

# MEGISTI MESSENGER

Newsletter of the

## CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn WA 6016 Phone 94432110

February 1<sup>st</sup> 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

### **Our Association Centennial in 2012**

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

In less than three years it will be the year 2012 when the Castellorizian Association of WA will turn one hundred years of age. It will be a year of great celebration to honour the achievements of our association, and that of our members, throughout these one hundred years.

Our Castellorizian Association is the oldest of its kind throughout the whole world. A fact that we should all be proud of and something that we should give special tribute to during our centennial year.

There are many special events and functions that come to mind in planning to celebrate this great year. But what does come especially to mind is the need to plan well ahead for this occasion. With this in mind our committee has agreed that a special sub committee be formed to plan and structure the various activities that may be considered. This sub committee would report directly back to our association committee and ideally would consist of members from a wide range of backgrounds and with a wide range of expertise.



**OUR COMMITTEE DURING THE 75 YEARS CELEBRATION**

Please do contact our association President Jim Manifis with names to be nominated for this sub-committee. His contact details are on page 4 of the *Megisti Messenger*. We look forward to excellent support for this ideal way to ensure a successful celebration year.

The year 2012 will be a special year indeed and we look forward to suggestions and input from all of our association members. On a personal note I can see that one of the initiatives that could be considered is a centennial publication book. This book could pictorially record the past one hundred years of our association, together with various written historical stories of families and their achievements.

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#### **NEED TO CONTACT THE EDITOR?**

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Mt Hawthorn WA 6016

**CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA**  
**Cordially invites you to the**

### **APOKRIES BBQ**



**To be held at**

**Castellorizian House**  
**160 Anzac Road Perth WA**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2009**

**commencing 6.00pm**

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PAGE 2**

# SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prepared by 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 Nicholas Pinakis and Despa McDonnell (nee Papastatis) who celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday recently. Also we overlooked recording in the last *Megisti Messenger* that George Moulatsiotis celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. A very special 1<sup>st</sup> birthday last week for Mia Anastasia Champion, daughter of Greg and Narelle, and granddaughter of Tony and Florence Elder (nee Manolas). Congratulations to Louise Andony who will celebrate her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in February. Louise is the daughter of Tony and Alex Andony and the granddaughter of Tony and Margaret.



## **ENGAGEMENT**

Congratulations to Conley Manifis and Vanessa Bouhlas who recently became engaged. Best wishes also to Nicholas Magriplis and Yiana Amperiadis who were engaged in November. Nicholas is the son of Con and Eva and his fiancée is the daughter of Lazaros and Angeliki.



## **BIRTHS/BAPTISMS**

Darcy and Catherine Papanastasiou have become grandparents to a beautiful baby girl (Latecia Vanesse Papanastasiou) on 22 December 2008. Proud parents are Mihali and Chenelle.



## **GET WELL SOON**

Great to see Arthur Athans up and about and at Friday nights happy hour.



## **VALE**

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Paul Stain, Chris Gogos, Barry Panos, Neranzi Papanastasiou (nee Diamandaras) and Angelo Petrelis. Rose Barbouttis passed away in Brisbane on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. She was 94 years of age and the daughter of Vasili Lucas and Maria (nee Kalafatas).



## **HOLIDAYS/TRAVELLING**

Paul and Terri Boyatzis are joining brother Stan and Sylvia in Sydney to travel the northern island of New Zealand. Whilst in Sydney they will be attending Terri's neices wedding. Paul and Terri visited the south island two years ago. George Papacotis (of Sydney) and sister Christina Pavlou (of Melbourne nee Papacotis) visited Perth recently with George attending the Men's Happy Hour. They are the children of the late Evangelia Papacotis (nee Kakulas). Peter and Karen Tsapazi, with daughter Melissa and husband, Ryan and grandson, Matthew, travelled to Castellorizo in September and had six wonderful days there.



## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Congratulations to Nicholas and Mary Nicholas (nee Sertis) who recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.



## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Cerissa Papanastasiou has completed her fourth year of university with a Bachelor of Health Science with First Class Honours. Well done Cerissa!

## **APOKRIES BBQ CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup> COMMENCING 6.00pm**

**Food Supplied – Cost \$25.00 per head**

**Children (Primary School Age) - \$15.00**

**Contact Jim, Allan or Michael for additional details.**

# PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

The 2007-2008 year for the Castellorizian Association was very successful, both socially and financially. All functions held this year returned a profit for the association. The various functions that were held were;

- Sunday luncheon's
- Cocktail parties
- New Years Eve function
- Happy hour
- Youth functions 20-40
- St Constantine and Helene

Financially the association returned a profit of \$16,128. This amount was very pleasing considering we had additional cost with the renovations and the interest component for our loans.

The renovations for stage one of the Castellorizian House were completed late in 2007 and I'd like to thank all the people who were involved. There is still considerable amount of work to be considered for stage 2.

The visit by Professor Hadjiyannakis, the President of the World Wide Castellorizian Association, and his wife, was a great opportunity for our members to meet both of them on the evening of our cocktail party.

Since the completion of our renovations it is very pleasing to see an increase in the hiring of the house and we encourage our members to patronize Castellorizian House.

The publication of the *Megisti Messenger* has been our greatest achievement for the 2007-2008 year. The Megisti Messenger has created so much interest in the Castellorizian Association of W.A and the Cazzies of Western Australia and in the Eastern States. The membership for the 2007-2008 has increased dramatically and we now have in excess of 350 members.

I would like to thank the Castellorizian Women's Megisti for the continual support both socially and financially. I am hoping the new committee continue to have further communication with the Megisti ladies which may lead to a closer affiliation. With only 2 years experience on the committee I find it very difficult to understand why there are two committees (gents and ladies) in the Castellorizian Association.

The only area of concern that worries me that we do not have true goals or path that we need to follow. I believe this should be seriously looked at when reviewing our constitution. There is a group that has been formed in Australia called the Australian Friends of Castellorizo (AFK) and there may be scope for our association to work more closely with their identified goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their support and hard work for the year. Special mention must be made for three members for outstanding services. Kathy and Michael who were only temporally in their executive positions but completed the year in that role. Their combined effort to update the data base has been a great benefit to our association. Our previous data base had various people who had not paid their memberships for over 7 years. Their efforts in improving the data base increased our membership to over 350. Both Kathy and Michael were very professional in their role and contributed a number of hours during the year. Michael had a very serious health problem during the year where most people would have resigned from the committee, but that was not the case for Michael. Kathy's involvement in the association as Secretary was greatly appreciated by me. She is a person who was very professional in the way that she conducted her role.

Additionally I would like to thank Allan for his efforts with the publication of the *Megisti Messenger*. The newsletter has created a huge interest amongst our members and provided excellent communication within our association. The *Megisti Messenger* was also another reason for the huge increase of our membership. I hope that Allan continues his fine work with the publication for 2008-2009. Also his role as Vice President was greatly appreciated during the year as there were various times when I was away on business trips.

There are three gentlemen that need to be thanked for their tireless contribution to our association, even though they were not on our committee. They are Tony Koufos, Con Kailis and Darcy Papanastasiou. Tony's hard work with the Castellorizian News can not be over looked. Tony continually has been in control for both receiving subscriptions from our members and for the articles that he writes in the

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

Castellorizian News. To Con Kailis who continually puts in enormous amount of hours for the happy hour and for his latest project (Youth 20-40 functions). Darcy Papanastasiou's contribution in supporting Michael Paul as treasurer in reference to the accounts, the business activity statements and then finally the audit of accounts, was well appreciated.

I congratulate the members who have been elected on the committee for 2008-2009 and it was pleasing to see at the AGM, the positive manner in which individuals nominated for the positions on the committee. It is very pleasing to see a number of younger members and new faces on the committee. I believe all members on the committee have enormous potential and have a lot to offer the association.

I would like to conclude my President Report in wishing all our members a prosperous New Year.

## OUR ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE FOR 2008/2009

### **PRESIDENT:**

Jim Manifis                      Ph 0433165601                      email [whitfordcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:whitfordcitynews@hotmail.com)

### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

Allan Cresswell                      Ph 94017574                      email [cressie@bigpond.net.au](mailto:cressie@bigpond.net.au)

### **SECRETARY:**

Kevin Kannis                      Ph 94485312                      email [kkannis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:kkannis@bigpond.net.au)

### **TREASURER:**

Michael Paul                      Ph 92042064                      email [betty.paul@bigpond.com](mailto:betty.paul@bigpond.com)

### **BOOKINGS OFFICER:**

Tony Samiotis                      Ph 93441634                      email [tonsam@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tonsam@optusnet.com.au)

### **COMMITTEE:**

Peter Kalaf                      Ph 92715595                      email [peterkalaf@hotmail.com](mailto:peterkalaf@hotmail.com)

### **COMMITTEE:**

Con Kannis                      Ph 93877434                      email [cmka@bigpond.com](mailto:cmka@bigpond.com)

### **COMMITTEE:**

Phyllis Samiotis                      Ph 93441634                      email [tonsam@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tonsam@optusnet.com.au)

### **COMMITTEE:**

John Yiannalis                      Ph 93433216                      email [j.yiannakis@curtin.edu.au](mailto:j.yiannakis@curtin.edu.au)

### **COMMITTEE:**

Michael Spartalis                      Ph 0419441266                      email [info@michaelsproducts.com](mailto:info@michaelsproducts.com)

### **COMMITTEE:**

Michael Palassis                      Ph 0407286227                      email [mpalassis@stamfords.com.au](mailto:mpalassis@stamfords.com.au)

# ASSOCIATION SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR 2009

By Tony Samiotis

Following is a list of social activities the committee has agreed upon for this year. More details will follow, as the date gets closer to the listed events. This list may be amended throughout the year. We would like to see the regular faces as well as new ones throughout the year.

<b>FEBRUARY- Apokries function Sunday 22nd</b>	<b>JULY - Sunday luncheon</b>
<b>MARCH - Friday night youth function</b>	<b>AUGUST - Quiz night</b>
<b>APRIL - No event due to Easter festivities</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER (AFLfootball theme) Friday night youth function.</b>
<b>MAY - St Constantine's function</b>	<b>OCTOBER - Sunday luncheon</b>
<b>JUNE - Friday night youth function</b>	<b>NOVEMBER - Family picnic</b>

## CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE BOOKINGS

Booking Officer: Tony Samiotis Ph 93441634 email [tonsam@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tonsam@optusnet.com.au)

### SCALE OF CHARGES

TYPE OF HIRE	RATE
Casual hire, seminars etc, up to 3 hours	\$75
Casual hire, parties, reunions etc, 3 hours and over.	\$250 members \$200
Compulsory cleaning fee for social functions	\$100
Regular weekly or monthly hire.	POA

### CONDITIONS OF HIRE

(These are abbreviated below. Please refer to complete document for more detail.)

Bond required for events over 3 hours.

Preparation of food and beverages shall be confined to the kitchen area.

Crockery and cutlery may be used but all breakages are to be paid for.

The kitchen, hall and toilet areas are to be left in a clean state at conclusion of function.

All extra rubbish that doesn't fit in the bins provided is to be removed from the premises.

Extra fees will be charged for breakage, cleaning and removal of rubbish if necessary.

Keys will be issued at a convenient time for both the hirer and the Booking Officer.

## AFK STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Marilyn Tsolakis

Are you interested in student exchange to Kastellorizo during the October school holidays in 2009? Are you eligible to apply? Read the eligibility criteria below and then complete the application form if you meet the requirements.

The following criteria will be considered in the first round of selection for students who may be interested in applying for exchange from Australia to Kastellorizo in October 2009 school holidays for 14 days:

- a knowledge of the Greek language - you should be able to speak some Greek;
- 15 years of age is the preferred age;
- Australian Kastellorizian students who otherwise may not have the opportunity to travel to Kastellorizo;
- the preference would be for Kastellorizian descent which fits into the AFK charter;
- Being responsible, reliable, honest - qualities that demonstrate integrity and community spirit; willingness to help others.

Those students who are interested are asked to request the application form from [mazzmacc@tpg.com.au](mailto:mazzmacc@tpg.com.au) or by telephoning Marilyn on 93871681. Then complete the application form and email to AFK no later than the **end of February**. Australian Friends of Kastellorizo will pay for 50% of the travel costs.



# SMOKESCREEN

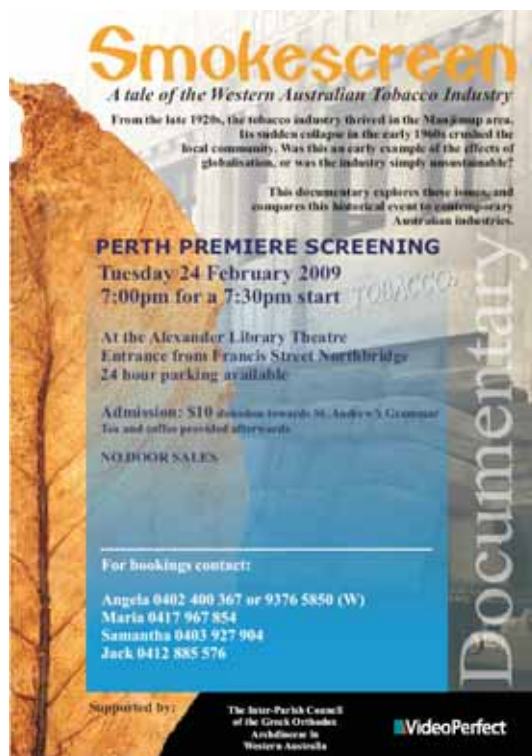
By Dr John Yiannakis

This 45-minute documentary provides a thorough and interesting coverage of the history of the Western Australian tobacco industry and the involvement of the Michelides family. Peter Michelides, along with his brother Michael, not only helped pioneer the local tobacco industry but also was the longest serving President of the Hellenic Community of WA. Michelides Tobacco Ltd was at one time the third largest manufacturer of tobacco in Australia, and one of the first vertically integrated businesses in WA.

Smokescreen was launched in Manjimup – the heartland of the state's tobacco industry - in late 2007 to packed audiences in each of the three screenings. With an overwhelmingly positive response to the documentary, the local community was able to experience a certain sense of 'closure' on the controversial and abrupt ending to the tobacco industry as a result of globalisation.

Mr Jack Hondros, Mr Ian Katavatis, and Dr John Yiannakis researched and produced the documentary over several years. Self-financed, the project was a labour of love as well as being driven by a desire to record a previously untold story. Mr Gary Mitchell is the narrator and many local dignitaries, such as the former Governor of Western Australia, Lieutenant General John Sanderson, feature throughout. Members of the local community of Manjimup also feature extensively as the documentary attempts to trace the history of the origins of the tobacco industry, its success and its eventual demise.

In the current global economic crisis, the relevance of this documentary in terms of sustainable industry extends beyond the local context, rendering it a documentary not to be missed!



**Tickets are also available from John Yiannakis. His contact details are on Page 5 of the Megisti Messenger.**

## Book - Orlif, the Gentle Giant

### Children's Fable Inspired by Travel

Travel often inspires people to write stories that are stimulated by their experiences of people and places they encounter. Ethel Kanganas wrote *Orlif: the Gentle Giant* after she returned from her trip to the tiny and remote Greek island of Kastellorizo in 1988. While Ethel was on the island, she met an Englishman who was a writer and she suggested that he write a story. He told her to write her own. Ethel was inspired to write the fable as a way of giving something back to the Greek people. *Orlif* is Ethel Kanganas' own literary creation and Margaret Sauer, of East Fremantle, illustrated it. While it is set on the small Greek island of Kastellorizo overlooking Turkey, it could be anywhere in Greece or any other part of the world as the environmental message is indeed universal. It is a story in the style of a traditional fairytale about loneliness and love, remorse and forgiveness and through this story, you are made aware of why it is important to plant trees.

The author and the artist have given permission for the book to be re-printed by the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo (AFK) who have also translated it into Greek. AFK has donated the Greek version to school students on the island. This newly formed non-profit organisation identified educational, cultural and environmental goals as its charter at an International Symposium held on the island in 2007. The *Orlif* project is one of many more literature projects planned to develop a greater appreciation of the island's unique cultural heritage.

Copies of *Orlif* are for sale for anyone wanting to purchase one for their children, grandchildren or friends. If you would like to purchase a copy at a cost of \$20.00, it is available at the Lane Bookshop in Claremont, Hellenic Community, Evangelismos Parish Book Shop or AFK at [mazzmacc@tpg.com](mailto:mazzmacc@tpg.com)



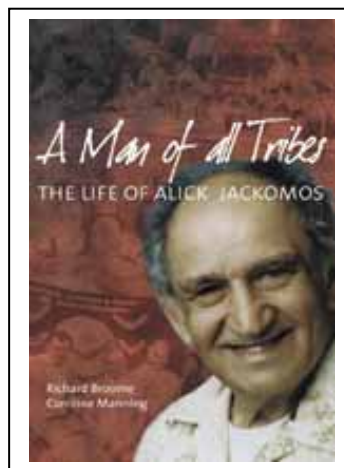
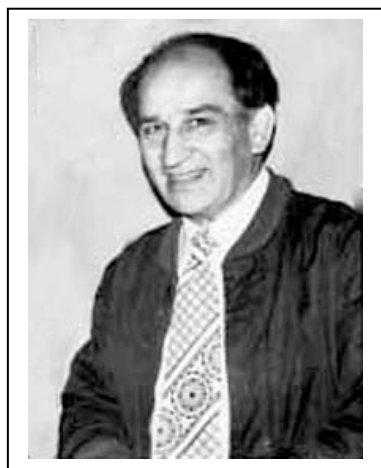
By Marilyn Tsolakis

## ***Alick Jackomos: 'A Man of all Tribes' by Richard Broome and Corinne Manning, Aboriginal Studies Press, Canberra, 2006***

Reprinted courtesy of the reviewer, Dr John Yiannakis, Curtin University

This biography is appropriately titled as it is about an Australian of Greek heritage who married into the Aboriginal community becoming a leading advocate for Aboriginal welfare and rights.

Alick Jackomos was the son of Greek migrants from the remote eastern Aegean island of Castellorizo. Born in 1924 in Carlton, his early life experiences are most interesting. As a youngster, Jackomos had good reason to identify with the Aboriginal households in neighbouring Fitzroy. His “Mediterranean complexion” inspired a passer-by at a football match to shout “little Dago” and mash a hot meat pie into his face (p. 13). Jackomos claimed “I still felt I was part of Australian society” but empathised with indigenous peoples, who “were barred [from it] in many ways” (p. 14). His father worked in that most typical of enterprises for pre-war Greek migrants, as a fish and chip shop proprietor. From an early age Alick helped in the shop and the taunts this way of life incited merely hardened his resolve. For this Western Australian reader his experiences of growing up “Greek” in assimilationist Australia are insightful for their universality.



After his adventurous Collingwood boyhood Jackomos joined the Australian Army in World War 11 and on his discharge became a travelling tent wrestler with Jimmy Sharman, whose boxing troupe was known Australia-wide. The popularity of wrestling among pre World War Two Greek migrants is in itself a fascinating sports story not yet fully explored. These shows relied heavily on Aboriginal boxers and audiences, and here Jackomos traversed cultural boundaries mixing with indigenous people at a time when most of the population chose to reject or ignore them. And, despite his close association with Aborigines and Aboriginal issues, Jackomos maintained strong connections with his Greek heritage and the RSL. Anecdotes highlighting his keenness for his Greek and Orthodox roots are mentioned, such as providing fellow workers with Greek Easter biscuits and Alick and his wife Merle visiting Castellorizo.

There are few stories concerning non-Aboriginal people who traversed the Aboriginal world as did Alick Jackomos. One such cross over experience of relevance is that of Greek Australian artist Vlase Zanalís.<sup>1</sup> Like Jackomos, he was of Castellorizian descent. His art would see him venture to the Western Australian outback where he came to appreciate the indigenous people and their art well before it was fashionable to do so. Zanalís, like Jackomos, was able to operate in three different cultural domains.

Marrying an Aboriginal woman, Merle Roberta Morgan, in 1951 cemented the connection with indigenous communities. His close relationship with pastor, and Governor of South Australia, (Sir)

Continued on Page 8

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<sup>1</sup> N. Green and J. Yiannakis, “Vlase Zanalís: Greek Australian Artist,” NCHSR Latrobe University, Bundoora, 2003.

Continued from Page 7

Doug Nicholls, in Aboriginal welfare work and activism for Aboriginal rights led him to join, and rise to prominence in, Aboriginal organisations. However, the marriage was not well received by his family, particularly his mother. The account of the complex relationship between Greek mother and son is an intriguing but brief one.

Each chapter of the book reveals a facet of this Greek-Australian's eventful life, from birth, through childhood and a disrupted schooling (he left school in Grade 8), an inconsistent career as paperboy, peanut-seller, soldier, wrestler and entrepreneur, then tireless activist and actor in the service of indigenous peoples at both Victorian and National levels. As a voluntary field officer with the Australian Aborigines' League, then its president from 1963 to 1966, he campaigned for decent housing, and organised pan-Aboriginal conferences, becoming "more politically minded" (p. 129). Jackomos also became Victorian Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders until 1976. He accepted a position as Second Field Officer with the Council, under Nicholls. Earlier, as a welfare officer for the (Victorian) Welfare Board, he worked long hours helping the Swan Hill Community, and was promoted to the (Victorian) Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, then the Federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs in 1975, leaving in 1989. Jackomos was also the recipient of a Churchill Scholarship in 1977, which afforded him the opportunity to visit Black and Indian American communities in the United States (p. 174-175). This experience left a lasting impression. He visited friends in Brunei many times, fascinated by its culture, and he made Brunei his second spiritual home.

Throughout the book, there are many black and white photographs illustrating his life journey. The authors adequately discuss the organisations he joined and sometimes directed, the causes that were defended, as well as the frustrations and achievements encountered along the way. Any more detail about these groups and issues would have weighed down the narrative. His life is set in the context of evolving Aboriginal activism, yet there were moments of controversy as he was a non-Aboriginal man, with an Aboriginal family, living and moving in an Aboriginal world and working for Aboriginal causes. More information about this controversy, particularly what his Greek relatives, friends and community thought of his participation in the Aboriginal world would have been a worthwhile inclusion in this book.

Written in an easy to read, straightforward manner, the book is relevant for an Australia still trying to come to grips with its relationship with its indigenous population. The book is well-documented and referenced, with endnotes, bibliography, index, and a list of many photographs from family sources. Jackomos died in March 1999. At his funeral three flags adorned the Northcote Town Hall wall, the Greek, the Koori and the Australian. The book is a fascinating read, telling a different sort of tale, about "a man of all tribes."

## Handyman Help Request

The Castellorizian Association of WA is seeking assistance from our members for various small projects around Castellorizian House. As well as the established ongoing and formalised improvements to our building there is an identified need for voluntary assistance in various maintenance requirements around the building. Experienced handymen to carry out general home renovation/repairs are always sought.

If you can assist in any of the areas of repairs and maintenance please do give our President, Jim Manifis a call. His contact details are listed on page 4 of the *Megisti Messenger*.



# 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.



**Father Methodios Kalpogiannis with his Bible Students Perth 1956**

Photo Courtesy Dr Paul Boyatzis

Photograph and names listed on Castellorizian Geni Website at:

<http://www.castellorizo.org/showmedia.php?mediaID=916&albumlinkID=878>



**Father Methodios Kalpogiannis with his Bible Students Perth 14 June 1956**

Photo Courtesy Arthur Athans

Photograph and names listed on Castellorizian Geni Website at:

<http://www.castellorizo.org/showmedia.php?mediaID=915&albumlinkID=877>

# PILGRIMAGE TO CASTELLORIZO – PART ONE

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

**This is an account of our first visit to Castellorizo in September/October 2008. Our Greek holidays included the meeting of so many great people with so many wonderful special happenings occurring. That magical and emotional experience of a “coming home” feeling which was felt when first arriving on the island no doubt has been felt by other first time visitors of Castellorizian heritage. This is an attempt to document some of these emotions for some of those special occasions and happenings on Castellorizo. Part One details only the first twenty four hours, where so much happened in such a short time.**

I have always wanted to visit the birthplace of my mother, Cynthia (Xanthi) Cresswell (nee Karasavas), for so many years. But bringing up a large family, career requirements and the arrival of grandchildren meant the plans for a holiday to Greece and Turkey was always being put off until “next year”. My Aussie born Anglo-Saxon wife, Jean, kept suggesting every year that it was time to go, but it just didn’t happen. But after the death of my dear mother in 2005 there was a sudden realisation that there was a need to stop putting it off and an important need to go. Even two of my children had already been to Castellorizo and came back raving about the experience. So late in 2007 we commenced arrangements for a five week holiday in 2008 which would include six days in Castellorizo. When my sister, Stacey, heard of the plans she exclaimed, “I want to come too, but can you go in 2009? We are off to Canada and Alaska in 2008.” But I was not going to put it off any more. After all I was nearly 65 years old and had yet to experience the mystical wonders of setting foot on Castellorizo. “No, we are going in 2008,” I replied. “Well you are not going without me,” said my sister, and she cancelled plans for the North America holidays for her and partner, Gerry. And so our pilgrimage became set in concrete and we were on our way.

We initially visited Istanbul and the west coast of Turkey down to Marmaris and it was a very enjoyable eight days. The ancient Greek civilisations along the Asia Minor coast were so spectacular. We also visited Gallipoli which was a moving experience. My wife’s Uncle Frank was in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion on Gallipoli in World War One and was shot through the eye during the landing. It was great that Jean could also experience some heritage and family connection during these holidays. We left Turkey and travelled to Rhodes via ferry and had three wonderful days on this lovely island. Then on Saturday September 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 it was time to travel to Castellorizo.

I had heard some horrendous stories about the rough boat trip from Rhodes to Castellorizo and I let our group know of the potential difficult passage. My sister declared she was not a good sailor and became

very apprehensive about the trip. She had pressure bands for her wrists and tablets to take. I was wishing that I had kept my mouth shut. We waited on the Rhodes wharf for our ship to arrive and noticed a large group of military personnel who were also travelling to Castellorizo.

Whilst watching and photographing our ship, the *Proteus*, reversing to the wharf, I observed Gerry talking to a chap. I went over to them on the waters edge and started talking to Gerry. I was then met by the words, “Hello Allan, how are you?” I peered at the face of this person standing next to Gerry who was addressing me. The floppy hat and the sunglasses disguised him well. It was Professor Byron Kakulas from Perth who I knew from our Friday night Men’s Happy Hour. Fancy meeting him in Rhodes! “What are you doing here?” I questioned. “Off to Cazzie like you. Meet my wife Valerie.” Then Byron and Val gave us great comfort in telling us where to store our luggage and the best seating to get. Byron reassured us the trip would be calm and I could see Stacey was getting a lot of positive reassurance from these comments.



The lounge on the ship *Proteus*

We had the pleasure of the company of Byron and Val during the uneventful trip on the *Proteus*. As we approached Castellorizo we moved up from the lounge to the open deck to view the small islands. The sun was setting and the winds were very strong indeed. We observed a middle aged man and a younger woman on the deck with us who were also taking in these last few minutes as we approached

Castellorizo. Stacey was talking to them and we did not know at this time that they were to play a part in the special happening that was to take place the following morning on the island. We just knew at this time that they were taking in this magic arrival as we were.

The *Proteus* rounded the corner to open up the initial view of the harbour. Twinkling lights everywhere from the shore. It was near darkness. We all stood quietly on the deck as the ship slowly entered the harbour. The wind was extremely strong and cameras were shaking as we clicked away. Then time to reflect in what we were experiencing. It was like coming home after being away for many years. All the emotions were flowing through my mind. Pleasure at what I was seeing, happy thoughts of how my late mum, Cynthia, would be pleased. Also thoughts and childhood memories of my late blind mum-mee, Anastasia Karasavas (nee Xanthis), who died when I was only 13 years old. Plus this overwhelming sensation of returning home which I cannot put into words.



Coming into Castellorizo

The darkening sky and the strong winds hid the tears as they trickled down my face. My sister looked over my way and said, "Oh Allan isn't this so very special?" I could see that she was also emotionally affected. I just nodded my head in agreement as we slowly came closer to shore. I was so lost for words and reluctant to converse with either my sister or my wife.

Then as we reversed to the wharf and as all the vehicles and produce came off the ship it was time to collect our luggage and go onshore. It was now darkness. Then we were met by Anna Pavlidis (Paul) (nee Koutsoukos), who is my Aunty Angela Karasavas (nee Theodore) niece and who lives between Sydney and Castellorizo. Anna kindly met us and then took us to meet our landlord for the week, "Mavros". Enroute she tells us that there is a woman on the island who is visiting from Australia

and is a Karasavas. "You might meet her and find out more tomorrow, she has a family tree," she advises. This is very interesting!



Allan arriving at Castellorizo

Both our apartments were just great and were self contained complete with cooking facilities. Only ten metres to the harbour and all the action, such an ideal location for our holidays. "Settle in and come back for a meal," suggests "Mavros". This we did and had an enjoyable fish meal and complimentary drinks. After an exhausting day it was time for bed and an exploration of the island, tomorrow.

Waking early I told my wife I was going for a short walk around the harbour. She was reading in bed and enjoying the lie in. Upstairs was all quiet with Stacey and Gerry obviously still asleep. I kept thinking about what Anna had said the previous night about a Karasavas person on the island. Who could it be? There were very few Cazzies by that surname in the world. Even my grandfather's three brothers didn't use that surname but the family surname of Agapitos. Then my thoughts went back to 2004 when I made internet contact with sisters, Elizabeth (Liz) Philippou and Moska Brincat (both nee Karasavas) and both of Adelaide. Liz and I had been in contact for four years, with numerous emails and phone call and we established a family connection through our great grandfather's being brothers, making us third cousins. We had also exchanged various family photographs. Liz and I had discussed meeting in person one day and she had often suggested I come over to visit, but it just didn't happen. Then in 2006 Liz told me she was visiting Castellorizo in September 2006 and inquired with me if there might be any rellies left on the island. I told her that none were left there, as my mother had discovered on a visit in the 1980's. Perhaps this was Liz or Moska on Castellorizo now?

As I walked along the harbour admiring the beautiful views I came across Byron and Val having a morning orange juice and they invited me to join



them. Val then said, "We just met a few minutes ago a lady with a family tree asking about rellies." "Was her name Liz?" I inquired. "Yes I think it was," replies Val. "And here she comes now back from her walk." Looking 100 metres up the harbour I could see this beautiful woman coming towards us. "Don't say anything to her," I ask Val and Byron. I had it all worked out. I would walk up to her and say, "Liz you were looking for rellies on Castellorizo two years ago and now you have found one." She came closer to our table and I stood up and walked towards her. "Liz you....." and she cuts me off. "Oh Allan," she exclaims, then gives me a great big hug. We pull apart for a moment looking at each others faces, then we hug again.



**Elizabeth and Allan meeting on Castellorizo**

Planning to meet one day in Australia and here it eventually happens.....and in Castellorizo. How magic it was and how did she know who I was? Such a spontaneous and special meeting on such a special island. In my head I thought I could hear the applause from all our Karasavas ancestors. It was all happening as though it was a specially orchestrated event. Both of us so very interested in our Cazzie heritage and here we meet at last, in the most appropriate place to do so. I handed my camera to Byron as we savoured this magic meeting and a photo is taken. "We are here for a christening," says Liz. "All my family are here for the christening of my grandson, Pheonix, and you are invited. You are All invited. It is on this morning." After a few more hugs and conversation I head back to our accommodation. "Where have you been all this time?" Jean asks. "You have been gone for ages." "Get dressed, we are off to a christening right away," I tell her. She is stunned! I also informed Stacey and Gerry to get dressed in their best clothes. This is only the first morning and here we are off to a christening at St Constantine and Helene Church.

We arrived early at the church and observe the steps on the school hall next to the church where our rellies were standing when the wedding photos were

taken. Almost 100 years ago my grandparents were married in the same church and standing on these same stairs for photographs. The christening party arrived and there also is that man and young woman who were on the deck of the ship with us. The man we learn is the maternal grandfather of baby Pheonix and the woman his daughter and the aunt and proposed godmother of Pheonix. They were father and daughter and had travelled from Italy for the christening. Here we were the next morning all at the same function. We all laughed at meeting them again under these circumstances.



**Christening of baby Pheonix**

The christening was a wonderful experience for all of us and I kept wondering whether it was all just a big dream, as I stood there inside the church. Afterwards we had photos taken on the steps opposite the church.



**After the Christening**

Liz had introduced us to her partner, Mark, and to her sons, George, Adam and Michael. Also Adam's wife, Liana, their son, Calisto and Michael's partner, Linda with their son, Pheonix. Such all very



nice young men and women. We were accepted by them as family right from the moment we first met. In later days we were to travel together to Kas in Turkey, to the Blue Grotto and all return together by ship to Rhodes. In the meanwhile we were all invited to a christening luncheon provided by the parents of christened Pheonix.



**Allan, Elizabeth and Stacey**

The luncheon was great and there we met the restaurant owners, Kom and Lola Moustakas. Lola introduced herself and said she was a Perth born Cazzie girl and that her maiden name was Venitis. In typical Cazzie style Lola explained her family connections and went on to say, "I am cousin to Doctor Paul Boyatzis. Do you know him?" "Sure do", I replied, "He is a mate of mine." I could see the look on her face, any friend of Doctor Paul was a friend of hers. We all became instant friends.



**Christening Luncheon at Moustakas Restaurant**

What lovely people we are meeting on the island. Stacey and Gerry seem to be blown away by all the

happenings going on. Special things happening by the hour.

After our lunch we caught up with Anna Paul who advises us we are all invited to another christening this afternoon at St George Church. The christening is for baby Mia Karayiannis, who is the second daughter of Yiorgo and Louise (nee Katris). At the christening we also met the grandmother from Melbourne, Maria Katris (nee Adgemis) and others including Anna Paul's son, Colin, who was the godfather of baby Mia.



**Christening of Mia Karayiannis**

We also met others at this second christening from Australia which included TV personality, John Mangos, his wife Tanny and their baby, Kosta. Yiorgo Karayiannis has a boat and we were to be, in days to come, skippered by him to Kas and also to the Blue Grotto.

After the christening Stacey, Gerry, Jean and I went for a walk around the harbour and took in all the special sights including the various restaurants, houses and shops. We also went looking for my Aunty Angela's sister in law, Betty Theodore (nee Paltoglou), but was told she had left for Rhodes the previous day. We continued around the harbour and every few metres we met someone new and exchanged greetings.

What a terrific first day we had. Wonderful memories forever! What other special magic moments might happen over the next few days?

**To be continued.**

### **CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA - ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Your 2008/2009 subscriptions are now due. If you have not forwarded your subs for this financial year please do so now. Cost is only \$10.00 per year and includes four copies of the *Megisti Messenger* mailed to you. If you are in doubt as to whether you are financial or not please contact our treasurer. His contact details are on Page 4 of this newsletter. The financial year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.**

# CAZZIE TRIBUTE



Compiled by Allan Cresswell

## ARTHUR AUGUSTE

Athanasios Avgouste was born on January 14<sup>th</sup> 1870 in Castellorizo, to George and Evdokia (nee Passaris). After migrating to Western Australia he was known as Arthur Auguste (and also as Peter Angelo). Arthur had five known siblings, George, Anastasis, Vangheli, Yiannis and Elizabeth (later Grigoriou).

Arthur departed Castellorizo after being smuggled out aboard a ship bound for Egypt when aged 17 years. He had been a crew member on a caique (a wooden fishing boat) which became involved in a skirmish with a Turkish customs vessel. The Turkish authorities were in pursuit of the crew and the contraband they were transporting. Arthur did not want to face the serious consequences of being caught so he fled to Egypt. In Egypt he was employed by the Suez Canal Authority and by 1888 was living with other Castellorizians in Port Said. He heard many stories about the foreign lands whilst at Port Said and on October 14<sup>th</sup> 1890 when aged just 20 years he obtained his passport and soon afterwards worked his passage to Broome in Western Australia. There he was employed in the pearling industry, then moved for a short time to Fremantle, prior to moving across to Adelaide. Arthur's cousins, the Manolas brothers, followed him to Adelaide.

About 1896 Arthur returned to Western Australia and brought a property in East Fremantle. His Manolas cousins also moved across to Perth. At East Fremantle Arthur attempted to establish oyster beds in the river but found they would not breed. He then found it was possible to keep oysters supplied from other locations alive in the river, and so he established the Oyster Beds Restaurant at East Fremantle. Later he opened a restaurant in Barrack Street Perth where he also provided accommodation and food for newly arrived Greeks, prior to them becoming established in their new country.

In 1903 he returned to Port Said to marry Panaula Cominou, the daughter of Anastasios and Maria Komninos, and brought her to Perth in the same year. Their first child, Evdokia (Mrs Thanos Mirmikidis), was born in 1905, followed by Marcia (Mrs Lazarus Mandalis), George, Dorothea (Mrs Skevos Mavros), Anthony, Demetrios, Helene (Mrs Kyriakos Barris), Evangelene (Mrs William Thornett) and Athena, the last child born in 1921. Arthur became the first link in the migration chain from Castellorizo to Western Australia and by 1914 an estimated 120 had followed him to Perth.

In 1912 the Castellorizian Association (Brotherhood) of Western Australia was formed. Arthur was appointed the inaugural president, a position he held until 1925, followed by a second term from 1928 to 1932. His cousins, Dimitrios and Kyriakos Manolas, were also members of the inaugural committee in 1912.

Arthur and his family provided accommodation to Father Chrysanthos at their home in East Fremantle, where Greek Orthodox services were held in these early years. He also gave subsequent support to the Greek community's first resident Priest, Father Iliou.

Arthur Auguste was a powerful community figure and did so much for the chain migration of Castellorizians to Perth. He encouraged others to join him in WA and he is to be acknowledged for setting the foundation for these early migration years. He is also acknowledged for his long term involvement and commitment to the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia. Arthur died in Perth on May 26<sup>th</sup> 1932, aged 62 years.

### SOURCES:

+ Megisti in the Antipodes - by John N Yiannakis + Greek Pioneers in Western Australia - by Reginald Appleyard and John N Yiannakis  
+ Genealogical Research by Allan Cresswell