

# Megisti Messenger

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2016

Volume 9, Issue 2

*Newsletter of the  
Castellorizian  
Association of WA Inc  
160 Anzac Road  
Mt Hawthorn WA 6016  
Tel: 94432110*

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

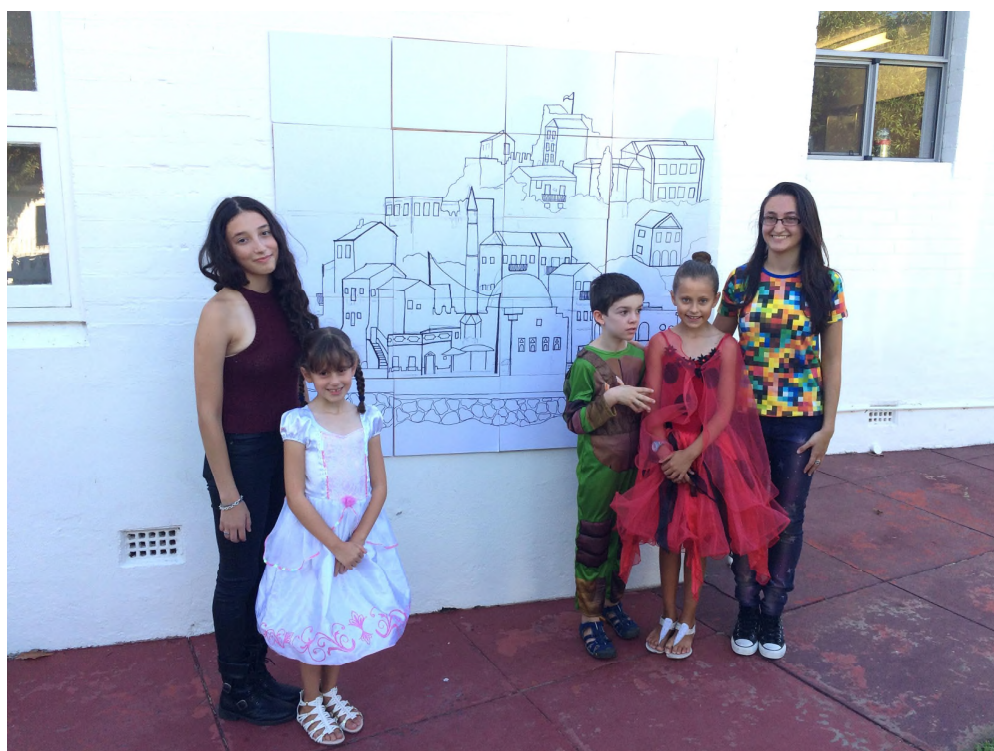
St Constantine and  
Helene Church Service  
Saturday May 21 2016

St Constantine and  
Helene Function  
Kailis Leederville  
Sunday May 22 2016  
See Page 5

Mixed Friday Night  
Guest Speaker  
Jan Stewart  
Friday July 15 2016  
Commencing 6pm

## 2016 APOKRIES FUNCTION

See Report on Pages 6 to 8



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## COOKING CLASS FEB 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

See Report on Pages 18 and 19



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for submission of any  
articles or social news

# SOCIAL NEWS

## Births

- ❖ Congratulations to Michael and Vanessa Kannis on the arrival of their son **Kieran Michael Kannis** born 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016. Kieran is the first grandchild for Kevin and Karen Kannis and Keith and Madeline Hughes
- ❖ Jacqueline (nee Kannis) and Benjamin Lane are delighted to announce the arrival of a son, **Arthur (Ari) John Lane**. Arthur who was born on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016 is a second grandchild for Constantine and Jennifer Kannis.

## Anniversaries

- ❖ Congratulations to **Theo and Loula Kakulas** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2016.
- ❖ Congratulations to **Allan and Jean Cresswell** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016.

## Birthdays

Congratulations to the following who celebrated their birthday since the last *Megisti Messenger*.

- ❖ Michael Paul 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 84 years
- ❖ George Palassis 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 90 years
- ❖ Peter Kanganas 4<sup>th</sup> Jan 84 years
- ❖ Nellie Kakulas (nee Palassis) 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 81 years
- ❖ Paul Boyatzis 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 79 years
- ❖ Joy Loucas (nee Miriklis) 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 84 years
- ❖ Tony Koufos 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 88 years
- ❖ Leo Panegyres 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 79 years
- ❖ Theo Palassis 5<sup>th</sup> Mar 77 years
- ❖ Con G Kailis 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 79 years
- ❖ Jack Pitsikas 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr 97 years

## Weddings

Congratulations to **Steven Magriplis**, son of Con and Eva (nee Koufos), and **Leah Pantelis**, daughter of Savas and Katrina (nee Kambouris) who married on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at Evangelismos church.

## Congratulations

- ❖ Appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) **George Pappas** (Hawthorn Vic) for distinguished service to the community through roles with tertiary education, medical research and defence organisations, and to business, particularly management consulting.
- ❖ Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) **Dr Vlas Pitsonis Efstathis** (OAM RFD). Flinders View, Qld. For significant service to community health through leadership roles with a range of organisations, and to medicine as a practitioner.
- ❖ Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) **Stathis Efstathis** Raby Bay, Qld. For service to the Greek community of Queensland.

## Vale

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of:

- ❖ Despina Malaxos (nee Xanthis) 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2016
- ❖ Michael A Mavromatis 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016
- ❖ Paul Anthony Aris 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016
- ❖ Dimitroula Kostarelas 13<sup>th</sup> February 2016
- ❖ Simon Lekias 9<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016
- ❖ Louis Conto 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 2016



## LIFE MEMBERS

Congratulations to Poppy Georganis for twenty one years services to Hellenic Radio, Anne Mitchell and Poppy Xanthis who were all made Life Members of the Hellenic Community of WA on Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 at the Association's Annual General Meeting. Anne Mitchell and Poppy Xanthis were recognised for their more than seventy years of continuous membership to the St Constantine and Helene Church Choir.

Poppy Xanthis has also made a substantial contribution to the Hellenic Women's Association Committee as the Vice President for many years.



# GEORGE PALASSIS 90 YEARS

Submitted by George's daughter - Vanessa Black



I was born on Kastellorizo on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1925. In 1932, for 40 days, my mother and I travelled by boat, the *Roma*, to Australia. We arrived in Fremantle on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1932 at 8.00am. In another part of Perth on this same day at 8.00am a little girl called Margaret Anastas was born and in 1951 she was to become my bride....it was our destiny.

We are blessed with three children, Anthony, Michael and Vanessa, furthermore nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all of who are the greatest loves of our life!

I retired in 1986, and since I have retained my long life passion of all sports.

At this time I have had my greatest achievements which keeps me alive in 2016.

We have travelled extensively with Kastellorizo being our main focus and enjoying many celebrations for Panayia on 15<sup>th</sup> August on the island.

At 90 my life has changed to another extreme. I am a ROMEO (retired old man eating out).

How dull my life would be if nothing changed at all...colours of the ocean, laughter joys and tears. The manner in which I have changed and what it I achieved is mainly keeping interested in my inner life.

Margaret and I meditate every night, this clears my mind so I can hear the inner voice. Daily walks keep me fit and healthy. We circle dance twice a week, here we meet up with friends, we dance Greek, Celtic , Israeli and with significance.

I enjoy endless Greek Music on my IPAD.

I can do anything if I try hard enough! Excellence and tenacity operate from my heart and I always deal with integrity openness and honesty.

Inspiration is with me every day, hearing the birds, pottering around 'Basiliko' and growing vegies, citrus fruit and paw paw.

Margaret and I have a theme "From you I receive, to you I give, together we share by this we live."

A fulfilling and brilliant life with no regrets.

# ROYALTY COMES TO PERTH



Recently, Perth, Western Australia, was host to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Michael Mavromatis was honored to be selected by his Company, FJM, to meet with the Prince at the new refurbished Old Treasury Building.

FJM's property development division has grown significantly in recent years to progress some of WA's most iconic development opportunities including the Old Treasury Building in the Perth CBD.

When introduced to The Prince, His Royal Highness observed Michael's surname and asked if he was Greek. When Michael confirmed that he was, he remarked that his Father, Prince Philip, was also of Greek heritage - hence the broad smile!

Michael joined FJM in 2008 in the role of Financial Controller and has more than twelve years experience in accounting and finance. He is a Chartered Accountant and Registered Tax Agent in addition to holding a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Western Australia. Michael works across all FJM projects and is responsible for managing all account and financial requirements of the Group.

Michael is the son of Angelo and Kriss Mavromatis and the grandson of Michael (dec) & Mary Mavromatis and John (dec) and Evelyn Kannis.

## President's Report

Since the last *Megisti Messenger* in December 2015 an excellent 2015 Christmas Function was held at Castellorizian House on Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>. A total of 86 people attended and was enjoyed by all. Our cooks, Procopi and Nicholette prepared a wonderful dinner and were well supported by all the committee who set up the refreshments, tables and decorations. Well done everyone!

In January a total of 22 of our members attended the KCA Conference in Brisbane. It was a great event and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. A report on the KCA Conference appears on **pages 20 and 21** of this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*. Our own Professor Emeritus Byron A Kakulas AO was a keynote speaker at the conference. His wonderful talk appears on **pages 14 to 16**.

The Apokries function held on March 6<sup>th</sup> was a great success and a full report appears on **pages 6 to 8**.

The Ladies Cooking Classes continues to be a success and their report is on **pages 18 to 19**.

Our next function is the St Constantine and Helene Luncheon with full details on **page 5**.

### NEW ASSOCIATION EMAIL ADDRESS

**Our Association has a new email address for our members to communicate**

**[cazziewa@outlook.com](mailto:cazziewa@outlook.com)**

**All email correspondence should be directed here**

# **ST CONSTANTINE AND HELENE FUNCTION**

**TO BE HELD AT  
KAILIS LEEDERVILLE FUNCTION ROOM**

**Date Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2016**

**Start 12.45**

**Limited numbers only 72 seats**

## **THE MENU**

### **On the table**

**Warm Crusty Baguette**

**Taramasalata, herb toast, Kalamata olives & feta**

### **Entrée Share Platters with the following**

**Warm spiced Squid salad**

**Crispy Whitebait**

**Panko Crumbed Prawns**

**Mushroom & parmesan arancini**

### **Main Platters to Share**

**Torre grilled lamb cutlets with tzatziki on rocket salad**

**Crispy fried fish on cucumber slaw salad**

**Bowls of Chips**

**Greek Salads**

**Desserts Buffet**

**Petite pastries selection**

**Baklava & Pistachio nougat**

**Coffee Tea**

**Cost \$60 per person including soft beverages**

**Alcohol available at the bar - Beer and Wine extra cost.**

**Room Hire – Complimentary**

**Free parking**

**Contact Allan Cresswell on 0413958500 to book your table or seats. Limited places available**



# APOKRIES FUNCTION 2016

Articles courtesy Maraya Takoniatis, Demi Sipsas and Allan Cresswell

Photos Courtesy Demi Sipsas, Maraya Takoniatis, Marilyn Tsolakis and Allan Cresswell

The 2016 Apokries function at Castellorizian House on the evening of March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 was a huge success. A total of 217 persons attended this event which included 37 children and young adults. The weather was perfect outdoors and everyone was seated on the paved area at the southern and eastern sides of Castellorizian House. A huge thanks goes out to all the committee for the organizing, preparation, setting up, help in the kitchen and the packing up. Well done everyone!

Special thanks to **Maraya Takoniatis** and **Demi Sipsas** who were wonderful in both the extensive preparation and the supervision of the activities for the children. They have both written articles on the following pages about the activities. The **'Souvla Boys'** also provided great food for the large crowd in attendance. See below 'Thank You' to the **Band and Dancers**.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO BAND AND DANCERS!

For those at the Apokries we were wonderfully musically entertained by the Greek Band – 'Greek Charisma'. They played great Greek music and donated their services to our association on the night (see photo above). The band is led by George Karamintzas and with some great solo playing by his 14 year old son, Anastasis, who is a student at St Andrews School. Well done to all the band and thank you so much. George can be contacted on 0411800637.

We were also wonderfully entertained by the Hellenic Dance Group (see photos above). They brought a great atmosphere to the function and also donated their services to our association. Thank you girls and boys and thank you to the parents who made this all possible on the evening.





# PAINTING THE MAGIC OF KASTELLORIZO

## *A night of celebration at the Castellorizian House Apokries Function*

Written by Maraya Takoniatis

It starts on a sunbed, under an umbrella. Women and men in bathing suits; the salty smell of the ocean riding on the afternoon breeze. A sultry voice sings from a stereo as the jazzy-blues lay down a 'get-away' aura over the group of sun-tanners and swimmers lounging on the giant alfresco like photographed models - invincible, untouched. And a worn pencil is held in the hand of a young girl. From under the shade of an umbrella she looks out onto the view: the cerulean waves of the ocean dancing and swaying to the music, and the buildings in the distance standing on the edge of the island...and from this she begins to draw. Every pencil stroke forming a place on the page. The image of the buildings being imprinted into her mind- the archaic beauty of it all, and how majestic it looks, like a picture taken from a child's imagination- bright colours and simplistic detail. Only a small picture forms, but one with a huge weight and a long story behind it...

Six months later on the other side of the world, a child strokes a brush of paint on the same image. Perhaps its orange or blue, but we can't see it yet. We watch the focus in the child's eyes, the delight on their face as they paint a place so small in reality yet made so big through people's hearts. It's a place that tonight, has brought everyone together to celebrate the 2016 Apokries. An island that holds significance to all these people, and holds part of who they are and connects us through a whole unique history that most others could never know. But for this young child, this place is a mystery. All they wish is to fill a board with colour, using markers and paint and crayons, all they want to do is create something beautiful from the tips of the fingers of their hand and the pure imagination of their minds- using bright colours and simplistic detail. They don't know it yet, but the very image that they paint is part of a bigger picture. A picture formed when all the separate pieces are side by side and out of the page a place is created. For some it's a home, for others it's a dream, and for these young children it's a part of them they haven't learnt yet. And though they think the purpose of this exercise is to preoccupy their minds, it is much more than that. This activity is to bring them to this event, to create an atmosphere where children run wild and the elders smile from their delight. On this night where food is eaten and speeches are read, these people are here in the name of Apokries, and are here because they are Kastellorizian. And through this painting, the child is just beginning to learn what it means to love a place and to belong somewhere, and what it means to celebrate Apokries.



# APOKRIES EVENT

Written by Demi Sipsas

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March at Kastellorizian House, a group of children helped to create a beautiful and colourful two-dimensional art mural of the beautiful island of Kastellorizo. The aim of the mural was to encourage the children who were attending the Apokries celebration to actively participate in the activities that had been organised with a fun, hands-on approach. The children continued to work on the mural throughout the evening. I constructed a template of the iconic harbour of Kastellorizo, complete with houses, the limani, the sidewalk, the boats, the mountains and the goats, everything that makes Kastellorizo the special place that it is. The children were able to colour in the truly unique houses and adorable little goats. They stuck fluffy, white cotton wool balls onto the clouds as well as folding coloured paper squares to create origami boats, cats and turtles. The purpose of the activities was to generate informal discussions with the children about Kastellorizo and to educate the young people of our generation more about their island of ancestry. My workshop also served as a place where the children could get involved, have fun, play, relax, be creative as well as meet and make friends with other children of the same heritage. My workshop was also a place where the children could improve on their drawing, colouring, folding, cutting and socialising skills without even realising it. The end result was a unique and bright art mural of Kastellorizo put together by numerous people who enthusiastically participated in and created something truly special. Well done and thank you to all the children who helped in making our mural.





# LEVISSI FILM DOCUMENTARY

## ‘Ghosts of Levissi’



Joerg Schodl is a film professor at the Savannah College of Art and Design working on a documentary about the history of Levissi. The film will be titled ‘Ghosts of Levissi’. Joerg will be travelling to Australia in June to interview descendants of Levissi exiles. The film trailer and website can be viewed now at: [levissimovie.net](http://levissimovie.net)

The research for Ghosts of Levissi is extensive. Principal photography began in Turkey in June of 2015 and will continue in Australia and Greece during 2016. In total the production involves filming on four continents. Post-production, including extensive animation, will be completed in 2017. Ghosts of Levissi has received a production grant from the Savannah College of Art and Design, but is otherwise entirely independently funded. The driving force behind this film is its director, Joerg Schodl, who is recording the history of Levissi for future generations, and hopes to help preserve what remains of Levissi. If you would like to support the production of Ghosts of Levissi monetarily, please do so at:

<https://www.patreon.com/GhostsofLevissi?ty=h> (there is also a direct link on the website)



Descendants of families from Levissi and nearby Makri are volunteering to tell their family history. This documentary will ensure that this history will never be forgotten and their memories will hopefully help to rectify history that has, over the years, become diluted to serve political agendas. Production is still ongoing!

If you have a story to tell, have photographs, or any documents pertaining to Levissi and Makri, please go to the contact page.

EDITORS NOTE: You can contact me on [cressie@castellorizo.org](mailto:cressie@castellorizo.org) or mobile on 0413958500 instead of the website contact page if you wish and I will pass your details onto Joerg.

# TREASURER POSITION

We are seeking a person to fill the position of Treasurer within our association. After many years of wonderful service Michael Paul will be standing down at the end of our financial year (June 30<sup>th</sup>). Michael is to be applauded for his ongoing service to our association. A wonderful contribution indeed. Well done Michael!

The Treasurer's position is an important function within our association and we seek an interested person to be responsible for both the banking and the payment of accounts. Many of the functions have been streamlined such as now many of our members pay their membership by direct bank transfer or by cheques, thus eliminating the need to issue written receipts. Receipts are issued only for cash membership payments. Also many of our regular payments are now by direct debit eliminating the need to draw numerous cheques. We also have a membership officer that assists in reducing the workload of our Treasurer with regards controlling membership subscriptions.

The Treasurer's position is a most responsible executive position and our committee supports various procedures and suggestions that will assist to minimise the duties of the Treasurer. Our association is also very financially stable.

If you are interested in joining a great group of people on our committee that is dedicated to preserving, documenting and upholding our Castellorizian heritage then please do contact our President, Allan Cresswell on 0413958500.

## DR STAN'S OLIVE CORNER

### Introduction

Olives on your tree are now ready to be processed. All small olives whether green, partly coloured or black can be processed together either by soaking them in water or fermenting them in brine.

Large olives should be processed on their own.

- **Green olives** – these are ready to process when you can squeeze the olives between the fingers to release a creamy coloured oily juice
- **Turning Colour** olives, that are partly coloured (purple/brown) skin, can be processed as *Tsakistes*
- **Black ripe** olives can be processed as Greek-style black olives or salt dried olives (*Throumbes or Stafidoelies*)

### Processing the olives

Olives can be processed in three ways.

- **Water soaking method** – Put the olives in a glass or plastic container that has screw cap. Fill the jar with cold tap water to soak the olives. Change the water every day for 7-10 days until the olives have sweetened. After you have removed the last amount of water add 8-10% salt brine and vinegar to taste. The olives can be further flavoured with dried oregano, dried garlic a slice of lemon or other herbs and spices as desired.

- **Salt Fermentation Method** - Put the olives in a glass or plastic container. Fill the jar with cold tap water to wash the olives. Add **10% salt brine (100g cooking salt and water to make up one litre)** to completely fill the container. Then stand the olives, on a plate, in a safe place. Fermentation (bubbling) will commence in a day or so. When bubbling has stopped, add brine to the top of the container the screw on the lid and store. Depending on the cultivar and the olive size green olives can take 6 months to one year to be ready. However green *Verdale* olives may be ready in 4-6 weeks whereas green *Manzanilla* olives can take much longer. Black *Kalamata* and *Volos* are ready between 6 -12 weeks. The processing time can be reduced if the olives are slit with a sharp knife or bruised (*Tsakistes*). The olives can be kept in the original brine or in a new brine 7 parts of 8% salt brine with one part of wine vinegar. The olives can be further flavoured with dried oregano, dried garlic a slice of lemon or other herbs and spices as desired. That is 700ml 8% salt brine and 100ml of wine vinegar.

- **Salt dried olives** – Half fill a glass jar with washed black ripe olives and add a small amount of coarse salt and shake the olives daily. Add more salt as needed. You should always be able to see the salt. Alternatively you can place the olives in a large bowl or colander, add salt making sure salt comes into contact with all olives. Salt draws



liquid from the olives as well as sweetening the olives. Pour off the liquid that collects at the bottom of the container or bowl. When ready the shrivelled olives can be rinsed with wine vinegar and stored in the refrigerator.

### Dr Paul's Olive Tree

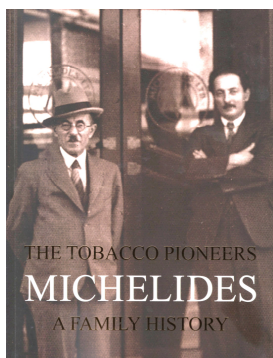
Dr Paul planted his Kalamata olive tree a couple of years ago and now he has his first crop of olives. He followed the instructions below, making sure that the tree was well watered during our hot summer. To help the tree develop he tip pruned each of the branches especially those branches growing upwards. Congratulations Dr Paul (see photos below).

### Olive and other fruit trees

It is now a great time to plant olive trees and other fruit trees. The principles for planting are the same. Select a sunny spot in your garden to plant your fruit tree or if space is limited plant it in a pot. Dig a large hole and pour in some compost mixing it well with some of the original soil. Create a hole to plant the tree. Dip the pot with tree into a bucket of water so that the water moves up from the bottom. Remove the tree from the pot and tease the roots. Place the ball of the tree in the hole and water in well. For citrus trees make sure that the graft is above ground level. However with grafted olive trees such as *Kalamata*, bury the graft underground. Pack and water in more soil into the hole so that there are no air spaces. Sprinkle Dynamic lifter around the tree away from the trunk. For Greek olives use *Kalamata* or *Volos* cultivars.



# OUR RESOURCE CENTRE - BOOK REVIEW



Compiled by Lefki Kailis  
Librarian of the Castellorizian  
House of WA collection

February 2016  
Librarian and English Teacher  
[lkailis@yahoo.com](mailto:lkailis@yahoo.com)

## **Michelides : The Tobacco Pioneers : A Family History (2015)**

**Authors : The grandchildren of Peter and Michael Michelides. Fremantle, Vivid Publishing.**

Many of you, like me will feel connected and included as you read this family history. The Michelides' family, business and friendship connections embrace so many of us. My grandparents - the Theo Mathewdakis/Stilianpulos – were close friends with the Michelides – Peter and Pearl in particular and my father Solon Mathews and Spero (Sam) were close buddies all their lives.

The history of this family parallels much of each of our histories - the early settlers' drive to establish congregation places, the motivation to set up Greek language classes for the young, the determination to raise funds to build an Orthodox Church for the Greek community. Our parents and grandparents all enter at some point in this development. To quote from the authors in the preface "The story is very much that of the small but remarkable group of Greek migrants who also made their mark in Australia."

In a way this gives us an insight into the survival of Hellenism since ancient times. There was never a directive from Greece to establish colonies in any of the places where Hellenes settled but rather a deep need by settlers to be able to continue cultural, social and religious practices in their newfound land. History shows us how local Hellenic communities fused their Greek life with the lifestyle of the country they settled in and became a unique 'brand' of Greek. For example, the Greeks in Asia Minor were Ottoman Greeks, they never identified themselves as Athenian or mainland Greeks - but they certainly were Greeks.

The early Greeks in Western Australia were predominantly Castellorizian, but like my father's ancestors who were from Smyrna, Port Saïd and Alexandria, there was an eclectic mix from various islands, the Peloponnese and Macedonia. Peter Michelides particularly was able to engage meaningfully with the differing Greek circles as well as the non-Greek population. He was the ideal person with his multi-lingual capacity and negotiating skills to bring Greeks together (although we note that this was never easy and he had his detractors) to facilitate the nestling in and acceptance of the Greek community into the isolated, unsophisticated, small city of Perth in Western Australia in the first part of the twentieth century. As we read we come face-to-face with the obstacles that the early Greeks faced in striving for the above objectives.

The Michelides' dedication to establish themselves in their new community is reflected in hundreds of our family stories where an ancestor arrived with nothing but a hope for a better life. The Michelides and other established families made an exceptional contribution in assisting newcomer Greeks by employing, accommodating and supporting them culturally and socially. Peter and Michael through offering work in Manjimup or in the cigarette factory, others by employing new arrivals in their cafes, restaurants or businesses. There was an 'in-house' Social Services system in place here.

As pertinent as this history is to our story it is equally strong on the development of business in this state. How many businesses began with one person's vision and labour that found its niche and grew to make a major contribution to the state? My grandfather Theodore developed the Gerald Macaroni factory - the first of its kind in the WA and as mentioned in the book - the Sillelides, Doscas, Manolas, Petridis, Gourdis, Auguste and many others, made their mark in symphony with Peter and Michael Michelides.

This study documents the history of the Peter/Michael Michelides' family, it traces the growth of the tobacco industry in Western Australia, it gives a vivid picture of Greek settlement in Western Australia and it offers a very personal cameo of the descendant families of Peter and Michael. A huge undertaking that is so splendidly supported with extensive photos, documents and paintings. Testament to the hours the authors have dedicated to poring over documents, putting them into an historical context then using them to inform the narrative.



The family has been fortunate on many fronts - firstly Peter was a meticulous documenter and keeper of records, secondly members of the family recorded their memories/stories for posterity and thirdly descendants have maintained custody of all the material left to them. All this is evidenced in the bountiful letters, documents, old post cards and relevant photos of family members professionally presented in the text.

The book is divided into three parts: An epic journey - tracing the origin of the family to its roots in Samos with the trials and tribulations of settlement, expansion of the business through to the global introduction of filtered cigarettes and the inevitable winding down of the Michelides Company on 23 June 1960. Part two consists of the life stories of Peter and Michael's children and their families and Part three provides the reader with a very essential family tree.

The readers' introduction to the book is an iconic sepia photo of Peter and Michael that graces the cover. On the front endpaper that folds out is a lusciously inviting picture of a Michelides' tobacco crop against a stunning backdrop of the Pemberton forest. Then we are swept back in time to a very old photo of Vathi Harbour in Samos around 1868. There is great variety in sepia, black & white and coloured pictures, as there is a great mix of family pictures, documents, paintings and historical photos. The book has a number of commissioned portraits painted by the recognized artist, Vlase Zanalis.

Vlase was a relation of the Michelides boys. He showed interest and aptitude in art and Michael introduced him and paid his tuition fees so that he could study art under James Linton. Vlase went on to create *ikones* for Agios Constantinos and Helene in Parker St. as well as produce art that is held in private collections and institutions including The University of Western Australia and Curtin University. My grandmother Lefki Mathewdaki commissioned a painting of the *Last Supper*, which still hangs in the church above the door upstairs as you enter the choir stand. So absorbing are the visuals in this book that it is possible to do a first reading by viewing the illustrations and reading the relevant captions.

Peter Paroulakis, the author of the historical section has brought his considerable knowledge of Greek history, language and culture to the text, weaving it in, setting the story of the Michelides ascendancy in a broad landscape. He includes detailed histories of the family's Greek and Anglo heritage demonstrating how the women wholeheartedly embraced the Hellenic traditions and the significant roles they played in creating a home environment that allowed their spouses to commit themselves so totally to growing the business.

The families themselves have written the individual stories of the descendants. They are full of observations and anecdotes that make lively reading. This section has a more contemporary, casual approach to story-telling. However, there is an over-riding tinge of sadness that has pervaded the generations and that is the loss of Jasmine, Peter and Pearl's daughter who died at the age of nineteen.

The final pages are dedicated to a Michelides' family tree, which puts all the descendants into context, an invaluable tool for the family and for all of us. The endpaper fittingly is an old map showing the places of origin of many of our families - mainland Greece, Asia Minor, the Greek Islands and Port Saïd/Alexandria in Egypt.

This is a tome to read and re-read. This is a story to embrace as our own.

This book is available to view and buy at Castellorizian House, Anzac Rd., Mt Hawthorn. Price \$50.00

### COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

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# **KASTELLORIZIANS IN AUSTRALIA TAKING STOCK**

Byron A Kakulas AO Professor Emeritus University of W.A.  
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Founding Director Western Australian Neuroscience Research Institute

**Key-Note Address Kastellorizian Council of Australia Conference Brisbane 22 -26 January 2016**

Conference Theme: "CELEBRATING ALL THAT IS KAZZIE"

The fact that second and third generation Kazzies have achieved great distinction in many fields of endeavour in Australia is a just cause for celebration. There are many Kastellorizian Australians who have risen to great heights in various walks of life. It is noteworthy that Kastellorizians have distinguished careers in Politics, Public Service and in Business with many giants in Commerce and Industry. No less prominent are achievements in the Professions of Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Optometry, Law and Order, Journalism, Education, Architecture, Engineering, Economics, Finance and Accounting, Academia and in Scientific Research. Kastellorizians have also excelled in Art Drama Music, Literature, Sport and in other occupations. It is not necessary to give names to these persons here suffice it to say that they are very well known and their details may be found in their various biographies. In contrast it may be observed that there are very few farmers among Kastellorizians. Simply put, Kazzies do not till the soil probably because there is/was very little arable land on the island. Fresh food came from Asia Minor.

Complementing the vocational success of contemporary and past Kastellorizians in Australia are their voluntary activities in the wider Australian community graced by their generous financial donations. Kazzies serve in an honorary capacity in many "not for profit" organisations some of which they themselves established. The number of Kazzies who have received Australian Honours attests to this statement.

## **OURSELVES AS REFUGEES**

The success of Kastellorizians in their new country is a great tribute to our forebears who chose to come to Australia rather than elsewhere, when they were faced with the need to leave their beloved island in order to survive. Our parents and grandparents began to emigrate from the 1880s onward as a result of the declining economy due to the political instability and beginning degeneration of the Ottoman Empire. Firstly young men alone and later, if they were married, they were joined by their wives. After the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries the islanders began to leave in larger numbers because of the threat of conscription due to the rise of the Young Turks and with new taxes threatening. Thus our forefathers may be considered to have been 'economic and political refugees'.

As the Ottoman Empire began to collapse Italy seized Libya. This event and a successful uprising in Crete against the Turks in 1911 encouraged the Kastellorizian also to rebel, the "Epanasatsis" of 1913 thus ousting the Turkish Governor and the small garrison from the island. The uprising held firm, and an Italian proposal to take over Kastellorizo was rejected. The Turks were kept at bay by a trick, the Kazzies faking the only steam boat they had to appear as a warship which circled the island for 7 days. However the islanders were now in political and economic limbo being no longer able to sail under the Ottoman flag and trade in the Mediterranean. The grave situation they were now in was saved by the French who took over the island in 1915. The French used Kastellorizo as a base for their Middle Eastern colonial ambitions in Lebanon and Syria. The islanders were thus protected from the Turks by French artillery. The Turks were only a few kilometres away in Kas (Antifilo) and had previously bombarded the island.

The exodus continued after World War 1 and was accelerated by the severe earthquake of 1926. Mass emigration continued until the outbreak of World War 2. From a population of more than 9000 in the 1800s the number declined to 3000 in the 1920s and according to Andoni Koufos it was down to 650 in 1954. The few who were left on Kastellorizo suffered great hardships, surviving by smuggling cattle aided in this by their Turkish friends and by the support provided by the Kazzies in Australia.

The French left Kastellorizo in 1922 when through the Treaty of Lausanne the Dodecanese were ceded to Italy and so that Kastellorizo became part of Mussolini's Empire. Italian rule was initially constructive but not popular e.g. school lessons had to be in Italian, and their rule later became harsh during the World War 2 when it was used as a military base by Italy. An attack by British Commandos in 1941 routed the Italians but unfortunately the British left after only a few days being beaten in turn by an intensive Italian counter-attack. The British having dealt with problems elsewhere in the region invaded Kastellorizo again in September 1943 and were, this time, attacked by German Stuka Dive Bombers. Because of the danger caused by these battles about 1000 of the islanders were evacuated by the British to Palestine leaving on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October 1943. The British regiment on the island stayed until July 1944. Their presence was marred by looting, pillage and plunder while the islanders were away. More devastation occurred in 1944 when a munition dump exploded causing a great fire and destruction of what little was left of Kavo after the bombing.

After the war ended the British ship "Empire Patrol" was assigned to bring the Kastellorizians back to the island from Palestine. Unfortunately the ship caught fire when just out of Port Said and it sank on the 29 September 1945 with the loss of 33 lives, 3 burnt on board and the others drowned. This tragedy was the "coup de grace" for any prospect of restoration of



Kastellorizo to its former glory. Mass emigration followed with just a few families left on the island. These people did the best they could to survive, some by contraband again from Turkey and others by fishing. However they were sustained mostly by the Kastellorizian Associations in Australia sending food money and clothing with many individuals doing the same. In this way those left say, "you would have lost the island if we had not hung on" and we say, "you would not have survived without our help". Therefore gratitude and respect should be mutual. The Dodecanese Islands including Kastellorizo which was still under British Administration were finally united with Greece on the 7th of March 1948. For the first time in history it was free of foreign rule, thanks to the Russian vote in the UN Security Council.

### **THE PIONEERS, MEN and WOMEN**

It is noteworthy that even the first generation, our fathers and grandfathers did quite well financially in their new country albeit in humble occupations mainly as shopkeepers. They established restaurants, fish and chip shops, milk bars and greengroceries despite only having a primary education on Kazzie and little English as well as suffering a fair amount of xenophobia. They lamented that "if *only I knew the language*" with the idea that they would do better in business. However in keeping with the Kazzie spirit they managed to do well despite their poor English. Furthermore they were independent and self-employed. In this way the first generation prospered creating a high standard of living for themselves and their families and in particular ensured that their children would be well educated. The men were strongly supported by their wives who cared for the home and children ensuring they grew up with respect maintaining family values according to Kazzie traditions. The first generation of Australian Kazzies is to be applauded for their success in a new and strange country. Not to be forgotten is the fact that the great achievements of current day Kazzies now being celebrated, rests on the foundations laid by our forebears.

### **THE EARLY HISTORY OF KASTELLORIZO (MEGISTI)**

The history of Megisti reaches as far back at least to the Achaeans of the Bronze Age as evidenced by the Cyclopean Walls and the Temple of Apollo. A shard found on Paleo Kastro beside Mt Vigla dates to about 900BC. Incidentally, there is no record to show that Megisti was involved in the Trojan War but it is possible that our ships were included in the large Rhodesian fleet which joined the invasion of Ilium and the sacking of Troy. Because the Lycians occupied the island up until the Dorian invasion in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century BC it is also possible that Megisti fought on the side of Troy. The Dorians gave the island the name Megisti (the largest of a group of islands) and a residue of the Dorian language is still to be found in the modern Kastellorizian dialect. After the expulsion of the Persians from Anatolia by Alexander the Great in 330BC the region became Hellenistic. The Classic Athenian and Roman civilisations followed. Kastellorizo became part of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire after Constantine the Great's conquests in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD.

Replete in the history of Kastellorizo are waves of conquest, in early times from the Arab East and in the Middle Ages from the Frankish West a process which continued to modern times. This is so because of the island's strategic geographic location with its deep natural harbour. It is said that "Whoever commands Kastellorizo Commands the Eastern Mediterranean". Thus, following the ancients the Phoenicians and Saracens came from the East and Christians from the West. The Crusading Knights of St John invaded in 1306, the Egyptians in 1440, followed by the Neapolitans and Venetians in 1512 and at some time pirates took advantage of the fine harbour and its remoteness. From 1522 the Ottoman Turks overran the island.

One may ask whether any of these conquests enriched the Kastellorizians. Did they hone attributes required for survival? Were any of the invader's customs adopted? We know that the Kastellorizian cuisine is Anatolian and Middle Eastern. Despite the numerous invasions and conquests the Kastellorizian people have always been ethnically and culturally Greek in language and life and Christians possibly since 326AD when, according to legend, St Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, took refuge from a storm on Kastellorizo while on her return from the Holy Land where she had found the Holy Cross.

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, because of its prosperity, Kastellorizo underwent a rapid growth in population with newcomers coming from other islands. A fleet of ships was built at Mandraki and they traded in the Mediterranean and beyond. To survive the hazards of the sea and profit commercially called for many skills on the part of the Captains and crew. Safe navigation depended on the recognition of the coastal features as they travelled, remembering landmarks as well tides and currents, shoals and reefs, e.g. the Papoutsakia outside harbour. At night they read the stars and knew how the sky would change with the seasons. They needed to learn the foreign languages in the different ports where they traded. They had to be money-wise in their "bazaria" i.e. their deals. In order to do all of these things successfully as we know they did, the Kastellorizians had to be versatile, intelligent, to possess a very good memory and to be physically strong. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Kastellorizo was probably the richest of the Aegean islands. Among the reasons are the special conditions awarded to the island by the Turkish Sultans. The Kazzies enjoyed freedom of language, religion and trade and suffered few taxes, a policy of Ottoman tolerance which dates back to Mehmet 2 "the Conqueror" of Constantinople in 1453 AD.

Due to its wealth and high standard of living Kastellorizo developed a series of complex social customs in relation to births deaths marriages and feast days. Thus their social structure was enriched by its traditions which dictated how each of life's milestones would be conducted. Because of its relative isolation many of these customs were singular to Kastellorizo. Intermingled among these is the Orthodox religion which is incorporated into many of the traditions with the observance of the Christian Calendar celebrating its many Saints and Feasts. Kastellorizian success in Australia also has roots in these mores. It is evident that proficiency in business arises from the eons of trade. Generosity and community benevolence relate to living in a close knit neighbourhoods and the adherence to Christian ethics. Strict rules as to who may marry avoids inbreeding and

preserves genetic heterogeneity. This is another social strength. . Important also are our strong family values and high standards of personal behaviour our 'ΕΣΤΗΜΑ' or self-respect.

### TRAPS AND PITFALLS

It is timely to introduce a note of caution before we become too smug. Let us be honest and consider some of the negative aspects of the Kazzie personality (do we have any?-Yes I am afraid we do possess a few bad points). It is often said that our greatest weakness is our love for the Megalia. 'Η Καστελλορίζοι πεθενουν για τα μεγαλια' [Λουκα Λουκα]. Ostentatious showmanship and grandiose display of material success is unbecoming. Being aware of this weakness, the danger of hubris or arrogant pride, should be avoided and be afraid of its consequent punishment the "Peripeteia" of the Gods so often depicted in the Classical "Tragedies". We consider ourselves Orthodox Christians and as such we should heed the words of Christ by respecting humility, tolerance, forgiveness and the ethic of treating others as one would wish to be treated themselves. Financial success is honourable and is to be encouraged, because much good can be done with the power it provides. Money is a good servant but a poor master and it should not be thought of as being an end in itself. Thus we should endeavour to practise the virtues and revisit the classical Greek philosophical guidelines and ethics bringing these into everyday life. We should revive the worthiness of "Καλος αγαθος". The philosophies of Socrates Plato and Aristotle are always relevant. Their aphorisms some of which are quoted below are always pertinent. Examples are:

"Παν μετρων αριστον" (moderation in all things). "Ουκ εν το πολο το ευ" (quality before quantity).

Noble struggle rather than mere achievement. Honour before opulence.

"Καιρος παντη πραγματι" (there is a right time and place for everything). The value of knowledge creativity and truth.

Seek out the perfect, the ideal, the "Ευ," in all matters.

### AUSTRALIA AND THE ETHNIC CONTRIBUTION

Kastellorizians have contributed enormously to Australia and we have been a very significant element in creating the great country it has become, a rich middle world power enjoying a very high standard of living. The Kastellorizian contribution to Australia is illustrated by the accomplishments of the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria's "Kastellorizians of the Year" from 1993 onward. But-are Kazzie Greeks more successful than Australians in general or other migrant groups in multicultural Australia such as the Italian Slavic and other communities? .At least we may reasonably say that the Greek component is equal to the other migrant groups.

### THE FUTURE

There remain challenges before us, as members of Australian society. In Australia today we have many contemporary issues to be addressed. Examples are the deluge of unprocessed information of the digital age and the negativity of the news media, with their highlighting of criminality or political blunders .We live in era of soft options and lack of life's disciplines with drug addiction and alcoholism. On a wider scale there are the untoward effects of driven commercialism, globalisation pollution and the threat of nuclear disaster. Socially there is the effect of the breakdown of the family unit and the implications of living longer are other contemporary problems, just to name a few of the issues.

As a significant minority and community leaders we as Greek Australians, should set an example for others to follow. We have an important role to play in the future of Australia for the betterment of society and in dealing with these problems. We should imbue the best aspects of our Kastellorizian culture into the fabric of the country embedding the worthiest of our attributes into Australian life with a dash of Greek philosophy.

Success in life is to be enlightened and well informed, to be creative in the arts science music poetry and literature and to contribute generously to society. We should ensure that our children are well educated and grow up with a sense of pride in their heritage and religion with an ethic that includes contributing to the community we live in.

The late Olympian George Samios, a Kytherian, declared that a complete human being should have six features in balance: "to be possession of the social graces, to be honest, to be economically independent, to be physically fit, to be family oriented and to contribute to society".

And in all of this we must keep the plight of Kastellorizo in mind .and for those who are able to continue to restore their family houses to visit frequently so that the rehabilitation of the island is eventually complete. The Kastellorizian Associations in each state will continue in this playing a major role in this complementing the work of such bodies as "the Friends of Kastellorizo "who are to be strongly encouraged. It is possible to foresee that the Australian Kastellorizians will become more supportive in the administration of the island as time goes on.

In **conclusion**, we are proud to be Kastellorizians and we are very proud to be Australians .Our forefathers chose well to migrate to this country in which we have worked hard and prospered. .We have fulfilled a significant role in bringing Australia to where it is today, a rich cosmopolitan country and a key player in world affairs. Our aim is to integrate but not to homogenate and to incorporate the best of Greek Kastellorizian traditions into multicultural Australia.



# REFUGEES ON CASTELLORIZO

Photos and Article Provided by Margarita Kannis

Twelve months ago a few refugees turned up Kastellorizo, stayed a few days and then moved on to Piraeus. Since then, thousands have passed through, and now each day there are at least 100 here. There are national and international groups assisting them.

Maria Angela Manzoni, a well known island resident, has organised the clothing shop! From a jumble sale start the shop is now a well run machine. Clothing is donated from all over the region.

Volunteers come on a rotating basis from Turkey. They belong to an agency, and are British and Americans who live in Turkey.

The impact on the island is a major concern. One example is refuse. It is very difficult to keep up with the garbage that is created by so many people being here. The recycling programme is working, but we only have enough funds to run part time. Challenging times.





# CAZZIE COOKING CLASSES

Photos and Article Courtesy Helen Anastasas

On Saturday the 13 February, 2016 the Cazzie Cooking class had their first and only class for this year. The Souffra recipe was from Helen Naoum and was to be demonstrated by Helen on the day. Unfortunately she was not well enough to attend and yours truly had a very quick first lesson by Helen on how to make Souffra in the morning. I then felt confident in taking the class due to Helen's superb guidance.

Since then the members of the Cazzie Cooking class have had 3 Saturday afternoon workshops to extend recipes that will be used for the recipe book. All the workshops have been very successful and well supported, with excellent recipes presented for each session.

One photo shoot with 15 recipes has been completed. There are more to come with everyone who has presented recipes, will be involved in.

The recipe book is a challenging but very exciting project, with progress made so much easier by the enthusiasm and support of so many wonderful people.



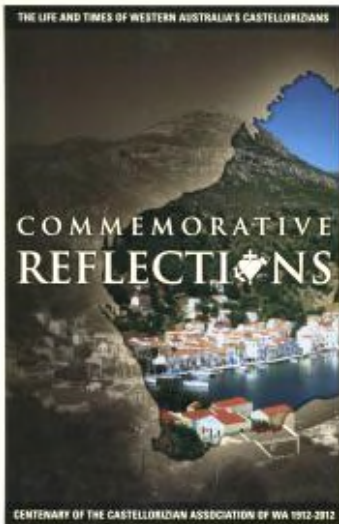


## CAZZIE COOKING CLASSES - CONTINUED

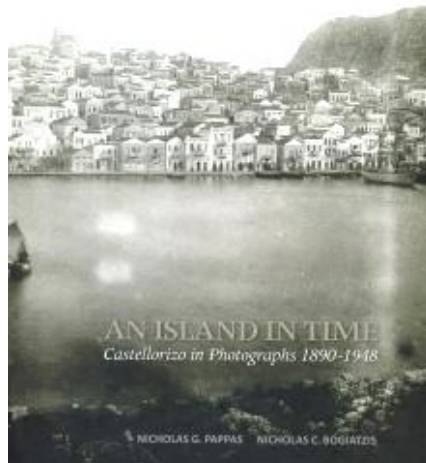


## CAZZIE BOOKS FOR SALE

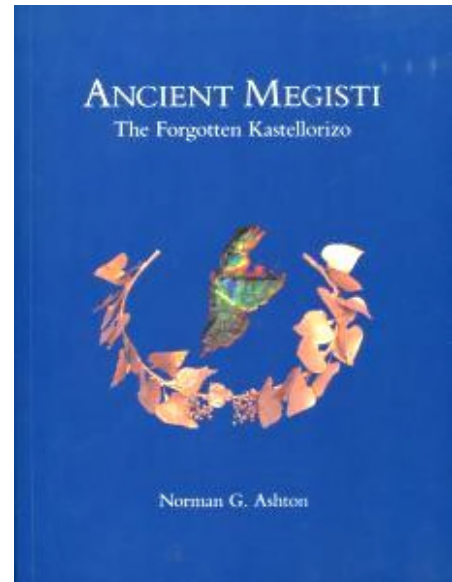
The following books relating to Castellorizo are for sale at **Castellorizian House**. Save on postage by collecting direct from our association.



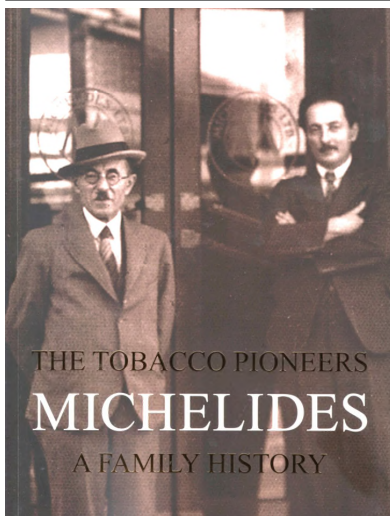
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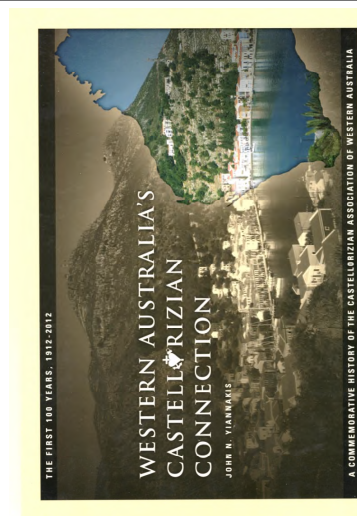
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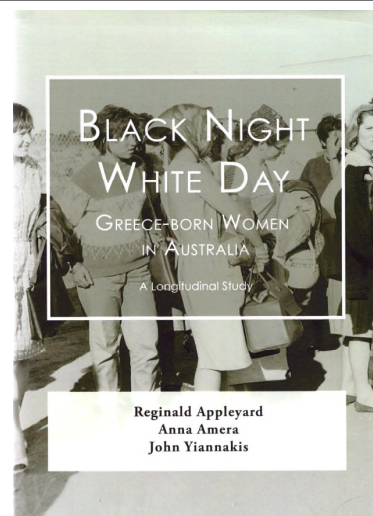
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# KAZZIE CHRONICLE

March 2016

## KCA Conference Brisbane 22-26 January 2016

The objectives of the KCA Convention were to 'Celebrate all that is Kazzie' and give all delegates (from interstate and locally) the opportunity to connect with each other. The conference did indeed deliver on this and much mirth and merriment was experienced as our mutual love of all that is 'Kazzie' was showcased and honoured. The array of speakers showed the strength of character of people who had emigrated from our tiny island.

Over two hundred people attended various events of the convention. The conference was structured to allow people to attend both seminars as well as many social events such as:

- Welcome Drinks at the Greek Club
- Dinners at IL Centro (a beautiful waterfront restaurant) and the Greek Club
- St Andrew's Theological College, Campus - Bribie Island Retreat and Recreational Centre
- Breakfast at Rydges Hotel
- Ferry ride along the Brisbane River

With the seminars addressing such topics as ancestry, future directions and why the youth are not connecting with their Kazzie heritage, the conference provoked interesting debate and discussion on these matters. The Q & A Youth Panel and prominent Kazzies showcasing their experiences demonstrated why Kastellorizians have been so successful and will continue to play an important role in Australian society in the future.



**Members of the  
Convention Steering Committee**



**Members of the  
Kastellorizian Council of Australia**



## **Report from KCA Convenor: Stathis E Efstathis OAM**

The Queensland Kazzie Committee nominated six individuals; Dr Anastasia Anastas , Michael Boubaris, Despo Efstathis, Stathis E Efstathis (Convenor), Betty Yanardasis and George Yanardasis ( the 6PAK ) and charged them with planning , promoting and executing a viable and attractive First Kastellorizian Convention under the KCA banner. Every member of the 6PAK was unwavering in their commitment to the job at hand, and it was an absolute pleasure working with them during the many long hours of meetings. It proved to be a success in putting an organising structure in place which featured an overall Convenor and five others who would be responsible for different facets of the Convention.

In choosing the timing of the event, consideration was given to the long weekend of Australia Day 2016, the Anzac Day weekend and a period during our Northern Winter. Anzac Day was ruled out as it was too close to our Greek Easter. A time during our winter was excluded on the basis that there was an anticipation that Kazzie members would be trekking to Europe and Greece. The Australia Day weekend was settled on and it was decided that the convention would be for five days in order to make it worthwhile for those people who had to travel from distant States. The strategy employed involved events to be user pays, sponsorships introduced to pay for expected heavy outlays in certain areas such as shortfalls in guaranteed function numbers, booklet/brochure and satellite link.

I must emphasise that the concept of sponsorship was designed to raise funds in each participating state from private enterprise and NOT from State Kazzie Associations; no special invitations or free/subsidised registrations were to be issued. In the end, sponsorships were raised from West Australia (6) and Queensland (6) only, and NSW, South Australia and Victoria contributed nil.

The first release of the intent to hold Convention 2016 took place in October 2015 with the National President's note to the States and a mention in the National Newsletter. We had to rely on the various State Kazzie Associations to distribute our numerous promotional items to their members. The KCA is currently not permitted to hold State Membership lists. It would seem that the States attended to the dissemination of this promotional material with varying degrees of intensity and effectiveness. Our most effective promotional tool was the booklet/brochure which we distributed electronically as soon as it was completed in December.

The numbers for the Convention were: 22 from West Australia, 3 from South Australia, 4 from Victoria, 28 from NSW and 150 attended events from Queensland. I must acknowledge the superlative effort of the WA organisers, the most distant State, who locked in their 22 attendees and six sponsorships by early December with minimal fuss for us.

The advertised programme was adhered to without any changes or failures. All seminars and functions were well attended and I would believe that every day was a highlight.

Arising out of the Saturday afternoon Youth Forum, is a recommendation that all State Kazzie Associations must make every effort to develop and nurture a Kazzie Youth wing.

In conclusion:

- My thanks for the huge effort put in by the Convention Steering Committee
- I believe that we have set the bar quite high with this first Kastellorizian Convention, and that we met everyone's expectations
- My thanks to all guest speakers and keynote speakers, Professor Byron Kakulas and Andrew Liveris
- My thanks to Dow Chemicals and Andrew Liveris for meeting the high cost of the live satellite transmission from the USA
- Our thanks to the six sponsors from WA and the six sponsors from Queensland
- I acknowledge the anonymous donation from WA and the donation for the gifts to the Convention Steering Committee by National President Mrs Yvonne Panagacos
- The Convention has made a surplus of close to \$10,000-00 (not finalised as yet)

### **Important Outcomes from the Convention:**

- **Members to stay connected – across Australia and within each state**
- **More cultural events for people to learn the 'Kazzie traditions'**
- **The formation of a KCA for Youth**
- **The formation of a Youth Association in each state**
- **Mentor programs and cultural exchanges for the youth of Australia**
- **To give the youth of Greece opportunities in order to be inspired to be better future leaders. This could be achieved through mentoring programs and cultural exchanges**

# CAZZIE TRIBUTE



Taken from a Eulogy provided  
for his funeral service and  
supplied by John Kannis

Theo passed away on  
September 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

## EULOGY FOR THEODOSIOS (THEO) JOHN KANNIS

Theodosios John Kannis was born on 5 February 1931 in Perth, Western Australia. He was the second child and only son of John Theodosios Kannis and Chrissie Barthomelew Kannis (nee Kakulas). The family home was in West Perth and Theo lived there with his three sisters, Kathleen, Athena & Angela.

Theo's father arrived in Perth in 1905 from Kastellorizo and his mother arrived in 1918 also from Kastellorizo.

Theo's school years were spent at Christian Brothers College Highgate. In 1953 he graduated from the University of Western Australia with a Bachelor of Optometry. After gaining some experience working in city optometrical practices, Theo moved to the south- west town of Manjimup in 1955 and founded what was to be a lifelong endeavour, WA Opticians Associates.

Theo married in 1956 and in 1957, with his wife Yvonne, welcomed their first child, a daughter Christine. In 1960 Theo and his family returned to Perth. In that year Theo's son, John, was born. Theo and Yvonne had three more children, Anthea who was born in 1962, Steven who was born in 1966 but passed away in 1967, and Stephanie who was born in 1969.

On returning to Perth Theo brought WA Opticians Associates to the city. The practice was located in Hay Street until 1992 when it relocated to Murray Street and is still a thriving business.

Although it was a diverse practice, WA Opticians Associates specialised in providing services and spectacles to the aged community. Theo became heavily involved in the Australian Pensioners League (now Retirees WA) and gained benefits for the senior members of the community that went beyond optometrical services. Theo's promoting of the interests of the Australian Pensioners League in the community and, especially his political lobbying on behalf of the League, were instrumental in having various governments of the day acting to provide greater benefits to enhance the lives of the aged community. Theo's services to the aged were always on a voluntary basis and endured for over 40 years.

In 1970 Theo became a Justice of the Peace. Theo was also a major benefactor of the underprivileged and sponsored various community activities and causes. His contribution was recognised by the Australian and British governments. In 1971 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for service to pensioners in WA and in 1978 he received the Order of the British Empire for service to the economy and to the community.

In 1994 Theo was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for service to the community and in 1998 his contribution to the West Australian community was recognised when he received the Citizen of the Year award. In 1999 Theo was made an Ambassador of Western Australia for the International Year of the Older Person.



Theo was also honoured with life membership of several community and business organisations not only in Australia but also in Britain and Canada.

The pinnacle of recognition for his contribution occurred in 1974 when the Greek Orthodox Church honoured Theo in making him an Archon Deputatos. As an Archon he sat in his chair in the front of this church, often next to his good friend Stavros Kakulas and in later years his grandchildren Theodore, Luke and Eleni joined him there.

Theo loved people and was never happier than when he was in the company of family and friends. He was particularly fond of sharing a meal or even just a coffee. Many of you here today would have been a guest at his lamb on the spit luncheons in Mandurah; had prawns delivered to you; or sat opposite Theo in one of the coffee shops he favoured over the years.

Theo was well known for his generosity and hospitality. The newspaper notices for Theo over the past week have reflected on his magnanimous nature. His friend Eric Michailidis wrote that Theo's generosity and hospitality knew no bounds and he was always willing to help. His nephew Basil Palassis wrote that his uncle had a generous heart for family and many others. Nic Spartalis told Theo's daughter recently that Theo was very good to his father and said his dad never paid for a pair of glasses or a meal or a coffee because Theo always looked after him. Theo's generosity of spirit in the giving of his time, as well as financially, was indisputable and that is what his family would most like him to be remembered for.

Theo is survived by Yvonne, daughter Christine and her husband Kevin and their three children, namesake Theodore, Luke and Eleni; John and his wife Sue; Anthea and her husband Peter; and youngest daughter Stephanie, her husband Raf and their two children, Taylan and Kade.

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