

Greek Independence Day 2009

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

The 25th of March is a day of celebration and commemoration of Greece's historic struggle for national independence in the 1800's. In 1821, after nearly 400 years of occupation by the Ottoman Empire, the people of Greece claimed victory in the War for Independence.

A Greek Independence Day Service was conducted on Sunday March 22nd 2009 at the Evangelismos Church to celebrate this event. Present at this West Perth service were many committee members and members of the Castellorizian Association of WA.

Afterwards members of the Greek community attended Kings Park where a commemoration service was held at the War Memorial. Our president, Jim Manifis, laid a wreath on behalf of the Castellorizian Association.

Later in the afternoon a cocktail party was held at Notre Dame University Fremantle which was arranged by the Perth branch of the Greek Consulate of Australia.

The 25th of March also honours the Festival of the Annunciation where Greek Orthodox churches



**THE GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY CHURCH SERVICE
EVANGELISMOS CHURCH WEST PERTH WA**

throughout the world celebrate with pomp and ceremony. The Annunciation is the revelation to Mary the mother of Jesus, by the angel Gabriel that she would conceive a child to be born the Son of God. There is always colourful religious events wherever the local monastery or church is named *Evangelismos* or *Evangelistria*. This was no exception in Perth where the Greek Orthodox Church of Evangelismos conducted their Annunciation Service on Wednesday March 25th.

See page 17 re numerous photographs of the Commemoration Service at Kings Park and the Cocktail Party held at Fremantle.

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HELLENIC COMMUNITY WA INC & CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

**Cordially invites you to the
ST CONSTANTINE & HELENE LUNCHEON**

**To be held at
The Hellenic Community Centre
20 Parker Street Perth WA**

**Sunday 24th May 2009
Commencing 12.00 Midday**

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PAGE 3

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

A very special happy birthday to Kiriakas (Jack) Pitsikas who turned 90 years of age on April 2nd 2009. Congratulations to Effie Gourdis (nee Kyriakakis) who turned 80 years of age this week.

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Deanne Anastasas and Peter Bouhlas who recently announced their engagement. Deanne is the daughter of Steve and Helen Anastasas and Peter is the son of Con and Kathy Bouhlas. Best wishes to Basil Zempilas and Amy Graham who announced their engagement recently. Their wedding is set down for September and will be held in Castellorizo.

BIRTHS/BAPTISMS

Kingsley and Keri Tringas (nee Agapitos) became proud parents to Renazia Marea, born March 28th 2009. Congratulations also to Michael and Felicity Panegyres on the arrival of their baby son, Preston Michael, born April 14th 2009.

GET WELL SOON

Jenny Zounis (nee Tsokos) has already made a great recovery from her operation. She would like to thank all the flowers, cards and telephone call support during her recovery.

VALE

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of George Christodolou who passed away on April 23rd 2009. Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of Dorrie (Christina) Moscovis (nee Passaris) who passed away in Maitland NSW on April 15th 2009. She was the last of the six daughters of Anthony and Marea Passaris. In a previous edition of the *Megisti Messenger* we failed to mention the passing of our Castellorizian Association member, Constantine Phillips. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Despo, family and friends of Constantine.

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Con and Olga Kailis (nee Mouglaalis) who celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary (40 years) on April 27th 2009. Also to Tony and Florence Elder (nee Manolas) who celebrate a wedding anniversary on May 17th.



EDITORIAL: by Agapitos

A number of our members have not yet paid their 2008/2009 subscriptions. On July 1st 2009 we enter a new financial year for 2009/2010. If you have received an orange slip with this newsletter advising of outstanding membership subscriptions please do forward your payment along with subs for the approaching new financial year. Membership is only \$10 per year and includes four *Megisti Messenger* newsletters mailed to you.

A new regular article starts in this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*, titled *Cazzie Military Heroes*. Our first hero honoured is our own larger than life member, Jack Kyros, who was a POW to the Imperial Japanese Army and survived such shocking conditions that we cannot even start to imagine. A true hero indeed!

Another new feature article is the Castellorizo Holiday Photographs page. Please do contact the editor to have your great holiday snaps of you and Castellorizo displayed in future editions of the *Megisti Messenger*.

The Social Announcements column is causing concern with regards the receiving of information. It has become so hard to maintain this column mainly because very few people are forthcoming with information. We do seek your co-operation in supplying social items for this newsletter. I am only an email or telephone call away. I look forward to completely filling this page in the next edition!

It was great to receive so much positive feedback regarding the article titled *Pilgrimage to Castellorizo – Part One* that was in the last edition of our newsletter. Part two commences on page 10, and although I am only recounting what most of you have already experienced, it is appropriate that someone does document the experiences and emotions when visiting Castellorizo for the first time (maybe these emotions do happen the next time also?). For those who have yet to visit Cazzie I hope the article gives you the desire to go very soon! It is such an experience and I am sorry I waited so many years before I went.

DON'T FORGET YOUR ST CONSTANTINE & HELENE LUNCHEON TICKETS – SEE PAGE 3. TICKETS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR A SHORT TIME. - IT IS HAPPENING THIS SUNDAY WEEK!

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

A number of events have occurred over the last three months since our last newsletter in which our association has been heavily involved. The Apokries Day at Cazzie House was a very successful day. The concept of a barbeque day was well patronised by our members and from what I was told it was a very enjoyable day. Unfortunately I could not attend as I was in the eastern states on a business trip.

On the 22nd of March 2009, to celebrate Greek Independence Day, our committee was invited by the consul of Greece to participate in the festivities. The day commenced with a church service at Evangelismos followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memoriam in Kings Park. The day was completed with a cocktail party at the Notre Dame University at Fremantle. The day was well enjoyed by all attending committee members and was an opportunity for me to learn more about our Greek history.

The last newsletter produced by Allan Cresswell created a lot of interest within our members. The story of Allan's sojourn to Castellorizo reminded people of their emotional experiences when they had similar travels to the island. Allan will be continuing his story in this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*.

Our next function will be the Saint Constantine and Helene Luncheon on Sunday the 24th of May which will be held at the Hellenic Community Centre, Parker Street Perth. The function will be held in conjunction with the Hellenic Community WA Inc. It has been a number of years since this special day at Saint Constantine and Helene Cathedral has been jointly celebrated by the two associations. It would be well appreciated for all our members to attend the church service followed by the lunch at 12:00. Tickets are \$30 per person, with drinks available. Tickets are available from the committee.

Attendance to the luncheon will be only through ticket sales so it is imperative that you purchase your tickets before the 24th of May.

The committee has itemised a schedule of repairs and maintenance which needs to be completed for Castellorizian House. Recently we commenced painting the exterior of the house and the completion date should be in May. We have also undertaken to repair the Castellorizian House sign as well as painting the interior and replacing the carpet and curtains inside the house.

It is very pleasing to announce that Allan Cresswell has been invited to attend Melbourne in June by the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria to do a presentation and seminar on Family History. As we are all aware Allan has a great amount of knowledge which can be passed on to their members.

Finally I'd just like to finish off by wishing Jack Pitsikas a very happy 90th birthday. His contribution to our association over a number of years has been well appreciated. The back page 'Cazzie Tribute' in this edition of the *Megisti Messenger* highlights the achievements and the contribution by Jack.

ST CONSTANTINE & HELENE LUNCHEON MAY 24th 2009

HELLENIC COMMUNITY WA INC & CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

**Commencing 12.00 midday at The Hellenic Community Centre
20 Parker Street Perth WA**

Tickets available from:

Jim Manifis: Ph 0433165601
Allan Cresswell: Ph 0413958500
Kevin Kannis: Ph 94485312

Michael Paul: Ph 92042064
Tony Samiotis: Ph 93441634
Michael Palassis: Ph 0407286227

**Entry is only by pre-purchase of tickets
Seating is up to 10 persons per table**

**COST: \$30 Adults Children Under 12 \$15
Refreshments Available**

OVERVIEW OF OUR ASSOCIATION'S HISTORY

By Dr John N Yiannakis

An Overview of Our Association's History as the Centenary Approaches

Founded in 1912 the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia is in its 97th year of existence. It was the first Greek regional fraternity to have been formed anywhere in Australia. As the first Greek association founded in WA it not only catered for the social and cultural needs of Castellorizians, but also exhibited a private and public concern for all Greeks for a number of years.

Initially, the Association held its meetings in the homes of committee members before making use of Castellorizian business premises located along Murray and Wellington Streets. Shortly after 1922 the Association moved into 407 Wellington Street with the Hellenic (Union) Association or Club. By this stage the Castellorizian Association had become involved in the organisation of Greek educational and religious services.

A significant influx of Castellorizians to WA following the First World War and throughout the 1920s ensured that the Association remained viable and active. In 1922 the Association purchased Perth Town Lot Y137, on Plan 1067 along Parker Street for the purpose of building an Orthodox church on the site. Castellorizians would become vital supporters and members of the newly established pan-Hellenic organisation founded in 1923, the Hellenic Community of WA. In 1925 the Association donated to the Hellenic Community the Parker Street land. The Association turned its energies to assisting the Hellenic Community with fund raising ventures for the construction of a church, which was completed in late 1936. The church, Saints Constantine and Helene, was named after the patron saints of the island.



Members of the Committee of the Castellorizian Association of WA Inc 1953

Photograph courtesy Mark and Ula Panotidis

Standing: Stamatis C Zervos, George D Kailis, Evangelos G Petridis, Peter E Gourdis, George M Kailis and Nicholas P Manifis

Seated: Michael S Hatzimichael (Treasurer), Nicholas A Papastatis (President), Peter S Michelides (Past President), Peter V

Kakulas (Vice President) and Constantine M Panotidis (Secretary).

Christian names and Surnames as recorded on Death Records

Since its inception the Association has also helped fellow compatriots who remained on Castellorizo, as well as with efforts to preserve the island's heritage. During World War One, for instance, funds were collected for the island's defence. Finance has also been sent to help with the restoration of important churches. The Association has also supported local causes and events, Greek and non-Greek: War and earthquake appeals, Red Cross collections, migrant sponsorship, "Glendi" celebrations, donations to sporting clubs, youth groups, church repairs, and St Andrew's Grammar.

The Association and many of its members were involved in the opening of a second Orthodox church in Perth in 1958, the Annunciation of Our Lady (Evangelismos). The Association would also support the third church constructed in 1989 at Dianella, Saint Nektarios. After operating out of premises at 75 Stirling Street Perth from 1967 to 1980, the Association relocated to 160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn, in 1981. Renovations to "Cazzie House", as it became

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known, took place establishing the building as a large, attractive and central venue that would serve members into the future. It was from here that the Association held its very successful 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1987.

Since then the Association, while continuing to serve its members and Perth's Greek community in general, has endeavoured to strengthen its financial and membership base. In 2007 major internal renovations to "Cazzie House" were undertaken to improve kitchen and toilet facilities. The current Committee of Management strives to build on the work of its predecessors with a particular emphasis on re-kindling local Castellorizian cultural awareness and by seeking to attract younger Castellorizians to the Association. With the 100th Anniversary of the organisation approaching, participation by younger generations of Castellorizians is crucial for our Association's continued existence.

The year 2012 will be an important one for our Association. The success or otherwise of the celebratory events to be held for our centenary anniversary will set the tone for the Association's survival for the remainder of the 21st Century.

A sub-committee is being formed to plan and organise various activities for this special occasion. Please contact President Jim Manifis if you are interested in nominating for this sub-committee.

ART SALE & EXHIBITION

By Marilyn Tsolakis

Light refreshments will be available. **RSVP FOR EXHIBITION TO MARILYN BY 21 MAY – DETAILS BELOW**

Australian Friends of Kastellorizo look forward to seeing many local Perth Castellorizian Members at the Art Sale and Exhibition on Sunday 31 May from 3.00 - 5.30 pm. It is very exciting to have an Athenian artist and scholar, Dr Platon Alexiou in Perth who can talk to you about the way he has represented Kastellorizo in his paintings that will be on display. These paintings will form part of an illustrated children's history to be published later this year. The inspiration for this project emerged from the need to tell the story of the Kastellorizian cultural heritage for many of the second, third and fourth generation Australian children. With many grandparents who act as storytellers passing away over time, a need to preserve the history as a cultural legacy for the children became apparent. I am sure you will agree that this is part of our obligation as Kastellorizian elders for future generations of children to know their cultural origins.

AFK would like to thank the President, Jim Manifis, and his committee for their support of this art exhibition which will take place at the Castellorizian House.

If you would like to purchase one of these paintings, you can make a bid through our on-line auction which begins on Monday 18 May and continues until the 28 May. You will need to register on eBay (ask your children or grandchildren how to do this if you are uncertain). This allows for Kastellorizians throughout the world, whether they are in Australia or overseas to have an equal opportunity to purchase the art. Reserve prices and valuation have been obtained from a reputable art dealer, Arthur Spartalis, taking into account the artist's previous exhibitions and sales along with current market conditions in Australia and Europe. This valuation includes the quality, size and unique value of each piece. Please view the artwork on the AFK website www.australianfriendskastellorizo.org/gallery. Please note that the copyright insignia on the website images will not be on the originals.

Any art not sold by the on-line auction will be offered by silent auction at the art exhibitions in Sydney and Perth. Any paintings not sold at these exhibitions will be on sale in Kastellorizo this northern summer. All profits from the auction will be going towards the cost involved in producing the illustrated children's history book of Kastellorizo. Any surplus funds will go towards specific AFK projects.

If we can assist in any way with your on-line bid or if you require any further information then please do not hesitate to email Marilyn : mazzmacc@tpg.com.au or phone 0423 776 896 (**contact details also for Exhibition RSVP**).

STUDENT EXCHANGE BILLETS

By Marilyn Tsolakis

Two girls from Kastellorizo will be arriving in Perth on the 25 July as part of the AFK student exchange program for 2009. While an exciting program is being organised in conjunction with St Andrew's Grammar, we are still looking for one or two families to accommodate the 16 year old girls for one week. English lessons are being provided as well as visits to Government House, Museums, Art Gallery, church and the zoo. If you can assist in any way please contact Marilyn Tsolakis on 93871681

Perth is known for its 'filoxenia'. Therefore, I look forward to hearing from you as I am sure you will agree that this is a very worthwhile project. Just imagine if your parents or grandparents were given this opportunity. We are now in a position to make this happen for the current generation of Kastellorizian youth that would fill the hearts of our ancestors with pride. This project is one that the local Kastellorizians are very keen to uphold.

PETITION BY THE CITIZENS OF CASTELLORIZO, 1920

By Nicholas Pappas

In April 1920, in an atmosphere of increasing uncertainty, and aware of the possible transfer of their island to Italy, 105 of the male citizens of Castellorizo took the bold step of directing a signed petition to the French admiral in charge of the Syrian Division of the French Navy, Rear Admiral Mornet, during one of his passing visits.

Besides conveying the unease of the local population in the face of a possible French withdrawal, the document betrays the concerns felt by the Castellorizians as the island's small economy had failed to revive in the immediate aftermath of WWI and a steady stream of emigration abroad continued. The document is a revealing snapshot of the conditions on the island in the last stages of French occupation.

View the original petition at www.castellorizohistory.com/history.htm

The document may be translated to read as follows:

Castellorizo, 15 April 1920

Petition of the Inhabitants of Castellorizo

To His Excellency the Rear Admiral of the Syrian Division,

Your Excellency,

The Castellorizians who have signed below have the honour to beseech you, if you please, to be kind enough to grant an audience to a deputation of the people of Castellorizo, which, as the only fit representation, seeks to convey to you the real situation of our island both from an internal point of view and from an economic perspective. For this purpose we appoint a committee comprising Messrs Evangelos Stamatoglou, Evangelos Kondylios, Nikolaos Kailis, Kyriakos Kiosoglou, Paraskevas Kakulas, Ioannis Konstantinides, Vasilios Loukas, Vasilios Tsakalakis, Apostolos Voyiatzis and Stamatis Stamatoglou

Hoping that this request is well received by you,

We remain, obediently

1. Ilias Kondylios
2. Anastasios Astinomos
3. Panagiotis Hatziyiannakis
4. Mihail I Koutsoukos
5. Ioannis N Pitsonis
6. Nikolaos Kambouris
7. Stavros Hatzidiamandas
8. Mihail Kiosoglou
9. N A Moraitis
10. Mihail K Mihalakis
11. Paraskevas A Kakas
12. Ioannis Hatzistavrianos
13. ? ?
14. Spyros Papalazaros
15. Pitsonis N Pitsonis
16. Yeorgios N Boyiatzis
17. ? Eftimiou
18. Ioannis Atzemis
19. ? ?
20. Mihail Komninos
21. Paraskevas Economou
22. Yeorgios N Pitsonis
23. Yeorgios Berberis
24. K Mayiafis
25. ? ?
26. ? Nikolaou
27. I Sehopoulos
28. ? ?
29. A Vallianos
30. Andreas P Andreou
31. Vasilios Christou
32. ? ?
33. ? Komninos
34. ? ?
35. Yeorgios K Palassis

36. Savvas Pantelis
37. P Kailis
38. Emmanuel Y Pissas
39. Antonios Kondylios
40. Stavros Antonas
41. Emmanuel V Xanthis
42. Kyriakos N Symeon
43. Pantelis A Papaioannou
44. Yeorgios Yianardasis
45. Ant Nikandros
46. Panagiotis K Pitpazaris
47. Paraskevas Efsthathiou
48. Vasilios Fitos
49. ? Kotzas
50. ? ?
51. Dimitrios Koutoupes
52. Kostas Liondis
53. Mihail Petrakis
54. Eleftherios Eleftheriou
55. Pantazis Mavrokordatos
56. Konstandinos Kouttelakis
57. Andreas D Savvas
58. Christofis Liondis
59. Christodoulos Papiouannou
60. Pavlos A Tsolakis
61. Kostas Vallianos
62. Mihail Theofilou
63. Nikolaos Hatzifanis
64. M Bollos
65. Kostas Hatziantonas
66. Yeorgios Exintaris
67. Kostas ?
68. Andreas Magriplis
69. ? ?
70. Mihail Emm. Kailis

71. Markos Panagiotou
72. Kostas Iliou Hatziaargyrou
73. Yeorgios Christofis
74. Stavrianos Y Moschos
75. Dimitrios ?
76. Andreas Marakas
77. Kostas Hatzieorgiou
78. N Tsopanis
79. S Lakerdis
80. K Y Palassis
81. K M Voyiatzis
82. K Y Mandalis
83. Ch P Christofis
84. ? Gregoriou
85. N Iakovou
86. ? Finikiotis
87. Stavros P Kratsis
88. Mihail Th Atherinou
89. Stavros Voyiatzis
90. A Voyiatzis
91. Kyriakos Galettis
92. Stavros Y Zorbas
93. Ioannis M Passaris
94. K M Passaris
95. Nikolaos Karipis
96. ? ?
97. Nikolaos Karayiannis
98. K Pitpazaris
99. Yeorgios An Kakas
100. Haralambos Iliou
101. Nikos Themistoklis
102. Evangelos Sehopoulos
103. Dimitrios Papiouannou
104. Nikos Papanastasiou
105. Vlasios K Antonas

THE RIGHT BIAS

By Leo Panegyres

Almost 20 years after Con (Goose) Kailis established the Hellenic Lawn Bowls Social Club here in Perth, the Victorians, through the efforts of Herb Kyriakos and others, have finally formed the Hellenic Lawn Bowls Club in Victoria.

Recently Perth played host to the Greek Victorians for their first visit as a Club. They arrived in Perth on Monday 23rd March, 2009 and stayed at the Sun Moon Resort at Scarborough. The weeks activities included a free day on their arrival, Tuesday all day bowling at our parent club, Osborne Park, Wednesday night bowling, Thursday all day bowling, Friday river cruise to Fremantle and lunch at Kailis' Fish Café, Saturday night dinner/dance at the Greek Club, Stirling Street, Perth and finally departed for Victoria on Monday 30th March, 2009. From all accounts the week was a complete success, and our visitors thoroughly enjoyed themselves. All that needs to happen now is to motivate Adelaide and Sydney to form their own clubs thus creating a National tournament.

Male Greeks or husbands of women of Greek origin, interested in becoming members here in Perth can contact Leo Panegyres 0411 592 144 or Michael Litis 0418 957 806.

Bowling season usually begins the first Wednesday night of November each year commencing at 7pm until 9.15pm. The season usually finishes on the last Wednesday night of April.

The Western Australia 2009 Club Singles Champion for Hellenic Bowls Social Club was Tony Bellos with the runner up Peter Kalaf. Congratulations to Tony and Peter.

HELLENIC BOWLS PHOTOGRAPHS THIS PAGE AND NEXT PAGE COURTESY CON KAILIS



SOME OF OUR VICTORIAN FRIENDS WITH LEO PANEGYRES



A GROUP PHOTO – DAY BOWLING



LET'S CHECK OUT THE WEST AUSSIE GRASS AT NIGHT



A GREAT BOWLS EVENING

Photographs continued on Page 8



A GROUP PHOTO



A RIVER CRUISE TO FREMANTLE



ONBOARD THE BOAT



A CAZZIE SHOP - KAILIS'S at FREMANTLE FISHING HARBOUR



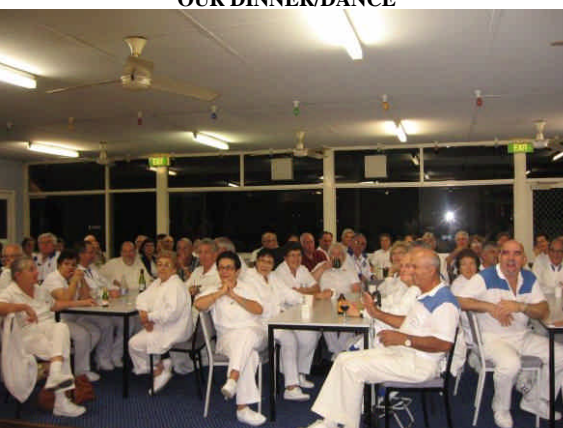
WHAT A GREAT CAP!



OUR DINNER/DANCE

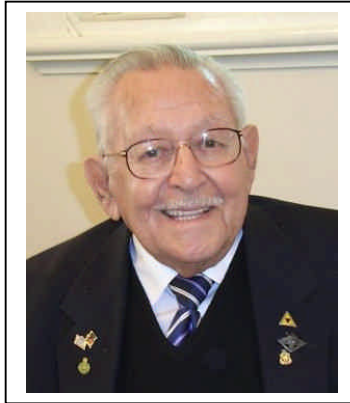


CLUB CHAMPION 2009 TONY BELLOS RECEIVING TROPHY



WINDUP FOR THE HELLENIC BOWLS IN 2009

CAZZIE MILITARY HEROES



**Jack George
KYROS (KYRIAKOS)
WX10715
2/4th Machine Gun Battalion**

Written by Allan Cresswell

We often think of military heroes as those persons, who, for example, in a short period of about five minutes, are rushing an enemy machine gun post whilst throwing hand grenades and wiping out all the enemy in a moment of glory. Yes these type of soldiers are heroes indeed and they often get bravery medals to acknowledge their bravery. But there is another type of hero, who during these terrible war years, often endured both that five minutes rush of heroic action, but also another three and one half years of the most unimaginable and tormented existence. He is the Prisoner of War (POW) of the Imperial Japanese Army! These POW soldiers attempted to survive, despite the odds, with a desire to remain alive and to be reunited with their family again one day. Jack George Kyros WX10715 was to become one of those brave POW's. This is his story.

Jack George Kyriakos (later Kyros) was born in Darwin Northern Territory on 2nd January 1921 to George and Christina Kyriakos (nee Kailis). His parents having married in Darwin some two years earlier. Jack had an elder sister, Mary, and five younger siblings (Michael, Evelyn, Evangelia, Agapitos (Herb) and John) who lived to adulthood. When Jack was a young boy the family moved to Perth, then later to Kalgoorlie.

After World War Two broke out and when Japan became a threat to South-East Asia Jack attempted to enlist in the army. But he was under twenty one years of age and his parents would not agree to him joining. On the third attempt to enlist he was successful. Jack had put his date of birth down as one year earlier, and on the 15th January 1941 he was now in the army. Jack was posted to the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion and commenced training at Northam Army Camp. The battalion was receiving training for the Vickers machine gun. At Northam the battalion's Colonel was a stickler for physical fitness and on one occasion they went on a sixty mile route march from Northam to Perth, ending with a march through the city to the welcoming cheers of family, shoppers and city workers. They were one of the fittest A.I.F. Battalions!

The battalion trained at Lancelin Island and Waterman's Bay before moving to the Woodside Camp in the Adelaide Hills in July 1941. Three months later they moved to the Winnellie Camp in Darwin to commence training but when Japan entered the war in December 1941 the individual companies occupied battle stations on the beach areas of Darwin. In the meanwhile, Jack, when on leave, had married his sweetheart, Kathleen Mary Quinn. On New Years eve the battalion sailed to Port Morseby onboard the HMAS *Westralia* and whilst enroute Jack celebrated his 21st birthday. At Port Morseby they transferred to the HMT *Aquitania* which berthed at Sydney on January 8th 1942, where a further 2502 reinforcements for Singapore were taken on board.

The ship departed for Fremantle and Singapore on January 10th. On arriving at Fremantle many of the men, including Jack, proceeded to go ashore to see their families, without authority. Many were arrested and imprisoned but Jack and others managed to get back on board prior to departure. A total of eighty eight men had failed to reboard the ship before she sailed. Many had gone AWOL because they had not seen their families for many months and had expected shore leave at Fremantle. Many could not get back to the ship before she sailed.

On arrival in Singapore on January 24th 1942 they found that they were in the middle of a war. Jack thought the deafening noise was a mock air raid, but it was the real thing. They were to receive daily raids from Japanese bombers and strafing attacks by the Zero planes. The machine gun companies were allotted their various rolls and the serious business of the defence of Singapore began. The Causeway to the island was destroyed but the Japanese managed to cross by pontoons and barges and gain a foothold on Singapore. The 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion engaged the Imperial Japanese Army with the Vickers machine guns at various locations, and on the

Continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

west coast hand to hand fighting broke out. The companies moved to new positions on February 9th and again engaged the Japanese whilst coming under heavy bombing and shelling attacks. On the night of the 12th February 1942 Jack's platoon was in a bayonet fight as were the rest of HQ Company. No officer or sergeant survived that attack.

As the Battle of Singapore drew to a close many 2/4th M.G. Battalion personnel were killed or wounded as the enemy attempted to force a surrender. Casualties were high, especially on the last day of fighting before the ceasefire order was issued. Jack and his mates dismayed that Singapore had fallen but were with some relief over not having to continue with the hell of the past twenty two days of fighting.

From the 8th to the 15th of February 1942 the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion fought with other Allies to save Singapore. From 15th February 1942 until the 15th August 1945 (three and one half years) they would be fighting a very different battle. When the war came to an end in 1945 over four hundred of the one thousand men that formed the battalion would be dead. Many were to die as POWs!

After the fall of Singapore Jack was based at various camps around Singapore, including constructing a memorial in Johore Baru, then onto Adam Park to work on another memorial, then to Changi. Then he was sent on April 18th 1943 with 'F' Force to work on the Burma-Thailand rail link. It took six days travelling by truck, then train, to reach a place just outside of Bangkok. They then walked 315 kilometres on mainly rough roads and tracks through the jungle for about twenty five days.

Work commenced for them on the railway tracks of the infamous Burma-Thailand Railway. Here they had sickness; Cholera, Malaria, Dysentery, Beriberi, Typhoid, Scrub Typhus and many forms of skin diseases. Tinea, Tropical Ulcers, Body Lice and Bed Bugs were rife! With no proper footwear the men had to wrap their feet at night to prevent the rats eating at the skin on their feet. All Cholera deaths required cremating and on one day sixty men were cremated. But worse was to follow!

Because of all the sickness and deaths the schedule of finishing the railroad had gone backwards. They were forced to march to work in the dark of the morning and return on sunset to the camp. From the time they left camp until they returned at night, eighteen hours had transpired. Many of the men were sick and unfit to work but were forced to work, otherwise they did not receive any food.

The combined British, Australian and Dutch labour for 'F' Force was made up of 10,270 Prisoners of War. Here conditions were terrible for the POWs with incessant rain, tropical diseases, starvation, beatings where many were die without sufficient food, without medical supplies and with ongoing brutal treatment by the Japanese. Of the 7000 British and Australians with 'F' Force 3097 were to die in Thailand representing a 44.75% death toll. This all occurred in a seven month period as in November 1943 'F' Force began the train journey south via Kanchanaburi, back to Singapore. The railway line had been finished. Jack's 'F' Force was fortunate as they were under the command of Singapore and had to return there. Other 2/4th MG Battalion members with other 'Forces' in Thailand and Burma were not so lucky. Many were to die on POW Ships sunk by US submarines whilst heading to Japan and Korea. Back in Australia Jack's wife, Kathleen, had given birth to George Jack Kyros, whilst he was working on the railway line. It would be years before he was aware that he even had a son.

On return to Singapore, Jack was based initially at the Sime Road Camp for three months, then transferred to the Changi Gaol Camp for the rest of the war. Jack was at Changi for eighteen months where 12000 POWs were based. There was only meant to be 800 housed there. Every day working parties left Changi to work on the Singapore Airfield site where the earth was carved out by hand and removed in baskets. For the surviving POWs it was a relief to see the Allied planes over Singapore, then came the surrender by Japan on August 15th 1945.

Jack returned to Australia on the HMT *Arawa* to Sydney via Darwin, then transported to Melbourne by troop train. From Melbourne he travelled to Perth on the HMT *Strathmore* to be re-united with his family. For the first time he met his son, George, who was now aged three years of age. On December 7th 1945 Jack Kyros was discharged from service after completing nearly five years with the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion.

Jack went on to continue living his life and raising a family but the torment of his suffering and that of his 2/4th mates in Malaya, Singapore, Java, Borneo, Japan, Korea and Thailand as POWs will be with him for the rest of his life. All 53 of his battalion mates who went to Sandakan in Borneo with 'B' and 'E' Force were to die.

When giving a speech in April 2001 at the Schools Commemorative Anzac Service Jack completed his speech with the following statement, "When will the world learn that war is useless, and only you, the young of today, and the future Government of Australia can stop it – *Let there be no more war!*"

WEST AUSSIE CAZZIE HOLIDAY PHOTOS

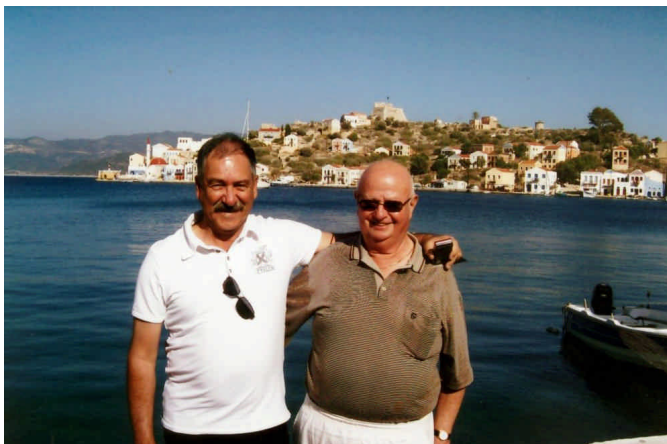
Compiled by Allan Cresswell



Taken outside the Tsapazi family home in September 2008

From left to right: Panayioti (Peter) Tsapazi, Melissa Menezes (nee Tsapazi), Matthew Peter Menezes, Karen Tsapazi and Ryan Menezes

Photograph courtesy Karen Tsapazi



A beautiful sunny day in October 2008

Allan Cresswell (sporting a great Greek suntan) catches up with his mate, Nicholas N Zounis, in Castellorizo. Allan is leaving today whilst Nick arrived the previous afternoon

Photograph courtesy Nick Zounis



An October 2008 get-together of WA Cazzies visiting Castellorizo

Men Standing Back Row: Con Venoutsos, Tony Bellos, Nick Zounis, the late Angelo Petrelis, Tony Zempilas, Kevin Kounis, Leffie Gelavis, Nikolas Geronikolas.

Ladies Standing: Despa Venoutsos (nee Manifis), Jenny Zounis (nee Tsokos), Roslyn Geronikolas (nee Zempilas).

Ladies Seated Front Row: Natusha Petrelis, Jessie Zempilas (nee Simeon), Maria Geronikolas, Diane Kounis (nee Zempilas).

Photograph courtesy Nick Zounis

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.



**Wedding Photograph Basil Karatza and Assimina Vassiliou
May 12th 1918 Perth Western Australia**

Names in photo include Kailis, Antonas, Sofoulis, Karatza, Vassiliou, Auguste

Photo Courtesy Jack Sofoulis

Photograph and names listed on Castellorizian Geni Website at:

<http://www.castellorizo.org/showmedia.php?mediaID=1276&medialinkID=149>



Wedding Photograph Nicholas Sofoulis to Elefantiani Kailis June 16th 1918

Note that the Church of England St Johns Hall Perth WA was often used for Greek wedding services in 1918

Photograph courtesy Jack Sofoulis

PILGRIMAGE TO CASTELLORIZO - PART TWO

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

This is the second part of a three part article about 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 Two details many of the special things that new visitors do during the visit to the island. View this article online and in full colour at: <http://www.castellorizo.org/newsletter/>

Waking early in the morning I went for a private walk around the harbour to absorb more of the atmosphere of Castellorizo. I was admiring both the spectacular views of the harbour, the mountain behind me and the beautifully restored homes. Then there were the neglected houses, just bare shells, many with no roofs and rotting timber everywhere. I reflected on the various reasons why so many homes were in this poor state. The terror and horrors of World War Two had a lot to blame for the numerous houses in ruins. But many had already been abandoned after the island was ceded to Italy over eighty years ago. Many locals migrated to Australia and elsewhere during the 1920's.

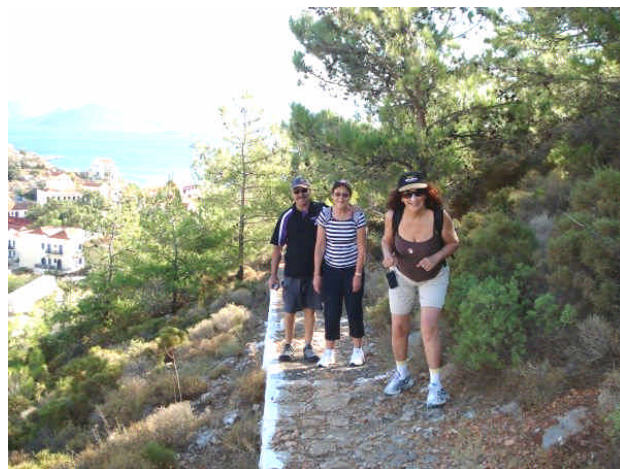


THE RUINS AND THE RESTORED

It was a lovely autumn day and a great day to climb the mountain if the others would agree. Had a quick yarn to John Mangos who was wheeling his young son around the harbour in a stroller. I then headed back to our accommodation and asked the others about the climb. All were agreeable although I thought it risky for my wife Jean to go. She had recently both a full knee replacement and a hip replacement. But she was determined to go!

None of us knew the way to the stairs at the base of the mountain. We decided to head towards St Constantine and Helene Church. As we approached the stairs at the harbour that leads to the church we came across a friendly dog. I gave him a pat and he decided to accompany us. It was amazing! He led the way as we climbed the road and led us to the

base of the mountain stairs which was not easy to locate. He knew where we were going! I thought he would leave us as we started to climb the stairs up the mountain. But no, he was coming also! The dog



ALLAN, JEAN & STACEY - EARLY STAGES OF THE CLIMB went with us all the way up the mountain and right to the Monastery of St George of Vouni. Stacey thought the dog possessed our Mum's spirit and that she was accompanying us on our exploration of the island. We all laughed at that theory but there was also something very strange about the dog staying with us for all the morning - quite some hours. On our return back down the mountain the dog ran off just as we reached the bitumen road.



THE DOG ADMIRING THE VIEWS

Whilst climbing the mountain there were spectacular views of the harbour at every rest spot. Jean managed well and her titanium joints held up

to the climb. At the top were old abandoned farmlets with goats running around everywhere. We walked to the old monastery which was very run down. We decided not to go any further although the track continued on. Gerry did some exploring around the monastery and came back to tell us someone was living there. He had found a bed with a mattress and water containers.



GERRY, ALLAN AND JEAN AT THE MONASTERY

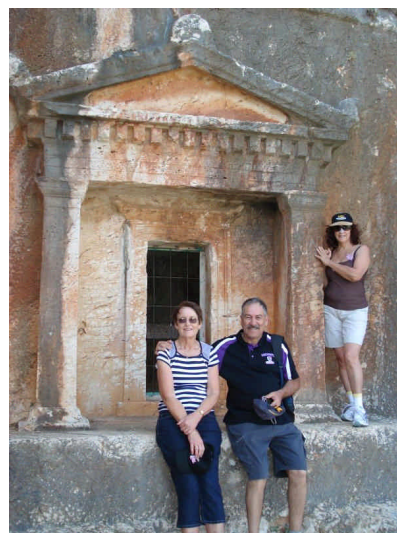
Travelling down the stairs in some ways was harder than the climb. Slippery steps and loose stones everywhere. We had to watch every step but we also had a constant view of the beautiful harbour and the Turkish mainland. It was just beautiful! Beautiful views and wonderful deep blue water. Always to be remembered. One day I will do this again!



SPECTACULAR VIEWS FROM THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

Returning back for lunch and a short rest we then decided to head across to visit the Mandraki harbour and the cemetery. Mandraki harbour was very pleasant and we rested there for sometime. The cemetery was in a beautiful spot but the condition of many of the graves and headstones was disappointing. From the cemetery we found a lovely walk that takes you to the "Lycian" tomb that is positioned facing the ocean. It was difficult to climb the steps to the tomb as it was very windy but we managed to do so. To fall would be quite

frightening. After walking all the way around this interesting path it brought us back to the harbour entrance.



JEAN, ALLAN & STACEY AT THE TOMB

Back to our accommodation for another rest but the urge to explore further was there. So off we headed to visit the old castle. Enroute we are approached by a chap who came up to us. "Is your name Allan?", he asks me. "My name is Nicholas Bogiatzis, I heard you were in Castellorizo." Nicholas reminds me, "We corresponded about family history by email." Yes I remembered him - and it seems everyone knows who you are here - there are no secrets in Castellorizo. We all had a great discussion with Nicholas and he invited us all to see his beautifully restored three story home. We met his wife, Sylvia, and had a wonderful tour around their lovely home which houses the most wonderful collection of artifacts relating to Castellorizo. A real labour of love by Nicholas and Sylvia - and how nice of them to share their home with strangers. I had the feeling Sylvia may have been used to having unannounced visitors enter her home on occasions.

Onto the castle and by now the wind is blowing a gale. We climb to the top of the hill and to the castle but it is hard going in the wind.



GERRY, STACEY AND JEAN CLIMBING THE CASTLE

At the castle there are wonderful views of the Mandraki harbour and the cemetery



MANDRAKI & THE CEMETERY FROM THE CASTLE RUINS

It has been a very tiring day and we have walked miles and climbed hundreds of steps but have loved every moment of it. Back home for a shower then off to Alexanders restaurant for an enjoyable evening meal. Tonight we will sleep soundly and tomorrow we travel to Kas in Turkey for a day trip.

All ready by 8.00am and we meet the skipper, Yiorgo Karayiannis, for the second time - after having attended his daughter's christening two days ago. To our surprise Elizabeth and her family are also onboard for the visit to Kas. After a short boat trip we arrive in this bustling small town.



LEAVING CASTELLORIZO TO VISIT KAS

Kas was well worth the visit and we purchase a few souvenirs, books and some food items. We walked through the town to the old Greek theatre where we had a great view of Castellorizo. Stacey and Gerry went looking for and found numerous tombs built into the cliffs of Kas. We had to head back by lunchtime as the wind can blow up and the ocean can become quite rough. Heading back we decided that we wouldn't want it any rougher and appreciated Yiorgo's great handling of his boat. We arranged with Yiorgo to go to the Blue Grotto in two days, weather permitting.



ANCIENT GREEK THEATRE AT KAS – WITH CASTELLORIZO IN THE DISTANCE

When we arrived back in Castellorizo there were two passenger liners in the harbour. Tourists were everywhere and someone told us that one of the ships was from Cyprus. In some ways we didn't like all these tourists being here. After four days we felt that the island was now ours! The large liners also looked out of place in our quiet and peaceful island.

We decided to go to the museum and saw a large collection of relics and costumes. It was a very interesting collection of items from days gone by.

We met Byron and Valerie during our walk and they invited us into the family home that they are restoring. Such a wonderful location. They are waiting patiently for the completion of the renovations and for the home to be at lockup stage. They are heading off tomorrow to a conference and are hopeful that doors might be on when they return.



ALLAN ADMIRING THE VIEW FROM THE KAKULAS HOME
Later that afternoon we watched the liners sail out of the harbour. We are heading off to Lola and Komninos's restaurant tonight where a singer from Athens is singing Greek and Kastellorizian songs.

Part Three of this article will be in the next edition of the *Megisti Messenger*. It will include visiting the Blue Grotto and the sad departure from Kastellorizo. But we will return one day!

ORTHODOX ACTIVITIES

by Cath Papanastasiou

The parish of the Church of Evangelismos Carr St, has established an under 15 year olds youth group. Learn about aspects of our faith and culture whilst having fun and making friends! It's a great way to spend Friday nights. Fun filled activities include:

Craft Nights

Movie Nights

Outdoor Games Nights Indoor fun & Games Nights

Cooking Nights

Church Tours

Cultural Nights

The Youth Group has playground equipment, playing fields, volleyball, table tennis, pool tables, foosball tables, craft room, tv, limbo machine, enclosed outdoor area for littlies, and kitchen facilities.

Every Friday Night

6pm - 9pm Location: Evangelismos House

Cnr Carr and Charles Streets, West Perth

Please note that parents must stay to supervise their children Drinks/snacks provided. Gold coin donation

Please email e-yg@hotmail.com to be a part of our mailing list

The Church of Evangelismos is holding English Liturgies on the following Saturdays from 8am -10am. All are welcome.

30 May 2009

27 June 2009

8 August 2009

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- On the eve of the feast of St Constantine and Helene (Wednesday 20th May), vespers will be held at the church from 6.30pm. All priests will be in attendance.
 - The Church of St Constantine & Helene is conducting a Divine Liturgy on the feast of the church, Thursday 21 May 2009, 8am-11am. Immediately after the Divine Liturgy there will be a brunch held in the lower hall next to the church. All are welcome. There will also be a presentation by St Andrews Grammar students on the Battle of Crete.
 - Restoration on the icons has been completed and the next stage of polishing the floor boards and internal painting will be carried out later in the year.
 - A vigil will be held on Tuesday 26th May at 8pm-12.30am, this is for the dismissal feast of Pascha.

COMMUNITY NEWS

by Cath Papanastasiou

The Municipality of Rhodes (via Greek Government, funding) in collaboration with the Hellenic Community of WA, via The Centre for Hellenic Studies of WA and St. Andrew's Grammar, is offering to sponsor (airfares and accommodation) students of Greek Heritage, to participate in summer camps during the month of July on the island of Rhodes. This program will run two groups:

15 students (max) aged 8-12 (airfares and accommodation are covered 100%)

15 students (max) aged 13 - 17 (airfares are covered 50% and accommodation 100%)

Parents who wish to register their child for consideration will need to complete an Expression of Interest Form. These forms are available from:

The Hellenic Community: Phone: 9376 5800 or info@hcwa.org or

The Centre for Hellenic Studies: WA - Pavlos Iosifidis - Ph.: 08-9376 5850 - e-mail: piosifidis@sag.wa.edu.au

St. Andrew's Grammar: - Angelo Karsakis - Ph.: 08-9376 5850 - e-mail: akarsakis@sag.wa.edu.au

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos courtesy Allan Cresswell



President Jim with his wife Anna (nee Pinakis)



President Jim lining up for the wreath laying ceremony



Vice President Allan with Committee Member Tony Samiotis



There is our Cazzie mate and war hero - Jack Kyros!



The War Memorial



Baillee & Charisse Takoniatis at the Greek Independence Day Ceremony with their mother Angela (nee Antonas)

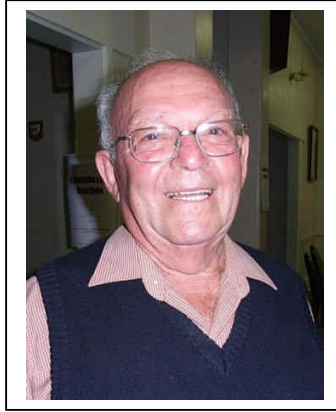


Committee members Phyllis (nee Lazarakis) and husband Tony Samiotis with Anna Manifis (nee Pinakis) in centre



A Speech by the Greek Consulate of Perth at Notre Dame University of Fremantle WA

CAZZIE TRIBUTE



**Compiled by Allan Cresswell
(From an interview with Jack Pitsikas in 2009)**

KIRIAKAS (JACK) E PITSIKAS

Kiriakas (Jack) Pitsikas was born at Midland Junction Western Australia on April 2nd 1919. He turned ninety years of age last month and is to be congratulated for that great achievement. But Jack has many other great achievements in his long life and many are associated with the Castellorizian and Hellenic community.

Jack was the second born son to Castellorizians Eleftherios Lucas Pitsikas and Panayiota (nee Zampazoglu also known as Giambazi). His parents had married in Perth some three years earlier. A total of eight children were born to the family. Jack's father, Eleftherios, was a foundation member of the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia, was the association President between 1943 and 1946, and was later awarded an Honorary President title.

Jack joined the West Australian Government Railways (WAGR) as a clerk and remained with them for 44 ½ years, retiring as an Administration Officer at their headquarters in East Perth. During his service with the WAGR Jack worked and resided in many country towns throughout WA. Between 1973 and 1974 Jack was appointed to go to the Sudan in Africa with a team of Australian Commonwealth Government consultants for an important project sponsored by the International Monetary Fund and financed by the World Bank of Washington DC.

Jack married Nina Yiannakis (Hatziyiannakis), the daughter of Castellorizians, John Nicholas Hatziyiannakis and Polixeny (nee Moursellas), in Perth in 1953. They raised a family of four sons and one daughter and in later years became proud grandparents of nine grandchildren.

In 1993 Jack became the treasurer for the Castellorizian Association, a position he held for eleven years. The association's committee consisted in 1993 of Nicholas Nicholas (President), Con Kailis (Vice President), Tony Bellos (Secretary), Jack Pitsikas as Treasurer, with committee members Peter Kanganas, Paul (Sam) Boyatzis and Albert Papal. Jack was actively involved in all facets of the association. He was responsible in arranging numerous functions during those years where up to 250 people attended. Jack controlled the providing of food and refreshments at all the functions which were successfully conducted. As a result, donations were made to many organisations during these years, such as to the Orthodox Churches, Hellenic Council, Children's Hospital in Serbia, Bush Fires in Greece, funding for Christmas Tree events and numerous other worthy causes.

Jack maintained the gardens and was the caretaker around Castellorizian House. He also arranged the hiring of the house to outside organisations. Jack efficiently maintained the membership register and the annual subscriptions, where association membership climbed to 444 persons during this period. He arranged and collected all monies associated with membership and the various functions that were held. During the whole eleven years as Treasurer membership fees remained at only \$5 annually. Extensive renovations were carried out in the 1990's to Castellorizian House whilst Jack was the Treasurer.

Jack was made a Life Member of the Castellorizian Association on October 18th 2000. His award stated, "In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of the objects of the Association". It was fitting that Jack's wife, Nina, also received a Life Membership at the same time for her association and commitment towards the Castellorizian Association in general and that as President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

Jack was also involved with numerous activities associated with St Constantine and Helene Church in Parker Street. He maintained the rose gardens at the church and carried out the polishing of the Hellenic Community Hall regularly with Louie Battalis. Jack also was involved in the supervision of the calling of nominations during the Church AGM through the position as chairman of the election committee (the interim committee at the AGM).

On November 6th 2003 Jack received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hellenic Community of WA which read, "In recognition of your long-standing service to the organisation". Jack also was made a Life Member of the Hellenic Community of WA during 2004/2005.

Jack we salute you for your longstanding services and commitment to the Greek Community.