.

My own grandfather departed for Australia in 1924 solely because of the Italian occupation.

The second article is from Connie Gregory (nee Antonakakis) of Melbourne who has kindly allowed her previously published article, "The Call of the Homeland", to be included in our newsletter. When I read this story for the first time this week it was so very poignant for me - as my sister and I are preparing for our first ever visit to Castellorizo in September. I know it will be a very emotional experience when the ferry enters the harbour during the evening and I am sure many of our readers have already experienced those same emotions on visiting the island that Connie wonderfully details in her article about going home to Castellorizo. We are impatient for our trip to happen!

The third feature article is from Marilyn Tsolakis who is part of a wonderful organisation called the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo (AFK). Do read the article and see what excellent aims, goals and projects this organisation have identified and are prioritising. Some of these have already been implemented since their formation in 2007.

Do also remember that our *Megisti Messenger* is also available online and in colour at:

<http://www.castellorizo.org/newsletter/>

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NEED TO CONTACT THE EDITOR?

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CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA Cordially invites you to the TOU PROFITI ELIA LUNCHEON



To be held at
Castellorizian House
160 Anzac Road Perth WA

Sunday 20th July 2008 at 12 Midday
Cost: \$25
Food and Drinks included

Please Contact Committee Members for Tickets

SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepared by Catherine 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.



BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to Anthony (Tony) Zempilas, Rose Verevis (nee Spartalis) and Theodore (Theo) George Kailis who all celebrated their 80th birthday recently. Congratulations also to Rose Kalaf (nee Manifis) who celebrates a special birthday. Happy birthday to Jack Anastasakis who is turning 60 years of age this week.



MARRIAGES

Congratulations to Erin Metaxas and Richard Cardy on their marriage.



BIRTHS/BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Troy Levissianos and Melissa (nee Vlachou) on the birth of their first born – a daughter, Mikalya Alexa. Michael Kakulas and Amanda (nee King) became proud parents of their first born – a daughter, Alexia Rose. Justin Michael and Evangeline (nee Kostarelas), celebrate the birth of Kenneth Anthony. A brother for Julia. Congratulations to Arthur Psaltis and Yvette (nee Manifis) on the arrival of their daughter, Felicity Grace. A sister for Natasha and Ellie.



GET WELL SOON

Peter McDonnell is recovering at home after his four week stay in hospital. Great to see Michael Paul progressing so well in his recovery. The medical team, his wife Betty and Michael himself are to be congratulated on such wonderful progress.



VALE

Our deepest sympathies are passed onto the families and friends of Anthony (Tony) Michael OAM, Demosthenis (Denny) Tsokos, Anastassia (Nancy) Stamatis (nee Manifis), Anastasis Kalimeris, Harry Macrides (of Darwin), Glykeria Stavrou (nee Athanassiou) (of Melbourne), Evangeline (Vangy) McMahon (nee Pitsikas) and Constantinos (Con) Tsokos.



HOLIDAYS/TRAVELLING

Allan Cresswell together with his wife, Jean, and sister, Stacey and partner, are leaving in September for a five week holiday of Turkey and Greece. Paul and Eva Stain with Peter and Poppy Katsapis are heading on a Phuket holiday cruise. John and Maria Stamatis are off to Europe as are Katina Kakulas (nee Karageorge) and her daughter, Helen Finn (nee Kakulas). Peter and Melba Kanganas are on a cruise ship out of Perth as are Margaret Kouts (nee Panos) and Rose Courtis (nee Kakulas).



ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Mary and Peter Naomis on their recent 50th wedding anniversary.



CONGRATULATIONS

- Congratulations to George Gelavis of Ultimate Skills in being a 2008 regional finalist in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year award.
- Congratulations to Constantine Nicholas on his recent Painting Exhibition held at Perth.

Taken from Painting Exhibition Promo for Constantine Nicholas

<p>White Cloud Story where sky meets earth</p>  <p>Constantine Nicholas</p>	<p>CONSTANTINE NICHOLAS PAINTINGS 2007-2008</p> <p>EXHIBITION OPENS FRIDAY 30 MAY 2008 6 - 8 PM EXHIBITION CLOSES 22 JUNE 2008</p> <p><small>COVER IMAGE: Munkberry Hill SAM © Constantine Nicholas 2008</small></p>
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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

Here we are in July and we are producing our second newsletter. Many thanks to Allan Cresswell for a tremendous effort with the *Megisti Messenger* newsletter. There is a considerable amount of work that is required to prepare the publication. The beginning of July brings us to a new financial year which is a reminder that membership fees are now due.

Enclosed is a Castellorizian Association of WA membership form which is for new/renewal of your membership for 2008/2009. For those members who have paid in advance, please pass membership form on to others who may wish to join. Membership fees are only \$10 per year which includes subscription to our newsletter, the *Megisti Messenger*.

In our last publication it was brought to our member's attention that we needed sponsors for our newsletter. The generosity of the Castellorizian once again has proven to be second to none. We have had two generous people who have offered to pay for the cost of the newsletter.

The Saint Constantine and Helene Dinner Dance recently held was a great success. The highlight of the evening was our floor show. I'd like to thank Despo Moulatsiotis for organising the magician who happened to be her cousin, Allan Karasavas.

The Men's Happy Hour which is held every Friday night has numbers fluctuating up and down and this is of concern. All members are welcome to attend the happy hour with a cost of \$25 per head, including food and drinks. Recently we held our first father and son happy hour with a great response. It was good to see a number of fathers and sons bonding with each other. Due to the good response we have committed to make all attending sons members for the 2008/2009 year. Therefore they will receive all our correspondence in future.

I once again would like to send my condolences to all the Michael families on the sad loss of Anthony (Tony) Michael OAM. We are all aware of Anthony's contribution to the Greek community and to our association. His involvement in the Hellenic Football Club during my time of playing will never be forgotten.

Our next Sunday luncheon will be held on the 20th July 2008 at the Cazzie House commencing at 12 noon. All are welcome. Tickets are \$25, including food and drinks. Tickets available from committee members. Please do support this function by organising a table!

ORTHODOX ACTIVITIES

Prepared by Catherine Papanastasiou

The Parish of Sts Constantine & Helene is having a Winter Appeal and parishioners are asked to assist by bringing in blankets, sleeping bags, jumpers and jackets that are in good condition as well as non-perishable foods that can be easily accessed. These goods will be distributed to the many needy families throughout Perth. All items can be handed in to the Church committee or directly to Fr Elpidios.

The Church of St Constantine & Helene has received a grant of \$275,000 which will be deposited in the national Trust of Australia (WA). This money may only be used for the restoration of the main roof and the internal frescos and paintings of the church.

The English Liturgy Services held at the Church of Evangelismos continue on Saturdays. The Divine Liturgy commences at 8.45am:

12 July	-
9 August	30 August
13 September	27 September
11 October	25 October

HAPPY HOUR 20's – 40's

By GANDER!

The opening night on Friday 20th June 2008 was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

Plenty of food and refreshments were available and appreciated.

Those who did attend assured us it is a good idea and more nights should be held. Perhaps every second or third month would be adequate.

It was heartening for us to receive excellent comments and should prove more successful next time.

Comments made to us and taken onboard were:

- Music required
- At least one month notice required

Once again thanks to those who did attend.



Editorial

It is great to see people like Con Kailis willing to make the effort and commitment to develop projects to ensure that the Perth Castellorizian Community continues to flourish and exist into the next generation. His concept of a 20s to 40s group is an excellent idea. But Con just doesn't think of these ideas – he puts them into practice. Con spent weeks locating names and addresses to post out flyers to this group. He was looking for a target of 50 persons for the first gathering but although he didn't quite reach this number I am sure the word will get around with larger numbers in the Happy Hours to come.

Well done Con and we all look forward to this concept becoming a huge success with the younger generation as the word spreads around.

CASTELLORIZO AND UNION WITH GREECE

Dr John N Yiannakis

(Australia Research Institute, Curtin University)



Recently, Perth hosted an official delegation from Rhodes. This visit was, in part, a goodwill gesture to re-affirm sister-city relations between Rhodes (and Castellorizo) and the City of Perth. However, it was also part of a commemorative visit to Australia honouring the union (or enosis) of the Dodecanese islands with Greece after World War Two. A peace treaty between Greece and Italy was concluded in Paris during February 1947, and was ratified in November of that same year. Then, on 7 March 1948, while mainland Greece was being torn apart by civil war, King Paul officiated at the ceremony that united the entire Dodecanese islands with the rest of Greece. The 2008 visit by the local government officials of Rhodes to Australia coincided with the 60th anniversary of the hand-over.

For Castellorizo, unification with Greece was not guaranteed at the war's end. From April 1945 until the signing of the peace treaty, the Dodecanese was under the jurisdiction of the British Military Administration. In April 1945, the secretary of the British Military Administration notified the External Affairs Department in Australia that 'it has always been our intention that all islands with the possible exception of Castellorizo should go to Greece after the war'.¹ Australian officialdom wanted further clarification, and so came a reply stating that no decision about the future of the islands had been reached and that the British awaited the peace settlement.² The Turkish government soon expressed concern to British authorities about the fate of the islands. The Dodecanese were very close to Turkey and therefore important to Turkish security. Furthermore, they claimed that 'Castellorizo, [too], really belonged to Turkey [but they] handed it over to Italy in 1923'.³

Meantime, Dr Herbert Evatt, Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for External Affairs, who had played a pivotal role in the formation of the United Nations, and for which he was rewarded in 1948 with the Presidency of the General Assembly, took up the plight of Castellorizo in international negotiations. He was able to help convince the Council of Foreign Ministers that Castellorizo and the entire Dodecanese should be unified with Greece.

According to Hugh Gilchrist, Castellorizians in Evatt's electorate of Barton lobbied him to press Greece's claim, and Evatt did just that. It has also been suggested that, while in New York, Evatt argued that it was 'imperative' for Castellorizo to be ceded to Greece with the rest of the islands of the Dodecanese.⁴ The Council of Foreign Ministers accepted this cession in June 1946.

The photograph below, seemingly taken at the Embassy Ballroom, shows Perth's Castellorizian community belatedly celebrating the end of the war and the 1946 decision for Castellorizo to be unified with Greece. In the background, the Greek flag can be seen alongside that of Britain and the United States. When Castellorizo was officially united with Greece in 1948, only 663 people remained on the island to celebrate Greek citizenship.



¹ National Archives (Canberra), *Administration of the Dodecanese*, A/1066, A/45/1013/11, 24 April 1945.

² *ibid.*, 18 May 1945.

³ *ibid.*, 16 May 1945.

⁴ *ibid.*

Photo from *HYA News*.

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

MEET YOUR 2008 COMMITTEE

Prepared by Allan Cresswell

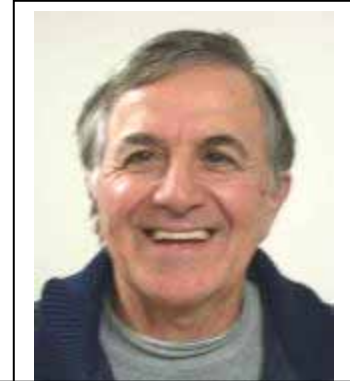
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TEL: 9450 5783

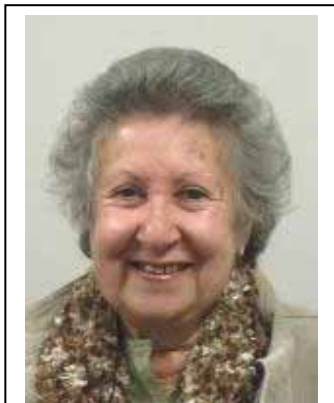
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• Management Committee
• Photos and Contact Details
• appeared in Volume 1 Issue 1
• of the *Megisti Messenger*
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COMMITTEE MEMBER:



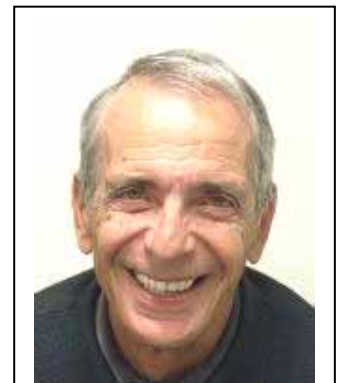
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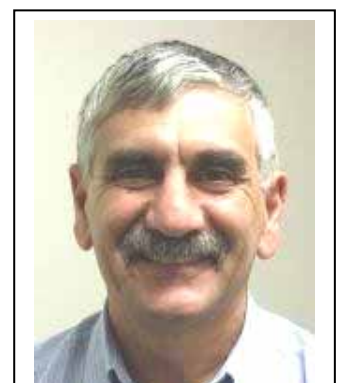
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The Call of the Homeland

By Connie Gregory

Kastellorizians born in Australia were brought up on selective stories about Kastellorizo and were constantly exposed to the large framed sepia panorama of the island, circa 1917, which hung in clubs in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney, and in many homes. Often family homes would be pointed out with pride on the print, usually followed by the lament that everything was in ruins. The old Kastellorizo gradually gained mythical status.

George Alexander in his book *Mortal Divide, the autobiography of Yiorgos Alexandroglou*, puts it well: “Because of its phantom existence after the war, Kastellorizo became a character in tales told by my father’s generation as heard from their parents. For years I thought it really only ever existed in his imagination.”

In this book Yiorgos goes to Kastellorizo in search of the memory of his father and in search of his own identity. Increasingly, many Australian Kazzies are doing the same thing, and even seeking out their ancestral sites and building houses, which is quite a complicated procedure. It is hard to estimate how many people of Kastellorizian descent live in Australia now. (A figure of 30,000 was recently quoted but it could be substantially higher and I have no avenue to check this at this stage).

Throughout its history Kastellorizo was evacuated and/or abandoned several times, but always the people returned. Often men would go to find work in other countries and return to their families. But then they began to stay in Australia and other countries, followed by their intended wives or families and then whole families emigrated leaving their homeland far behind. After the island was bombed to smithereens in World War II there weren’t many people left on the Island and for those who had gone to other countries there was absolutely nothing to go back to.

Steadily since the 1970s the call of the homeland has penetrated the Ozzie/Kazzie psyche and the trip to Kastellorizo has become a pilgrimage, almost a rite of passage. It is a difficult procedure to claim ancestral land, but many have been successful. Building activity has increased in recent years and the number of Ozzie/Kazzies visiting has increased dramatically. People return to Australia and inspire others to also visit the island. There is no doubt that Kastellorizo has enormous pull, somewhat surprising after so many years of having been lost to its people and their descendants.

There are several sources of material describing the return to the homeland, many of which have appeared in the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria’s newsletter. I have chosen just two reports; the following from Maria Jetter and the other from Michele Kiosoglous, which is part of the Wedding report further on.

The following is extracted from Maria Jetter’s letter (daughter of Chico and Mary Demetrious), who now lives with her family in Germany, because it not only expresses the joy of visiting the island of her parents but also details the connection she made.

“Well how can I describe the Kastellorizo experience?! Breathtakingly beautiful! Restoration is galloping along and the amount of building work is phenomenal. Clean, clear water, brilliant blue and full of fish, even big ones around the boats in the harbour. We saw precious few around the other islands - Mykonos, Paros, Santorini...etc.

We sailed in and got a shock, but a very pleasant one, as to how much the built environment had changed from when we were last there in May 1982 when there were many ruins without roofs. There are now beautifully restored houses in every direction. The waterfront harbour is positively bustling, and the main language seems to be Australian!..There are Kazzies from Perth literally everywhere!

Our friends, and even our boat crew, were amazed and said they had wondered before arriving as to what they would do on such a little unknown island for 3 days. In the end they all said (and we agreed of course) that Kastellorizo had been the absolute highlight out of all the islands we had visited and all vowed to come back ASAP. We even went out with our boat to the Island of Rho to spend two glorious afternoons of snorkelling, swimming and sunbathing, although we did so from our boat as there are Greek soldiers stationed permanently on the island and we would have had to seek permission to actually land there.

We also took our boat to the Blue Grotto and swam into the cave...a breathtaking and moving experience when I thought of what my Dad had told me about it when he had gone swimming in there as a kid.

On the next day after we arrived I went with one of our crew acting as interpreter to the Mayor’s office to talk about finding our grandmother’s house (Marigo Markos tou Kannis) The clerk who I discovered spoke perfect English, confirmed that all records were destroyed after the war.

We really went all over the island, right down to Mandraki and the cemetery, to the St Helen and St. Constantine Byzantine Church where my Dad's Dad was the official caretaker...this is alongside the square where they filmed the

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scenes from the movie *Mediterraneo* and also where the bronze statue of the Lady of Rho is. We went up to the old Knights of St John Fort, found the old Lycian tomb below and then I went through the Official Museum of Kastellorizo where they have old clothing (ours of our grandmother's is in amazing condition compared to the ragged ones in their display case!) but what followed my "tour" was extraordinary.

The Museum's caretaker could speak no English, I speak little Greek, but as we went through his courtyard garden he suddenly stooped and picked me a flower...now Connie the whole courtyard contained flowers of all kinds in pots - roses, geraniums etc. - but the man actually picked me a "fouli" which is the miniature gardenia that grows in Kastellorizo which my Dad sought for years in Australia and finally found when he moved to Chelsea. He treasured this plant the most out of all that he had in his Chelsea garden (Ed: It was called Biblical Jasmine, Grand Duke of Tuscany). I remember coming back to Australia one year and he took me straight out to his garden to show me his "fouli" and to invite me to pick the very first flower it had produced just in time for my visit! I actually buried him and Mum with sprigs that I cut from his shrub the night before their funerals so there was a pretty special bond between him and me and his fouli.

I have to tell you that I had been trying to spiritually connect with Dad and Mum the whole time I was in Greece and on Kazzie. I had their photos with me and "talked" to them but felt nothing until that moment when that stranger randomly(?) picked me that particular flower. I just looked at him and said "fouli"?. He looked at me amazed and said..."xerou"(which I understood to mean..."you know it?") I said "Nai" and started crying, and cried all the way back down the hill to the harbour, but tears of happiness. I had my "sign" and I knew that Mum and Dad were with me! I wish you all a wonderful experience on Kastellorizo."

Maria Jetter, Kastellorizo, July, 2005.

With so many Kazzies visiting from Australia and from other parts of the world there is a very real experience of belonging on the island. Stories are exchanged and connections made through genealogical discussions, pieces are put together with shared reminiscences, and information is also sought from the locals (some say that the memory of the locals doesn't go back as far as the people who left the island), and trying to untangle the myths that shroud the past. Visitors scour the island looking for where their parents or grandparents homes once stood, and most manage to do so.

Dr Spiro Moraitis, (The Kastellorizian Newsletter September/October 1983) writing in May 1980 after the visiting island had this to say on the subject of the inhabitants and housing:

Inhabitants: Very few appear to be descendants of Kastellorizians. Most have lived in Megiste after 1940. Most people do not know the past history and certainly few remember notable Kastellorizians of the pre-1930 era. Their depth of knowledge appeared to be rather meagre....

Houses: Many houses are owned by people who live overseas. There are many in Australia and often one house may be owned by several descendants of the original owner. Many houses are allowed to fall into disrepair and decay. Overseas owners are often unwilling to renovate, rebuild or sell. Many tenants of houses have 'squatted' in the homes and they feel insecure when owners return to there for a holiday. There is even resentment towards these expatriate owners."

In 1983, Dr Moraitis also made an interesting prediction, in that the Greek Government will have to eventually place a land tax on properties owned by the Diaspora.

Kastellorizo has certainly changed since this visit in 1980, the locals might still be a little resentful but they earn a pretty good living from tourism. The island is being tastefully rebuilt by descendants who have revived the mythical Megiste of their childhood to the reality of an honoured and accessible homeland. In the next century, historians will have another interesting chapter to add to the island's history.

Wedding on Kastellorizo

On 24 October 2004, Ozzie/Kazzie Louise Katris (daughter of Maria Katris, grand-daughter of Con and Chrissie Adgemis of Mentone) and Yiorgo Karayannis (son of Kyriako and Varvara of Kastellorizo) married in Kastellorizo.

The wedding was reported by Michele Kiosoglous, London, in the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria Newsletter No 127, in April 2005. The following is an edited version of that report:

"For most of us, Kastellorizo is like Never-Never-Land. Megiste represents the hopes, dreams and imaginations of our parents and grandparents. Growing up within the Kastellorizian Diaspora, you knew your parents and grandparents secretly held aspirations that when the time came, their Kastellorizian offspring would marry Kastellorizians. It is within this magical world, between myth and reality that the nuptials of Louise Katris and Yiorgo Karayannis were sanctified.

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For most of us, a trip to the birth place of our ancestors is a trip down memory lane. My trip was much, much more. From the moment I saw the limani as the ferry maneuvered into the minute harbour, I could feel the sense of excitement and weight of historic inevitability wash over me.

The island was resplendent in nostalgia. Wedding fever on Kastellorizo is like yellow fever in Shanghai. It takes no prisoners and whether you are a local, a visiting Australian Kastellorizian or just a tourist you can feel the sense of hysteria and chaos, which surrounds wedding preparations.”

Kiosoglous then describes the wedding preparations:

“The wedding preparations were like no other, the entire island offered their opinion regarding all issues as they considered themselves expert on all things from dressing the hall, flower arrangements, and the wedding dress, to how many goats were needed to feed the entire island and all the visiting Turks

The invitations were sent out in the form of a “Kouloura”. Young boys were sent to every house to deliver and invite every person on the island. The next day the young girls of the island went to every house with a verbal invitation to the wedding and to the “Krevati” (bed-making). Island politics were swept under every hand-made carpet as custom demanded unity.”

Description of the customs (precis):

The krevati: Businesses closed so that all could attend, make clove bracelets, drink rose water, eat strava and katoumaria and sing songs wishing the young couple luck, health, fertility and prosperity.

The “Votania” were gathered and wedding songs filled the air. Yiorgo and his family and the bride’s family sailed around Megisti singing songs of love and longing. Louise stood on the harbour, waiting for her groom

The “Savatovratho” (Saturday night before the wedding): The bishop had arrived; the clove water was ready for Louise to wash Yiorgo’s hair; the goats had been slaughtered; the Bride’s Pilafi and chickens were cooked and the sound of the bouzouki filled the air. It was party time. The groom’s family sang songs of conquest reminiscent of the halcyon years. They challenged the brides’ family and thankfully Manoli Geronikolas answered the challenge, making the most jaded widow giggle in fond nostalgia!

The wedding day: The goats had to be cooked, the church and hall dressed, the flowers arranged and any last minute tasks had to be undertaken. On Kastellorizo, the residents of the island dress both the bride and the groom. A quiet moment for Louise and her mother was snatched as the bridesmaids prepared the “stefania” and the “koufetta”.

A fiddler and piano-accordionist led the veiled bride, accompanied by her brother George and her mother Maria to the Church of Sts Constantine and Eleni. The harbour was filled with the yachts and boats of their friends from Turkey. Louise and Yiorgo walked in the steps of their ancestors.

“Louise and Yiorgo’s marriage was blessed by Bishop Chrisostomos and Father Yiorgi in the presence of the community that is Kastellorizo. As I looked around the church, I recognised many familiar faces from home. I saw the faces of the generations that had been and were to come and was proud that I was able to share in that moment.

The wedding breakfast was a Kastellorizian extravaganza! We ate, we sang, we laughed, we danced, we screamed, we cried... This was a wedding that the generations to come will remember. These are the stories our grandchildren will remember when they too visit the island.

At the threshold of the bridal suite Yiorgo and Louise were fed walnuts and honey by Varvara, to help make their life sweet.”

This was “The Party of 2004”. I am planning my next visit in 2005.”

Louise and Yiorgo’s baby is due to be born as we go to press and her mother has gone to Kastellorizo to be with her.

Maria Katris, recently wrote to me to say: “When my daughter fell in love with Yiorgo, I was very worried at how she would make a life there, but when we were there for her wedding and I saw how well she had settled in and loved it, and that she was well liked, I knew she would be happy. It’s amazing how many Australians are living there either full time or for three-quarters of the year. Georgina, a young girl from Canberra is in Kastellorizo now, (her grandfather was Senator George Georges) . She has fallen in love with a local over there and has been there since the beginning of the year. Before we know it there will be more”.

First published by The Kastellorizian Association of Victoria in 80 XPOVIA, 1925-2005 Celebrating our History, in September 2005. ©Connie Gregory, September 2005.

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

This is a regular feature in the *Megisti Messenger* in displaying photographs from Castellorizo and Australia depicting people and events from times gone by. Submissions always welcomed and photographs always returned.



Hellenic Football Club Premiers 1959 - WA Sunday National Football League

Photo Courtesy of Tony Komminos

Photograph and names listed on Castellorizian Geni Website at:

<http://www.castellorizo.org/showmedia.php?mediaID=834&albumlinkID=791>



Santrapeia Boys School Castellorizo c 1924

Photo Courtesy of Nicholas Pappas

The second boy on the right on the front row is **Spiros Agapitos Karasavas** and the first boy on the left in the second bottom row is **Yeorgios Anastasiou Fermanis**, while others in the photo include **Vanias Pitsikas**, **Adam Adamides**, **Ioannis Anast. Papanastasiou** and **Nikos Exindaris**.

ST CONSTANTINE & HELENE DINNER DANCE

By Allan Cresswell
Photographs courtesy Tony Samiotis

The St Constantine and Helene Dinner Dance was held on Sunday 18th May 2008 at the Ibis Function Centre in Murray Street Perth. As can be seen in the photographs below, a great time was had by all.

The floorshow was a magician act presented by Allan Karasavas. This was a very special act indeed! Allan performed some fine magical feats in his colourful outfit. His humour, excellent props and professional presentation had people enthralled and in continual laughter. What a great show it was!

Special guests at the function included Father Elpidios, the President of the WA Hellenic Association Evan Kakulas, City of Perth Deputy Lord Mayor Michael Sutherland and City of Perth Councillor Eleni Evangel.

It was also pleasing to see members of the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo organisation present at the dinner together with their family and guests. See the following page for the article on the AFK.



AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF KASTELLORIZO (AFK)

Submitted by Co-ordinator of Australian Friends of Kastellorizo,
Marilyn Tsolakis

Our Core Purpose

**To help create a positive future for Kastellorizo
recognising our proud heritage
and giving something back to the island of our forefathers**

Our Aims

We believe we can best achieve our purpose through a strong focus on the young people of Kastellorizo, and by assisting in the areas of environment, education and culture.

In contributing our skills and resources for the benefit of Kastellorizo, we will:

- **Consult and work closely with the local people of the island, honouring their culture and values; and**
- **Implement initiatives in a sensitive way, working collaboratively with all parties.**

We aim to avoid involvement in local Kastellorizian politics or contentious issues.

We will actively seek involvement of people of Kastellorizian heritage to contribute to the future of Kastellorizo and gain a deeper understanding of the island.

We also welcome the involvement of all Australians with a love for, or interest in, Kastellorizo.

We will liaise with Worldwide and Australian State-based Kastellorizian associations that cater for the requirements of people of Kastellorizian descent in Australia and welcome their participation in AFK.

We will proactively communicate our purpose and activities, including providing information in English via our website and “KASTELLORIZIAKA NEA” – “Voice of Megiste”.

Some of you may have not heard of *Australian Friends of Kastellorizo* which is an organisation established to develop the ideas discussed at an International Symposium for the Diaspora on Kastellorizo in April 2007. Even if you have heard of AFK, you may not know about the aims, goals or projects identified at meetings in Sydney in June and December 2007 as a follow-up to the International Symposium. Many of you who subscribe to *Kastelloriziaka Nea* or have visited the website are aware of many of the exciting projects that are underway. You may be interested in assisting any of the projects. Please visit the website to keep updated and sign up for free membership. Just click on the membership category and fill in the details in order for us to add you to our database. Alternatively, if you would prefer to send me an email or phone me to include you on the database, please do so. You will be included in the broadcast emails sent to all AFK members. The idea is to be inclusive of all who are interested in, and committed to the island.

www.australianfriendskastellorizo.org

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The following goals are being addressed by setting up projects to make these goals happen:

1. Environmental

- Greening of Kastellorizo – planting more trees on the island
- Keep Kastellorizo Beautiful – the inaugural Katharo Kastellorizo Day is scheduled for 18 July 2008. It will give the whole community the opportunity to work together to ensure a cleaner, more beautiful island and thereby, recognising the need to maintain it throughout the year.

2. Cultural

- Kastellorizian Customs and Special Days brochure – this project is complete and available on our website. Copies have been delivered to Kastellorizo and others distributed to the local state based Kastellorizian Associations. Some of you may have received one at the *Saints Constantine and Helene* celebrations recently. This information will be a great guide for many young people and tourists with limited knowledge of our cultural heritage.
- Youth Festival – Week beginning Monday 7 July 2008 is shaping up to be an exciting event. If you have children and plan to visit Kastellorizo this year, you might like to consider the first week of the Australian school holidays from July 7 -11th 2008. We are planning music, song, dance, cooking activities, as well as a tour of the Army barracks and a historical walk with architectural points of interest. Of course, what is a festival without a Duvli (Backgammon) competition that many of us grew up with under the expert tutelage of our fathers?

3. Educational

- Children's Literature Books – Plans are underway for an illustrated history to be written as well as a short story anthology. An artist from Athens will be on Kastellorizo during the Youth Festival Week collecting images for these books.

Some of you may know of Ethel Kanganas' fable *Orlif: the Gentle Giant*. AFK is translating this book from English to Greek (with permission from the author and illustrator) and donating it to the school on Kastellorizo for the children to read and to make them aware of the importance of planting trees. We would also like to print more copies of the English version.

- Student Exchange - The Principal of the local school on Kastellorizo, Betty Mouzak tells me that the two students (Panagiotis Zamagias and Alexandros Metollari) selected for the exchange to Australia are very excited. The island is a buzz with this project that seems to be instilling a positive energy and feeling about the goals of the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo. While AFK is funding this project, it is important to thank the following people in assisting with its success.

Firstly, the Principals of the Greek Orthodox Schools in Australia:

Craig D'Cruz, St Andrew's Grammar Perth (August 4-8)

Steve Charisis, Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College "Sts Anargiri", Melbourne (August 11-15)

Efrosini Stefanou-Haag - Head of College St Spyridon College, Sydney (August 18-22)

Secondly, Australians who have offered their homes and their hearts to accommodate the boys. We thank them for their 'filoxenia' which is truly Greek!

Denise and Chikos Matsos, Perth

Mario & Phyllis Theodosiades, Perth

Chrissie Verevis and John Andronicus, Sydney

Kevin and Barbara Mangos, Melbourne

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Thirdly, Stacey Lekias from Northline Travel in Perth who organised the itinerary for the boys and;

Fourthly, thanks to Roslyn and Manolis Geronikolas for providing the boys with accommodation at the Eden Roc Hotel for their overnight stay in Rhodes en route to Athens and Australia and upon their return home.

We thank all of them for their generosity and assistance in realising these boys' dream and providing them with cultural and educational opportunities for self-growth.

4. Economic

- Accessing Grants

5. Communication

- "KASTELLORIZIAKA NEA" - "Voice of Megiste" to publish in every second edition a 4 page English insert.
- Webpage containing information on the AFK, projects, events, news, Rodos-Kastellorizo-Rodos ferry/plane timetables, accommodation, etc

6. Restoration

- the Windmill
- Passas Wells
- Recognition of the Empire Patrol Disaster to commemorate lives lost.
Plans are underway for a Restoration Architect to prepare a report for the Archaeological Society who is responsible for giving approval.

7. Infrastructure

- Water
- Electricity
- Sewerage/Waste
- Transport

These small steps are contributing to the momentum that is driving AFK. Thank you to all those people who have provided positive and constructive feedback. If you have any further ideas we would love to hear from you. Don't forget to send us your email address to hear about recent developments.

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CAZZIE TRIBUTE

Compiled by Allan Cresswell



DESPA McDONNELL (nee PAPANASTATIS)

Despa McDonnell (nee Papastatis) was born at Perth Western Australia on November 17th 1928. She is the youngest child of Nicholas Anastasis Papastatis and Zabetta (Elizabeth) (nee Papalazaros) who had migrated to Australia from Castellorizo. Her father was a foundation member and former Vice President of the Hellenic Community of WA Inc. He was also a past Honourary President of the Hellenic Association Club and former President of the Castellorizian Association of WA. It was this ongoing community minded spirit of her father that set the stage for Despa's involvement with numerous committees and cultural groups over many years.

Despa joined the Hellenic Girls Association of WA in the 1940's and was the secretary until a more encompassing group titled the Hellenic Youth Association was formed in the 1950's. For her untiring work and past efforts in the Girls Association, and for assisting in the formation of the Hellenic Youth Association, and as the inaugural Secretary, Life Membership was bestowed to Despa.

She has been an ongoing member of the Castellorizian Ladies Auxiliary which later became the Castellorizian Ladies (Megisti) Association of Western Australia. Since the formation of the association, Despa has served over the years in various roles as President, Committee Member, Treasurer, Vice President and Secretary. This association has always been very active within the Greek community of Western Australia and has provided and continues to provide, donations and contributions to the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, The Cathedral of Sts Constantine and Helene and to the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia. Despa has been one of the main promoters and the longest serving committee member of the Castellorizian Ladies (Megisti) Association of WA Inc. She was made a Life Member for the many years of service and long term contributions to the association.

Other organisations Despa has been associated with include: Secretary of the Hellenes Bowling Club, Delegate to the Hellenic Community Steering Committee for the Northbridge History Project, member of the Planning Committee for the building of the Hellenic Community Centre and a member of the Finance Committee for the restoration of Castellorizian House.

In 2007 Despa received recognition for her work associated with the Greek community over many years, with a Women in Leadership Award. This was presented as part of the Ethnic Communities Council of WA 2007 International Women's Day Celebrations. She was one of only four Perth women to receive this award.

On Australia Day 2008 Despa received the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) which is the highest level of recognition by the Australian nation, for her outstanding achievement, contribution and community service. Well done Despa!

The summary in the Australia Day Honours List states: Despa McDonnell, Bedford, WA, for service to the Greek community through the Castellorizian Ladies Association of Western Australia and a range of historical, sporting and youth organisations.

This is the second of the regular back page feature that recognises and documents the special achievements of individual Castellorizians. The next Cazzie Tribute will be for the late Anthony (Tony) Michael OAM.