

MEGISTI MESSENGER

Newsletter of the

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn WA 6016 Phone 94432110

August 20th 2009

Volume 2, Issue 3

New Book Release

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

On Wednesday 19th August 2009 I had the pleasure of being invited to Government House for the book launch of *Odysseus in the Golden West* by Dr John N Yiannakis. The function was held in the Government House Ballroom.

The evening was a great success. The speeches, the food, the refreshments, the location and the attendance were just terrific. Well done to all who arranged it.

Speeches from His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael, AC, Governor of Western Australia and the President of HACCI, Mr George Georgiou, highlighted and acknowledged the quality and the importance of this wonderful new book.

The book has 458 pages devoted to the Greek migration, settlement and adaptation in Western Australia since 1947. It follows on from the previous book written by Dr John Yiannakis and Professor Reg Appleyard, *Greek Pioneers in Western Australia*. John has also written a great historical book, *Megisti in the Antipodes* which



Pauline Yiannakis, Dr Ken Michael, AC, Governor of WA, Dr John Yiannakis, Angela Yiannakis and Katina Yiannakis at the Book Launch

Odysseus in the Golden West covers the Castellorizian migration and settlement of Western Australia from 1890 to 1990.

John, on behalf of the members of the Castellorizian Association Of WA Inc, thank you so much for your contribution in recording the history of the Greek migration and settlement of WA in the three books you have written. This has been a labour of love for you but you also deserve the recognition and appreciation we all have for your great work. Well done John!

See page 7 for details on obtaining the book *Odysseus in the Golden West*

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CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

Cordially invites you to the
FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

To be held at
Castellorizian House
160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn WA

Sunday 6th September 2009
Commencing 12.00 Midday

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PAGE 5

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 Thecla Papas (nee Panegyres) who recently celebrated her 70th birthday on August 1st. Happy 76th birthday to Bartley Kakulas. Congratulations to twins, Jessie Zempilas (nee Simeon) and Anne Mitchell (nee Simeon) who celebrate their 80th birthday on September 10th 2009. Both Jessie, Anne and their families will be on Castellorizo for this great occasion and present also for the marriage of Basil Zempilas to Amy Graham.



GET WELL SOON

Great to see Angelo Anastas up and about after his extended stay in hospital



VALE

Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Christos Passaris who passed away on August 19th 2009. Our thoughts go out to the families and friends of Mary Phillips (nee Antonas) who passed away two days later. Our deepest sympathy goes out to family and friends of Theo Bellos (July 11th 2009), Barbara Katsipis (nee Loukas) (August 11th 2009), Despina (Jessie) Kotzas (nee Hondros) (July 27th 2009), Arthur Litis (August 1st 2009), Marina McArdle (nee Metaxas) (June 11th 2009) and Marina Pappas (nee Georgouras) of Sydney (July 22nd 2009).



ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to Arthur and Eva Athans (nee Komninou) who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 7th 2009. They celebrated their anniversary with a holiday in Surfers Paradise.

EDITORIAL: by Agapitos

The *Megisti Messenger* has been fortunate to have such wonderful people come forward to provide articles on various Castellorizian historical events and family stories. They include Connie Gregory of Melbourne, Nicholas Pappas of Sydney and our own John Yiannakis and Allan Cresswell. In this edition we have the pleasure of an article by Christian Carranza of Brazil (see article commencing on page 9).

The second article of our new regular feature commences in this edition of the *Megisti Messenger*, titled *Cazzie Military Heroes*. Our first hero honoured was our own larger than life member, Jack Kyros, and this edition honours Agapitos Michael who was a soldier with the 11th Battalion in World War One.

The Social Announcements column continues to cause 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 articles titled *Pilgrimage to Castellorizo – Part One and Part Two* that was in the last two editions of our newsletter. Final part three commences on page 13, 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. The photos look great on the website so please visit <http://www.castellorizo.org/newsletter>

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. See page 4 of the *Megisti Messenger* for additional information.

DON'T FORGET TO ARRANGE A TABLE FOR OUR FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON - IT IS HAPPENING THIS SUNDAY WEEK (SEPTEMBER 6th)!

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

A meeting was held recently to form a sub committee for the 2012 centenary year. Invitations were sent out to a number of Cazzies who we believe will be beneficial in a number of different areas. The meeting was well patronized and a number of good ideas were brought forward that night.

I am pleased to announce the committee for this auspicious occasion.

Position

Chairperson	Jim Manifis
Deputy Chairperson	Nick Nicholas
Secretary	Cath Papanastasiou
Finance Officer	Micheal Manifis
Committee member	Anthony Samiotis
Committee member	Fay Katris
Committee member	Kath Soumanis
Committee member	Merrill Kostarelas
Committee member	Nina Pitsikas
Committee member	Bartley Kakulas
Committee member	Cheryl Gourdis

There were a number of other people that attended, who nominated themselves for various roles they believed they were best equipped to support.

Arthur Athans	Nichollette Litis
Paul Boyatzis	John Metaxas
Allan Cresswell	Arthur Mistilis
Kathleen Drimatis	Michael Palassis
Peter Economis	Michael Spartalis
Con Kailis	John Yiannakis
Rose Kalaf	Kevin Kannis
Alec Kanganas	Merrill Kostarelas
Con Kannis	

The reason that we approached the selection for the committee in this manner, was due to the lack of nominations that were submitted to us after numerous issues of the *Megisti Messenger*. We all believe the expertise of each individual member will lead to an excellent preparation for the centenary celebrations. If there are members who would like to come onboard, we have no hesitations for accepting more help.

Recently Allan Creswell was invited by the Castellorizian Association of Victoria to do a presentation devoted over a weekend on Genealogy. His presentation was well received by all who attended and his efforts were well appreciated. To quote a paragraph from an article by Evelyn Salvaris in their newsletter about Allan, "Allan, we need to clone your spirit, passion and unquestionable dedication as there are very few 'active' Kazzies like you! Western Australian Kazzies are lucky to have you!"

I would like to congratulate Dr John Yiannakis on the launch of his latest book the *Odysseus in the Golden West: Greek Migration, Settlement and Adaptation in Western Australia since 1947*. On the 19th August many members of the Greek community were present at the launch which was conducted by His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, AC, Governor of Western Australia.

The Castellorizians of WA will be having their next luncheon on Sunday September the 6th which ties in with Father's Day. I believe this is the first occasion that there has been a Father's Day luncheon and we are hoping many of our members will be in attendance. To verify numbers we are asking all members to contact a committee member so we can allocate tables for your families. This is an opportunity for the Cazzies to have an enjoyable afternoon and for our children to be able to meet each other. Therefore I am hoping that the afternoon will be well patronised.

Continued on Page 4

Continued from Page 3

I would like to pass on my condolences to the Litis Family on the passing away of Arthur Litis. Arthur was a devoted member and donor of the Castellorizian Association of WA. I would also like to pass on my condolences to the Bellos Family, Lucas Family and the Phillips Family on the passing away of their loved ones.

I would like to congratulate Mr Michael Tsolakis on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia for his efforts to the Greek Community in WA. Finally congratulations to John Metaxas for his award ACSWA Excellence in Care Award for this outstanding contributions to the Hellenic Aged Care.

This newsletter is the final issue before our AGM, therefore I'd like to thank all my committee members for their work and support over the last 12 months. In all my times as a president or a committee member of various associations, I have never worked with such a committee that has such high professional standards as this one.

HELLENIC LAWN BOWLS NEWS

Written by Leo Panegyres



Members of the Hellenic Bowling Club are invited to the Annual General Meeting/Dinner evening to be held at the Castellorizian House, 160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn on **Friday 9th October 2009, commencing at 7.00pm.**

Cost \$20.00 membership fee plus \$10.00 for drinks and raffle ticket. New members are welcomed at a cost of \$30.00.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 2009/2010

Your membership of the Castellorizian Association of Western Australia Inc is now due (July 1st 2009 to June 30th 2010). Annual subscription is only \$10.00 and includes four copies of the *Megisti Messenger*.

Some members will receive an enclosed slip with this edition of the *Megisti Messenger* where subscriptions for the year 2008/2009 have not yet been received. Please bring your membership up to date by forwarding \$20.00 to cover your membership, for both last year and the current year.

Membership of our association is for the period July 1st to the 30th June every year. Where members remain unfinancial for 15 months the *Megisti Messenger* is no longer forwarded. Please assist with ensuring your membership remains current. Queries should be directed to either Michael Paul (92042064) or Kevin Kannis (94485312).

FATHER'S DAY LUNCHEON SUNDAY SEP 6th 2009



**Please support our next function on this Sunday week
Father's Day Luncheon September 6th 2009**

**Commencing 12 Midday
At Castellorizian House
160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn WA**

**Cost: Adults \$30 Primary School Children \$15
Includes a three course meal and refreshments**

**Book your family table now
or
Come as a small group**

Numbers attending are required ASAP

Contact

Jim 0433165601

Allan 94017574/0413958500

Kevin 0418904848

Tony 93441634

**Give Mum a break on Father's Day and have a great sit
down meal**

For further particulars please contact a committee member listed above

VISIT BY NICHOLAS PAPPAS

By Allan Cresswell

The Castellorizian Men's Friday Night Happy Hour was visited by historian and author, Nicholas Pappas of Sydney, on June 12th 2009. I had the pleasure of meeting Nicholas personally for the first time that night. The word had got out beforehand of his intended visit to our association whilst the South Sydney Rabbitohs Rugby Club was in Perth to play the Melbourne Storm. Nicholas is Chairman of the South Sydney Rabbitohs. Our usual attendance of around 24 men swelled to 45 that night.

Nicholas gave an excellent talk on his future projects, which included the soon to be released pictorial book on Castellorizo - which has been years in the planning. After viewing some sample photographs on his laptop computer I am certainly looking forward to the book release later this year. Nicholas also is working on another major project that will have an important impact for all Castellorizians interested in their ancestors. However the size of the project means that completion will be a few more years down the track. But the wait will be worth it.



Allan Cresswell, Tony Coufos, Nicholas Pappas, Jim Manifis and Paul Boyatzis



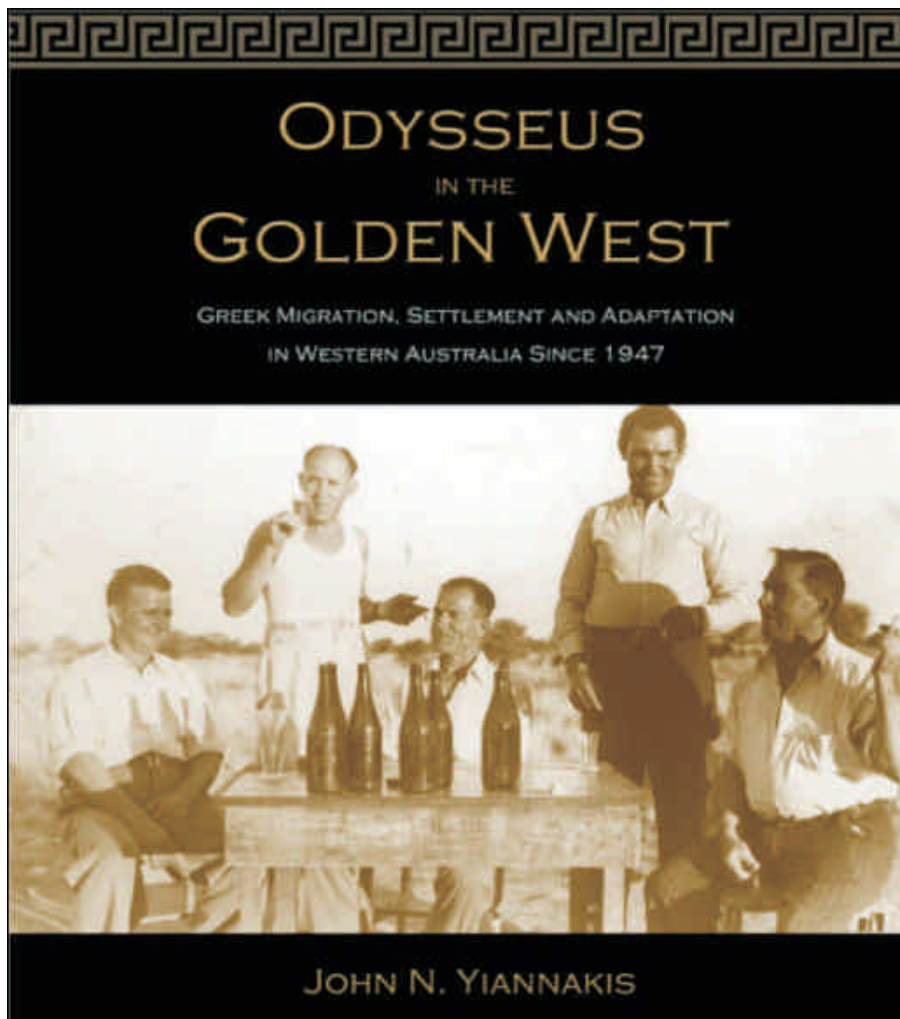
Men's Friday Night Happy Hour June 12 2009

NEW BOOK RELEASE

The long awaited sequel to *Greek Pioneers in WA* has now been released.

Odysseus in the Golden West: Greek Migration, Settlement and Adaptation in Western Australia since 1947 by Dr John Yiannakis, is available in soft cover, as well as a limited number of hard cover copies.

At 450 pages, this book is the most comprehensive account of the Greek presence in Western Australia in the postwar period.



The soft cover version of the book will be available (for \$45) late August from select bookshops, the Hellenic Community Centre (9328 5141) and Hellenic Community Aged Care (9376 5800) and St Andrew's Grammar (9376 5850).

Very few copies of the hardcover version of the book remain and can be purchased at \$89 by contacting Dr Yiannakis on 0422 673043; email: jay@cygnus.uwa.edu.au or HACCI committee member Christine Vosnacos 0413 015005; email: christine@publicist.com

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.



The five George Kailis of Perth Western Australia

Left: George Diamantis Kailis, George Agapitos Kailis, George Palassis Kailis, George Anthony Kailis.

Front: George Michael Kailis

Photo Courtesy Tina Waters (nee Kyros)



Group of young men at Castellorizo - circa 1932

From Left: Unknown, Panagiotis Roditis, Unknown, Unknown, Philippis Karpathios, Nikos Kazacos and Theodoros Kaperonis.

Front: Loucas Tsabatsis

Photo Courtesy Nicholas Pappas

CASTELLORIZIAN FAMILIES IN BRAZIL - PART ONE

By Cristián Andrés Carranza of Natal, Rio Grande do Norte State, Brazil

Ioannis Georgios Christofis & Maria Apóstolos Komninos



Kyrana Constantino Spyrides (nee Cristóforo) and the author, Cristián Andrés Carranza.

Cristián Carranza is married to Maria Helena Constantino Spyrides and is Kyrana Constantino Spyrides' son-in-law

Ioannis Christofis was born in Castellorizo on September 6th 1907, the son of Georgios and Kyrá Christofis. He had two sisters, Panagiota and Izapeta (Izabel), and three brothers, Constantino, Diamantino and Christofis.

At the end of World War One and probably between 1918 and 1919, Diamantino and Christofis decided to run away from the war destruction. It was decided that Ioannis, the youngest of all the brothers at the age of eleven or twelve years of age, had to travel with them. Probably some time later, Panagiota, Izapeta and their mother, Kyrá, decided to travel to Brazil.

Somewhere in Australia, Ioannis worked as a waiter, so doing his part in assisting with the household expenses. Although it is not confirmed, the Christofis brothers in Australia received a letter from Kyrá, telling them that she and their sisters were now living in Brazil. That message was enough for Ioannis, who told his brothers about his intentions to see his mother and sisters again. He left Australia and made a stop in Italy. The only fact that survives from that time was that his surname was “*latinized*” during the migration process. He left Italy as Ioannis Cristóforo.

The ship travelled to Brazil and arrived at Paranaguá's Port, in Paraná State, southern Brazil. After finishing the migration procedure, his name had now become *João Cristóforo*. He finally met his mother and sisters and started to live with them in Curitiba City.

Sometime before 1931, Mrs Kyrá Christofis and children began to travel frequently to Florianópolis city to meet the flourishing Greek community started by Savvas Nicolau Savvas in about 1890. Probably on one of those trips, Mrs Kyrá Christofis found a “perfect match” for her son João. The lucky woman was Maria Apóstolos Komninos, daughter of Apóstolos Kosmos Komninos and Evdoquia Atherinou, born in Castellorizo like her eight brothers and sisters. Apóstolos and his family had travelled from Castellorizo to Brazil in 1924.

João went to Florianópolis to meet his future wife (yes, Mrs Kyrá, Apóstolos and Evdoquia had arranged everything and Maria and João were the last ones to know... like the old times...)

They married in 1931. It was a golden opportunity for them, because the orthodox priest had just arrived from Greece in order take responsibility of St Nicolas Orthodox Church of Florianópolis.

Once married, João returned with Maria to Curitiba. At 628 Alameda Dom Pedro II Street, João built the “João Cristóforo General Store”, at the side of his home in Batel neighborhood. Everything was done to help start a prosperous home life with Maria.

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**Wedding Photo for João Cristóforo
and Maria Kosmos Komninos**

On December 26th of 1934, they were blessed with a daughter, Kyrana Cristóforo, named after João's mother, following the Greek tradition.



Baby Kyrana Cristóforo with her parents

Kyrana's story will be outlined in a future article, jointly with her husband's life, Constantino Nicolau Spyrides.

João and Maria spent all their life in Curitiba, occasionally travelling to Florianópolis. The photo below shows João and Pantaleão Fermanis enjoying a couple beers at Pantaleão's bar. Pantaleão was João's brother-in-law (married to one of Maria's sisters, Kyrana).



João Cristóforo and Pantaleão Fermanis at the bar

This photo is in page 123 of the Paschoal Apóstolo Pítsica's book "Memória Visual da Colônia Grega de Florianópolis".

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João passed away at the age of 52 years, from lung cancer which was a consequence of his accentuated smoking habit.

Maria spent the remaining days of her life in Rio de Janeiro with her daughter, Kyrana, and grandchildren, and died in March 19th 1990. She was 81 years old.



Maria Cristóforo (nee Komninos)
80 years old

Kyrana remember that Kyriakoula, daughter of Christofis Christofis, Peter Adgemis's wife, travelled to Brazil to meet her in Rio de Janeiro and other cousins in Curitiba.

Editors Note: Cristián is one of three persons from Brazil who has contacted the editor by email regarding Castellorizians in Brazil. He is to be commended for agreeing to write a series of articles about his wife's family and that of other Castellorizians in Brazil. His first language is Portuguese. Cristián has also provided genealogical information on numerous Cazzie families in Brazil which can be viewed at the Castellorizo Genealogy website at: www.castellorizo.org

AFK STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By Marilyn Tsolakis

Anthony Komninos (on the left) and Yanni Ragousis (on right) have been selected from St Andrews Grammar to visit Kastellorizo during the September/October school holidays as part of the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo Student Exchange Program.



AFK ART SALE & EXHIBITION

By Marilyn Tsolakis

Australian Friends of Kastellorizo was delighted with the response to the Art Sale & Exhibition in Perth & would like to thank the West Australian Kastellorizian Association for its support by providing the venue.

Up to 200 people attended the Perth Exhibition with Dr Norman Ashton opening the occasion. As many of you know Dr Ashton conducted an archaeological survey of Kastellorizo and published his results in 1995 in *Ancient Megisti: the Forgotten Kastellorizo*. Eleven paintings were sold on the day which adds to the 6 that were sold on eBay. Dr Platon Alexiou, the artist from Athens, was present to talk to people about his art. The artwork was then exhibited in Sydney with John Mangos as the MC. Art not sold in Australia is being exhibited in Kastellorizo at the moment and available for sale at the Megisti Hotel.

Work has begun in sequencing the order of the paintings that will be used from this collection of artworks in the production of the illustrated children's history book that AFK hopes to release later this year. The draft of the text to accompany the images is very much in the preliminary stages at the moment.



PILGRIMAGE TO CASTELLORIZO – PART THREE

By Allan (Agapitos) Cresswell

This is the final 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. Final part three 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/>

Heading home after visiting Byron and Valerie Kakulas’s house, which is under renovation, we freshened up for our evening meal to be held at Komninos and Lola’s restaurant where an Athens based Greek singer will be performing during our meal. Arriving about 7.00pm we were glad we had booked as there was quite a crowd at the restaurant.



OUR CASTELLORIZIAN SINGER

Then on came the lady singer, whose name escapes me for the moment. She was terrific! We all got into the spirit of things and many people got up to dance near the waters edge. My cousin, Elizabeth, from Adelaide and her family were there as were many other faces we had got to know over the last few days on Castellorizo.

I then saw Con Venoutsos who I had met some years ago in Perth and he introduced me to his wife, Despa (nee Manifis). The singing and dancing went well into the night and Elizabeth, Despa and others entertained everyone as they danced to the music. Sitting back and sipping on my red wine as food came in various dishes I pondered over how wonderful this all was. A beautiful still evening and we were relaxed and enjoying ourselves immensely. This is true Mediterranean lifestyle at its best.

When the singer had a break she came over to our table and had a long conversation with us. At the end of the conversation she told us that she was a Castellorizian and came over every year from Athens. “You will come again next year and I will see you again?” she inquires. But it was more like a

demand of me than a question. I just nodded my head as she gives me a peck on the cheek. What a great evening was had by all.



LIZ, DESPO AND OTHERS DANCING

Off to bed near midnight. What another great day!

We awake late in the morning and Stacey and Gerry decide they are going for a climb to the airport and the old castle. Jean and I decided against it and thought a visit to the second museum more relaxing.

We then head off to say goodbye to Byron and Valerie who are disappointed that their home is not yet at lockup stage after many months wait. They are off to a conference then back in a few weeks.

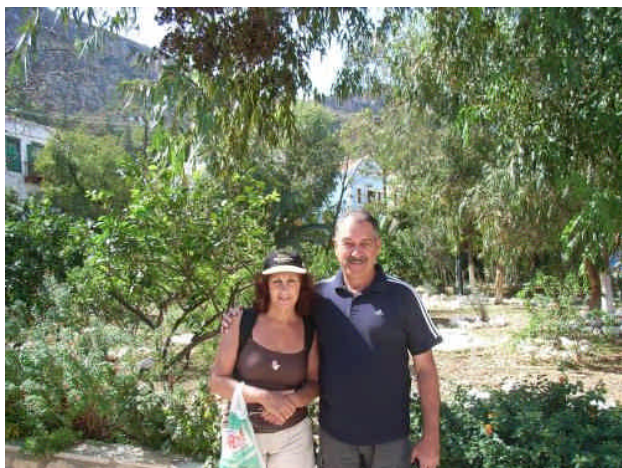
Then onto the museum which has a wonderful collection of clothing, artifacts and photographs. Also a great historical film on the history of Castellorizo, making you appreciate what terrible times our ancestors endured.



ONE OF THE DISPLAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Stacey and Jerry return from their walk to the airport after more than two hours away and they are exhausted. Beautiful views they tell us but a long climb.

We catch up with Jessie Zempilas who tells us that her sister Ethel has told her where the Karasavas home was (our grandparents). She explains to us the location. It is right next to where we are staying.



STACEY & ALLAN AT THE SITE OF OUR G/PARENTS HOME
The council has reclaimed the land where about three homes used to stand and turned it into a park. This is the spot where our late mum was born and where our family lived on Castellorizo.

Later we have a siesta and I wait patiently for the arrival of Nick Zounis, Tony Bellos and Leffie Gelavis who are flying in to Castellorizo. They arrive down the hill from the airport by bus late in the afternoon. I am waiting to greet them. Tony is out of the bus first. "Welcome to Castellorizo", I say to him. He is stunned! "What are you doing here?", he asks. "Same as you", I reply. "You are black!" he exclaims. Until then I hadn't realised that I was sporting a great two week plus suntan compliments of Turkey, Rhodes and Castellorizo.

The day has been a beautiful one and the empty harbour soon fills with many yachts and launches, some worth millions. Yesterday the harbour was empty and now it is packed full of boats and people.



THE BOARDWALK FULL OF PEOPLE AND BOATS

We had another lovely evening meal, a great game of cards outside, then off to bed.

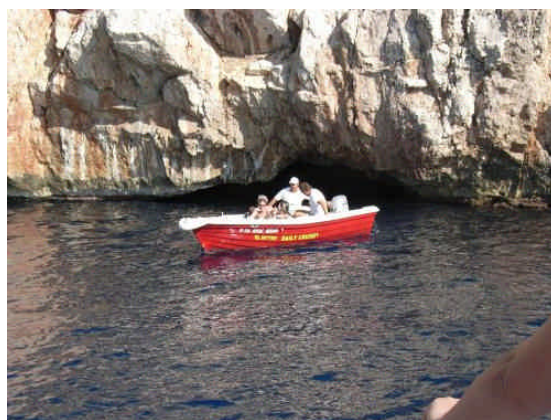
Today we are off to the Blue Grotto. Whilst waiting, we go for a walk and travel past Byron and Valerie's home. And there it is all happening! The doors are going on. Poor Byron and Valerie only left yesterday and now it is at last happening. They have been waiting for lockup stage for ages.



THE CARPENTER HAVING A REST AFTER FITTING DOORS

Off to the Blue Grotto at 9.30am. It is a beautiful day and the water looks so clear and so blue. And surprise, surprise! My new found cousin, Liz, from Adelaide and her family are also doing the trip.

We travel around the island until we come to the entrance to the Blue Grotto. There is another party just coming out.



ANOTHER GROUP COMING OUT FROM THE GROTTO



EVERYONE IN THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE WATER

The Blue Grotto was just magnificent. Everyone was in the water except the skipper, George, and yours truly! Well someone had to take the photos! Some of the group swam out through the cave to our larger boat waiting outside. The weather was just perfect.

After lunch we went and had a cuppa with Anna Paul and later went and visited Betty Theodore who is the sister in law of our Auntie in Sydney. Such very nice people everywhere.

But it is all coming to a close so soon, we are leaving tonight on the *Proteus* and none of us want to leave.

We call in to say goodbye to Lola and Komninos Moustakas. It is all getting so sad as we say goodbye to everyone.

Jean decides that I need to have a swim in the Mediterranean before we leave the island, seeing I didn't do so at the grotto.



WEATHER IS GREAT BUT THE WATER IS COLD IN OCT

We then pack up everything to head down to the wharf to have a meal at a restaurant nearby. It is a great meal and the best priced so far. We discover it an hour before departure!



OUR LAST MEAL ON CASTELLORIZO

Whilst sitting and having our meal we strike up a

conversation with a couple on the next table. She is a Liveris from Darwin. "You must be Florence Canaris's daughter", I inquired. "Your mum lived next door to mine in Lake Street Perth." Stacey and Jean looked at each other. I could guess their thoughts. It was time to leave Castellorizo. Allan had made a family history link with nearly everyone on the island and he needed a break!

As we boarded the *Proteus* we were met by Liz and all her family who were also returning to Rhodes that evening. It was great that we could all be together right until the end.

As the boat was about to depart it became quite dark and I peered at a person standing under the lighting of a lamppost. She was waving at us all on the deck. It was Lola. Even with her disability she had walked all the way from her residence to say goodbye to us all. Such a lovely person.



LOLA MOUSTAKAS (NEE VENITIS) SEEING US OFF

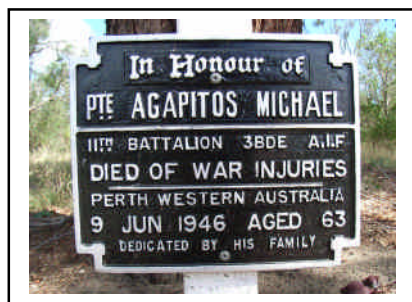
We are about to depart and all are sad. It has been a great six days and we have enjoyed every moment of our stay on the island. I take one last photograph of the harbour, now all in darkness.



THE LIGHTS OF CASTELLORIZO WAVE GOODBYE TO US

We were handed a small piece of basil and told to throw it in the water. "Don't look back", we were told, "Or you will never return." I am not superstitious – but I didn't dare look back! THE END

CAZZIE MILITARY HEROES



**Plaque at Kings Park WA
for Agapitos (Jack) Michael**



**Agapitos (Jack)
MICHAEL
11th Battalion
3rd Brigade
A.I.F.
World War One**

Written by Allan Cresswell

Agapitos (Jack) Michael was born in Castellorizo on December 4th 1883 to Michael Agapitos Hatzimarkou (Michael) and Eudocia (nee Passaris). His siblings were Constantine, George and Maria. Around 1896 he travelled to Australia with his uncle, Kyriakos Passaris, and worked in the Western Australian goldfields. He later ran a store at Cue. On October 6th 1905 at Melbourne Jack became a naturalised Australian citizen

Jack enlisted on November 17th 1916 to do service for his adopted country in World War One. He was assigned Service Number 7283 and commenced military training at Blackboy Hill in Midland. Jack was assigned to the 11th Battalion A.I.F. which embarked for Europe from Fremantle on January 29th 1917. They departed on the *HMAT Miltiades*, a British Steamer being used as a Troop Transport Ship. Jack would have appreciated the name of the ship, named after the famous Greek General who overcame the Persian invasion of Athens during the days of the famous 'Marathon' story.

After arriving at Devonport England on March 27th 1917 Jack contracted the Mumps which required hospitalisation. He later embarked for France on July 9th 1917 from Southampton.

Jack was wounded on a raid near Ypres and admitted to hospital in France on October 6th 1917, suffering with pleurisy. On his recovery he was sent back to the front and during battle he sustained an ankle wound at the Somme in August 1918.

When the armistice came on the November 11th 1918 Jack was in Paris. There he was granted fourteen days leave, returning to England for further leave in February 1919. The 11th Battalion finally departing France for England on April 21st 1919. On his return home to Perth, Jack was honourably discharged on December 25th 1919. His health was impaired with the effects of mustard gas and he suffered with ongoing health problems for the rest of his life. Jack was a real life surviving hero of World War One!

Jack married Ourania Antonios Zempilas at Perth in 1921 and commenced to raise a family. Between 1922 and 1930, Michael, Anthony, Eudocia, Anastasia and Marcus were born. Then tragedy struck the family when their mother, Ourania, died on August 8th 1932, at 98 Lake Street Perth. Five young children under ten years of age without a mother.

In 1935 Panagiota Zafiri arrived in Perth from Castellorizo and that same year married Jack Michael. She took on the responsibility of raising these five young children as her own. In addition, Panagiota gave birth to three more children, Con, Komninos (Ken) and Rose.

Jack died at Perth on June 9th 1946 aged 63 years. He suffered for nearly twenty years from the effects of the war. His wife, Panagiota, was left to raise eight children, with three still under the age of ten years.

Jack never had a chance to experience and appreciate the successes and achievements of his family in the years to come. Panagiota died a justifiably proud mother of eight children on June 17th 2002.

GENEALOGY VISIT TO MELBOURNE

by Allan Cresswell

In June/July 2009 I attended Melbourne at the invitation of the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria as a guest speaker and part of a seminar on Castellorizian Family History research. The seminar was conducted over two days and was a great success. The receiving exchange of information and photographs was so pleasing during the seminar weekend which was held on Saturday June 27th and Sunday June 28th. The seminar was wonderfully arranged by Evelyn Salvaris who is a great supporter of the website and all things pertaining to genealogy.

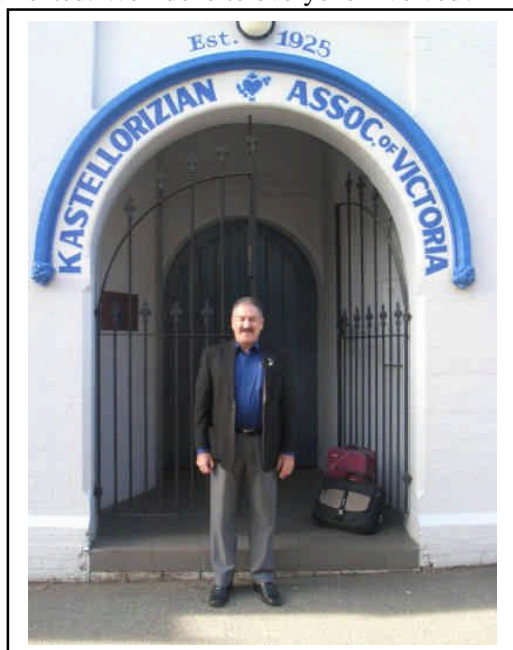
Those in attendance on the two days saw a practical demonstration of the Castellorizian Genealogy Website and I was able to show the various functions of the website associated with accessing genealogical data, photographs, the display of relationships between people and general surfing on the website. It was particularly pleasing that elderly people present, who had no prior access to the internet, could see the capabilities of, and the ongoing potential for, this Castellorizian site. The website was displayed by projector onto a screen where live surfing of the website took place. For those wishing to conduct their own research I was able to provide advice on the availability of various resources from Castellorizo, Australia and on the various websites.

During my stay in Melbourne Paul and Connie Gregory were wonderful in providing me with accommodation, meals, transport and great moral support throughout the five days I was with them. It was so pleasing also to have the support, fellowship and positive feedback from many of the association committee members, general members and the Castellorizians of Melbourne. I had the pleasure of meeting Michael Spartels, President of the association, and his lovely wife, Dianne, on numerous occasions throughout the fourteen days I was in Melbourne. Others who came forward with support and suggestions were Jasmin Verginis (nee Kalafatas), George Verginis, Nicholas Zervos, Maria Katris (nee Adgemis) and so many others that I cannot all name. It was also pleasing to make contact with many of the past contributors to the website who I had been in contact with via email for some years.

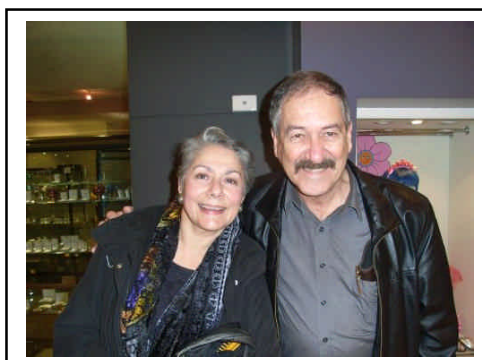
On the Saturday night we attended a great Greek Tavern evening and for the first time in my 65 years on this earth I found I just could not finish off all the food served up. I even had to decline the last batch of oysters much to my horror. Just so much food! It was a terrific evening and I felt so at home around so many wonderful people.

At the seminar many people came forward with family trees and photos that we were overwhelmed. Poor Evelyn Salvaris spent hours scanning photographs at the conclusion of the seminar on both days. She had to arrange a special day for August where additional photos could be scanned. Her support was great throughout the seminar.

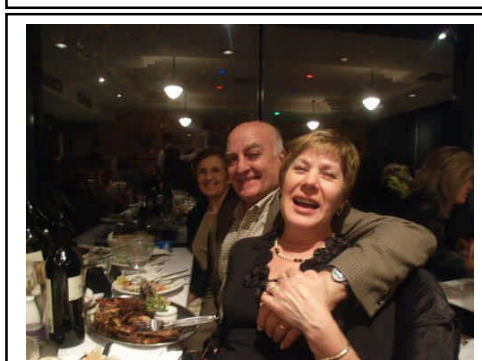
I went to Melbourne with about 13600 names on the website collected over many years. After entering much of the information supplied by Melbourne Castellorizians this total has now grown to 15327. A wonderful contribution for all those involved. The Kastellorizian Association of Victoria committee are thanked for developing and implementing this wonderful concept to expand the database and assist in ensuring our Castellorizian heritage remains identified and documented. Well done to everyone involved!



Allan outside Cazzie House in Melbourne



Jasmin Verginis and Allan Cresswell



Paul and Connie Gregory at the Tavern evening

CAZZIE TRIBUTE



**Compiled by Allan Cresswell
(From an interview with
Michael Tsolakis in 2009)**

MICHAEL MALAXOS TSOLAKIS

Michael Malaxos Tsolakis was born in Castellorizo on October 22nd 1921. Michael was the third born son of eight children to Malaxos Tsolakis and Maria (nee Papalazaros). His siblings were Panayiotis, Marou (Mrs Georgis), Dialekti (Mrs Scopelitis), Despina (Mrs Sertis), Triantafillo (Mrs Kailis), Diomataris and Anastasis. He celebrates his eighty eighth birthday this year and is to be congratulated for being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) on June 8th 2009.

Michael left Castellorizo so he could attend high school in Athens, living with his uncle and aunt who were childless. At 16 year of age it was decided he should move to Australia to live with his married sister who lived in Kalgoorlie. He arrived in Australia per the ship, *Esquilino*, on February 8th 1938. Michael's first ambition was to become fluent in English and he taught himself to become so.

Michael completed an apprenticeship in tailoring and later opened his own business in Perth which he ran for many years before retiring at 65 years of age. Michael had married Lola Simeon at Perth in 1948. He had previously completed military service during World War Two after enlisting at Boulder on June 8th 1942 and was discharged on December 4th 1945 at the rank of corporal. Michael and Lola raised a family of three children.

From 1945 right up to his retirement in 1986 Michael volunteered his services as an interpreter for any Greek persons requiring assistance. Whether it was assisting at hospitals, at appointments, in obtaining employment, or in translating documents, Michael was always there to help the Greek migrant. During these years many post war Greek migrants came alone to the country and without family support. Michael was there to assist in their assimilation by bridging the language barriers for them.

When Michael retired from tailoring in 1986, and at 65 years of age, he trained as an interpreter at TAFE and gained accreditation after a two year course. With this official accreditation Michael could then work as a translator at Centrelink, Criminal Court Trials, Family Law Court, Royal Perth Hospital, Police Stations and as a telephone interpreter in times of emergencies.

Michael was appointed the official Greek interpreter for the Greek Water Polo Team at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 which was a most exciting assignment for him.

In 2008 Michael had amassed more than 20 years as an official accredited interpreter on top of his 42 years as a volunteer interpreter prior to retiring as a Tailor.

Michael was a founding committee member of the Floreat Athena Soccer Club; Life Member, Secretary and Trustee of the Hellenic Community of WA; Castellorizian Association of WA President (1982-1984), Secretary and an Honorary President of that association.

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