



MEGISTI MESSENGER



Newsletter of the

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC.

160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn WA 6016 Phone 94432110

Forthcoming Functions

By Allan Cresswell

There are numerous functions and events occurring over the next few months relating to, or being held at, our association. Please do make a note of them on your calendar. Our next function to be held is the official launching of the *Empire Patrol* Website to be held at Castellorizian House **Friday September 10th** commencing 6.30pm. This is a mixed night where wives and family are most welcome. Further details on **page 3** of the *Megisti Messenger*.

St Basil's Aged Care Services are arranging a 'Stay on Your Feet' function which is detailed on the flyer on **page 9**. This wonderful concept is for our more senior members and is happening less than two weeks away, on **Monday September 13th**, from 10.30am until 2.00pm. Bookings are essential and need to be made immediately.

Our annual Santrape Luncheon is being held on **Sunday October 24th**. Additional details on **page 1** and on **page 11**.

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NEED TO CONTACT THE EDITOR?

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September 1st 2010

Volume 3, Issue 3

Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of Australia



OUR NEW SPONSOR OF THE MEGISTI MESSENGER
See St Basil's Aged Care Articles on Pages 8 and 9

Our AGM is being held on **Wednesday October 27th** commencing at 7.00pm. Additional details on **page 10**.

The Melbourne Cup Luncheon is being held at Siena's of Leederville on **Tuesday November 2nd** commencing at 11.30am. Bring your family and friends to this great fundraising concept. **Page 4** gives all the details.

Then on **Sunday November 7th** is the launching of the AFK children's book, *Kastellorizo: My Odyssey*, by His Excellency, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael. All members are invited to attend the launch that commences at 4.00pm. Details on **page 2**.

And if you happen to be in Castellorizo in September (as my wife and I will be) do attend the Empire Patrol Memorial Services on **September 13th** (official unveiling) and **29th** (65th Anniversary).

CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF WA INC

Cordially invites you to the
SANTRAPE MEMORIAL LUNCHEON

To be held at
CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE
160 Anzac Road Mount Hawthorn WA

Sunday 24th October 2010
Commencing 12.00 Midday

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PAGE 11

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.

MARRIAGES



Congratulations to Deanne Anastasas and Peter Bouhlas on their marriage on July 10th 2010. The wedding service was held at St Constantine and Helene Church and the reception at the Hyatt Hotel. Deanne is the daughter of Steven and Helen (nee Manifis) and Peter is the son of Con and Katherine (nee Geronimos).

VALE



Deepest sympathy to the families and friends of Kyriakos (Jack) Stavrianou, Georgia Antonas (nee Panegyres), Catherine Michelides (nee Sillelides), Anna Sarinas (nee Sarris), Kathleen Mallis (nee Murray), Steve Boyatzis, Steve Tsapazi, Eleanor (Nellie) Macrides (nee Nicholas), Steve Sertis, Betty Papalazaros and Dawn Michelides. Our thoughts also go out to family and friends of Steve Zervos of Sydney.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Despina Tanner (nee Kannis) re her recognition in the August 8th edition of the STM Magazine supplement of the Sunday Time. In the four page article on Matt Preston of The Master Chef he makes mention of Despina's Boucla Café in Rokeby Road Subiaco and makes comments on his visit to the café – "It has soul. It has character which comes from the uniqueness of the room and the personality of the staff, but also from Despina Tanner's Greek desserts. There is no 'cookie cutter' feel about it at all. You won't find a soufra cake like this one on any other menu in Australia." Great to see recognition for the best kept Cazzie and Subiaco secret for some time.

The outstanding contribution of Dr Ken Michael, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs Julie Michael to The University of Western Australia was recognised in June with the naming of a campus building in their honour. The Ken and Julie Michael building is at 7 Fairway, Nedlands.

BIRTHS/BAPTISMS



Congratulations to Mihali and Chenelle Papanastasiou on the birth of their son, Deon Mikel on July 2nd 2010. A baby brother for Latecia.

BIRTHDAYS

Congratulations to Chrissie Samiotis (nee Drimatis) who celebrated her 80th birthday in June.

BOOK LAUNCH

Australian Friends of Kastellorizo illustrated children's book, *Kastellorizo: My Odyssey* will be officially launched by His Excellency, Governor of Western Australia, Dr Ken Michael, at Castellorizian House, 160 Anzac Road, Mt Hawthorn on 7 November, 2010 between 4pm - 6pm. All members are invited to attend.

To purchase a copy of this limited edition, you can pre-order by contacting the AFK Coordinator, Marilyn Tsolakis. Phone: 93871681 Email: coordinator@australianfriendskastellorizo.org

Kastellorizo: My Odyssey

AN ILLUSTRATED CHILDREN'S HISTORY

The story of Kastellorizo, from ancient Greece to the present, is told by the island itself because only the island has known and seen every generation that has lived on its rocky shores. The Dorians, ancient Greeks, pirates, ships captains, traders, knights, the Ottomans, and conquerors from around the Mediterranean, Kastellorizo has seen them all. This is the story of a great odyssey, tragic and exciting, dramatic but hopeful, of a little island in the far eastern Mediterranean, and its indomitable people.

"Kastellorizo: My Odyssey is not only a beautiful and informative book, but also a wonderful and innovative concept. The island speaks to us and engages us, touching our hearts and our minds. This excellent work will delight and educate all ages."

Dr Norman Ashton

"I can think of no better way for a young child to learn, and to re-learn, Kastellorizo's fascinating history than through the pages of this book. Engagingly written from the island's perspective, its poetic tale will draw children across the sweep of centuries in an almost fairytale way, while also re-kindling our own memories of stories heard from proud grandparents many years ago."

Nicholas Pappas

\$39.95
Limited Edition

Email
coordinator@australianfriendskastellorizo.org
for further information

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Written by President Jim Manifis

Recently, we had the pleasure in holding a function at the Castellorizian House to welcome Nicholas George Pappas, who was awarded the Kastellorizian of the Year Award for 2010. Unfortunately the committee was given very short notice that Nicholas was visiting Perth. Therefore, we could only notify our members through word of mouth and phone calls. The evening was well patronised by our members, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended. Nicholas has accomplished so many achievements over the years, involving both in his profession, the Australian community, the Greek community and for the Castellorizians worldwide. It must be mentioned that Nicholas's well-researched books on Castellorizo are highly regarded nationally and internationally, and he will be producing another one this year – a pictorial entitled *An Island in Time: Castellorizo in Photographs 1890 – 1948*.

A number of our members are aware that the Castellorizian Association in Athens is having financial difficulty in producing the Kazzis News, and we as an association have recently donated \$500 for the running costs of this newsletter. A number of our members, approximately 70, receive the newsletter each month, and we felt as a committee, that it would be disastrous for it to cease. We may in turn review the situation in this current financial year, and consider a further donation.

The planning for the 2012 Centenary Year, is progressing positively, and all members will be notified in future additions of the Megisti Newsletter of the events that will be occurring. In reference to the Castellorizian trip in May 2011, we have received a number of expressions of interest by our members, and a meeting was held on the 25th August to discuss the proposed trip.

The AGM for our association will be held on the 27th October 2010, and it is important that all members make an effort to attend. There are a number of issues that will be discussed that evening, which will involve further redevelopment of our house, and also the repairs and maintenance of the Kalgoorlie Street property. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members for their support, and hard work, during the 2009/2010 year.

I also would like to wish Betty and Michael Paul and families my condolences on the sad loss of your mother, Eleanor Macrides.

I would like to remind all members that the subscriptions for 2010/2011 are now due as of July 1st.

LAUNCH OF THE EMPIRE PATROL WEBSITE

AT CASTELLORIZIAN HOUSE

Friday 10th September 2010

Commencing 6.30 pm

Our regular Friday Night's Men Dinner will be a combined night. Ladies and family are most welcome to attend.

The presenter will be Dr Paul Boyatzis assisted by Allan Cresswell. The Empire Patrol Disaster Website will officially be launch during the evening dinner.

Please contact Jim 0433165601 or Allan 93057954/0413958500 to advise of your attendance. Group table bookings also require special notification. This is a special evening that will be enjoyed by all.

COST: \$30 Dinner and Refreshments Provided

2012 CELEBRATIONS – PAGE 1

LAUNCH OF CELEBRATION - CASTELLORIZIAN TRIP

Written by President Jim Manifis

Proposal

Our intention is to launch the Castellorizian Centenary Year 2012 on the Island of Castellorizo in May 2011.

Project Group

Jim Manifis

Concept

Castellorizians will have an opportunity to travel as a group to the Island of Castellorizo in the week leading up to Saint Constantine and Helene Festive Day on the 21st May 2011.

Research

Jim Manifis along with Nick Missikos have had numerous discussions and meetings to evaluate the best proposal for this unique trip. A number of different options will be submitted to the sub groups which in turn need to make a decision on the best option, the biggest factor which the committee needs to consider is basically how many people we believe will be interested.

Options

1. Nick Missikos from Harvey World Travel would book accommodation on the Island for 5 nights. We as an association based on this option would need to notify our interested members of the dates that we have booked for. Those intending to go therefore would only have to book for their accommodation only and could organise their own flight details with whoever they see fit. Pricing for accommodation on the Island ranges between \$150-\$200 per night.
2. Nick Missikos could organise for all travellers to book both airfares and accommodation for all our members. For each sub group booking of 20-25 our association would receive one free airfare as a bonus. The prices which are going to be quotes are based on 2010, so therefore we need to consider that prices could vary in 2011. Airfares from Perth to Athens and return \$1649.00 plus taxes of \$600.00, airfare from Athens to Castellorizo return \$380.00.

Bookings

The association would need to work very quickly in having its members to fill out an expression of interest form which was printed in the last *Megisti Messenger*. The deadline for bookings, I would need to discuss further with Nick.

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH at SIENA'S OF LEEDERVILLE

Fundraising for the 2012 Centenary Celebrations

Tuesday November 2nd 2010

Commencing 11.30am

\$50 per head – Entrée to share, 4x Choice of Main and Dessert

Coffee, water on the table and soft drinks

Wine, beer and spirits at special price for the function

Bookings: Chrissie: 94011903, Faye: 92255471, Merrill 93875812, Jim 0433165601

2012 CELEBRATIONS – PAGE 2

WE WANT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

By Nicholas Nicholas

“Life and Times of Castellorizians”

As part of the centenary celebrations planning is underway for a commemorative book where families will have the opportunity to publish a snap shot of their family story. We are informing you now so you can start preparing your family's story and you have plenty of time before submissions close in January 2011. The “special issue” will be a magazine sized (A4) quality product. Full details of this wonderful project were published in the last *Megisti Messenger* and are also available from Nick Nicholas (08 9387 4981) or Kevin Kannis (0418 904 848).

Commemorative History Examples

The two examples which follow are from the Greek Community of Innisfail in Queensland. The family names have been omitted so as not to offend. Photographs have not been included in the examples which would increase the size of the article to approximately ½ a page each. A full page factual example is shown on page 6.

It is not necessary that you give a comprehensive account about your family or ancestors. What is sought is a snapshot of particulars about your family, be it their migration to Western Australia, their life and achievements in their new country, legendary tales about the family or of your individual ancestor, a special family story associated with their migration, or a combination of some or all of these. Your story is unique and should be told.

Example 1

M..XX..SS Family
Father : Kyriacos M
Mother : Argiro M nee C

Our father arrived in Darwin by ship from Castellorizo in the year 1917 . He worked clearing land for the railway. Saved enough money to travel to Mirriwinni. He worked again clearing land on the railway. He then bought a cane farm in partnership with three other men. Nicholas K, Michael T and Jim T.

In 1934 our father Kyriacos M sold his partnership and bought a cane farm of his own. Our mother arrived by ship in 1928 from Castellorizo, she was accompanied by Theo T (father's nephew). They landed in Sydney then travelled to Babinda (Qld) by train.

Dad and mum were married at Mirriwindi in 1928 by an Anglican Minister . At that time there were no Greek Priests. They were both very religious and attended church whenever possible. Dad also was a foundation member of the Castellorizian Brotherhood .

Three children were born, Mary, Vera and John.

Father passed away in November 1959 aged 71 years. Mother passed away 1978 aged 80 years.

Example 2

H .. XX .. S Family

John Ststhis H, was born in Castellorizo in March 1899. In 1917 at the age of 18 years he sailed to Port Said in Egypt in search of work. Working as a waiter in cafes and taverns.

It was here he learned to speak English and to hear about Australia, a land of opportunity. He sailed for Australia in 1920 and landed in Darwin where he worked on the railway line for one year then it came to a stop.

With no work and a few pounds in his pocket sailed to Ingham (Qld) for the sugar cane season. He worked up and down the coast cutting cane and finally went to Silkwood to work, where he met his future wife.

He married Chrese T on 30th December 1928. From this marriage four boys and four girls resulted (one big happy family), Peggy, Seveste, Stanley, Alma, Nicholas, Joyce, Con and Michael. The H..XX'S family lived in Tully North Queensland from 1934 to 1996. John H passed away March 1981, leaving behind his wife Chrese, 8 children, 19 grandchildren and 21 great grand children.

Written by Stanley H

2012 CELEBRATIONS – PAGE 3

“Life and Times of Castellorizians” - Continued

Example 3

THE KARASAVAS FAMILY IN WA

By Allan Cresswell

Agapitos Spiro Karasavas was born in Castellorizo on the 17th Sep 1879, the eldest son of Spiro Karasavas and Maria (nee Malaxos). His siblings were Malaxos, Mihalis, Evangelos and Garifalia. The family lived between Castellorizo and Odessa on the Black Sea and were traders. The family owned two sailing ships which plied between Asia Minor and the Ukraine. Our family folklore was that Agapitos could speak eleven languages fluently.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 caused Maria Karasavas to flee the Ukraine for Athens. Her sons were in Greece at the time. She buried the family fortune, including jewellery, gold and cash into two sealed 44 gallon drums and buried them in Odessa prior to departing. They remain there to today, unless some fortunate Russian has located these drums. In the meanwhile her eldest son, Agapitos, had married my grandmother, Anastasia (nee Xanthis) on February 26th 1911. Her brother, Agapitos Xanthis (Deputy Mayor of Castellorizo), married Eleni Pitsikas the same day.

Agapitos and Anastasia raised four children, Spiro (1912), Maria (Jan 1915), Zafiris (Nov 1915) and my mother Xanthi (Cynthia) (1923). Early in 1924 Agapitos left for Australia and went down to Ellis Creek, near Nannup, to work in the timber industry, mainly cutting timber. He sent five pounds home every month and worked hard to raise enough money to return to Castellorizo in 1928 to enable him to bring all the family out to Australia.



**Karasavas Family Passport Photograph
Port Said 1928**

**Back Row: Zafiris, Maria and Spiro
Front Row: Xanthi, Anastasia and Agapitos**

The family travelled to Australia per the ship, *SS Citta Di Genova*, ex Port Said, planning to settle in Sydney. The ship docked at Fremantle on 16th June 1928. At the port they were met by Anastasia's younger brother, Komninos Xanthis, his wife Elefantiani (nee Kailis) and their five young children. Her half brother, George Xanthis, had also come down from Northam to meet them. When my grandmother saw her two brothers and nephews and nieces at Fremantle harbor she refused to go onto Sydney. Such was the family bonds of the day.

In the early days after arrival, the family lived at various locations in central Perth and Fremantle but in 1932 settled in Lake Street Perth. Agapitos had his own fish shop in Essex Street Fremantle but had to give it up through his failing health. The effects of a ship mast falling on him during a severe storm in the 1910's and the strenuous work at Ellis Creek effected his health badly. He had a heart attack and died on 5th March 1935, aged only fifty five years. My mother was only eleven years old. The family was forced to survive on the income of the two young sons and the selling of various pieces of jewellery.

Spiro and Zafiris owned a fruit shop business at the corner of Barrack and Hay Street and later moved to Cremorne Arcade opposite the Town Hall. My mother worked for her brothers, mainly as a cashier and also went to work for her mother's cousin, Sion Xanthis, in Rokeby Road Subiaco. Their sister, Maria, married Paul Anastasakis in 1936 (the second marriage held in the new St Constantine and Helene Church). Spiro married a Sydney Cazzie girl, Angela Theodorou in 1946, whilst Zafiris married Kaliopie Panegyres in 1947. My mother, Cynthia, broke all conventions of the day and married an Aussie, Ron Cresswell, in 1942, at a time when Australia was under a great threat of a Japanese invasion. The marriage was not blessed by either family. Multiculturalism had not yet arrived here. Her eldest brother refused to give her away. All was to be forgiven later. Spiro then sold his share in the shop to move to Mascot NSW where he ran a fruit shop on Botany Road.

Agapitos' three brothers went by the surname of Agapitos. His brother, Malaxos, married Evangelia Paspalis but died a young man in Castellorizo in 1926. Mihalis married Anastasia Tsakounas and lived in Rhodes, later migrating to Sydney in 1946 to join his children. Evangelos married Afroditi Effrossini and later moved to Athens. The only daughter, Garifalia, married Tsicos Galettis who moved with their family to live in Sydney.

My grandmother never saw any of her ten grandchildren as she had become blind with cataracts. She died tragically by fire in 1957 at our home in Cottesloe. She could not speak any English or me any Greek. She could not see or talk to us but we loved our 'mum-mee' dearly. It is only in recent years that I came to understand the difficulties that she went through in leaving Castellorizo, losing a husband, having to raise a young family, starting a new life in a foreign land and abandoning everything she cherished for the sake of her children and a life with a future. She was always laughing. Now I know why.

2012 CELEBRATIONS – PAGE 4

Calendar of Proposed Events to Celebrate Our Centenary Year

Nov 2 2010	Melbourne Cup Fundraiser
Jan 2011	Deadline for Family History Book - “Life and Times of Castellorizians”
May 2011	Trip to Castellorizo
2011	Book Launch - “Life and Times of Castellorizians”
2011	Proposed Children’s Fashion Parade
Sunday May 20 2012	Official Opening of Centenary Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration• Cocktail Opening Castellorizian House
Monday May 21 2012	St Constantine & Helene Celebration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church Service• Luncheon
Tuesday May 22 2012	Conference Forum Day 1
Wednesday May 23 2012	Conference Forum Day 2
Thursday May 24 2012	Free Day for Delegates
Friday May 25 2012	Trip to Fremantle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fremantle Markets• Kailis’ for Lunch
Saturday May 26 2012	Official Closing of Centenary Conference – Gala Dinner
Sunday May 27 2012	St Constantine & Helene Church HCWA Luncheon
2012	Book Launch – Castellorizian Association History Commemorative Book

2012 Centenary Website

John Metaxas and Peter Soumanis have created a website to keep everyone informed regarding the latest information on functions and events associated with the centenary celebrations. Please do visit:

www.castellorizowa2012centenary.net.au

All the latest information will be posted to this website as and when decisions are made on dates, times and locations. Content will start to be entered over the next few months. Please do visit regularly.

Photographic Exhibition

The photographic exhibition proposed for September 2010 has been postponed to 2011. The purpose of holding an exhibition is to promote people to bring out any old photographs relating to the Castellorizian Association, Castellorizians in WA, committees, special events, picnics etc that might be considered for publishing in the Commemorative Centenary History Book being compiled by John Yiannakis and for release in 2012.

In the meanwhile Allan Cresswell would like to hear from people who have any photos that they consider might be suitable to be copied. Please do contact Allan on 93057954 or 0413958500 to arrange for him to visit. Alternatively the photos can be scanned and emailed to Allan at: cressie@castellorizo.org . Please ring or email him to discuss the various options available.

Note: Allan will be away from his phones from September 20th to October 10th on holidays in Greece and Turkey.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

The 2010/2011 Castellorizian Association of WA Inc Annual Subscriptions are now due. Please do forward your \$10.00 membership fee to 160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn WA 6016.

Membership renewal ensures that you continue receiving the *Megisti Messenger* newsletter and have voting rights at the Annual General Meeting.

The function of Saint Basil's Aged Care includes the administration of Community Aged Care Packages (CACP) funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

As a Community Aged Care Package provider, the primary purpose of Saint Basil's Aged Care Services is to ensure that vulnerable and dependent frail aged people are provided with appropriate, flexible and co-ordinated care support and assistance.

The Goal

The aim is to enable our seniors who prefer to remain in their own home and community to do so for as long as possible, through a culturally appropriate service that supports and enhances the dignity, independence and quality of life of all people in its care. In doing so, emphasis is placed on bilingual and bicultural knowledge, skills and understanding. This ensures that these people have access to the appropriate communication and understanding that they have lived with all their life.

Services

SBAC Services provides 24hr on call emergency assistance and will coordinate care services to suite the individual, this may include:

- Personal care – showering, dressing
- Meal Preparation – cultural and dietary
- Medication prompting
- Mobility & Transfers
- Socialization
- Transport for shopping, medical and other appointments with language support
- Domestic duties
- Gardening

Our service covers the entire metropolitan area and is dedicated in providing professional and sensitive care with Carers who:

- Understand the Greek culture, language and orthodox religion.
- Have been formally trained
- Have a Certificate III in Aged Care
- Have a Police Clearance
- Have a Senior First Aid Certificate
- Have respect for your privacy and confidentiality.

COMMUNITY PARTNER'S PROGRAM

St Basil's Aged Care Services is also involved with an Aged Care Project with the Department of Health and Ageing whose aims are:

- To assist people of Greek, Serbian, Romanian and Russian (GSRR) speaking backgrounds to understand and access aged care services through seminars and information kits.
- To assist aged care providers to understand the cultural needs of people of GSRR speaking backgrounds who are likely to require their support through briefings.
- GSRR communities have a better understanding of available services and support and how they can be accessed which will assist clients to make more informed decisions.

For further information on any of the above, please contact SBAC on 9201 9655

FALLS we can BEAT
with Stay On Your Feet®!

Stay On Your Feet® Week

20 falls a day
prevented
in WA

Greek Orthodox
Archdiocese of Australia

ST BASIL'S
AGED CARE SERVICES

For the young at heart

Come and join us for a fun filled morning

St Basil's Aged Care Services invites YOU

to a special event promoting healthy active ageing
with

- Ms Deborah Kounis – Physiotherapist (Fitness to improve your balance)
- Mr Louis Anastasas – Pharmacist (Manage Your Medicines)
- Ms Tracey Manifis – Podiatrist (Foot Care and Safe Footwear)

Event: Stay On Your Feet® Week
Date: Monday 13 September 2010
Place: Castellorizian House, 160 Anzac Rd, Mt Hawthorn
Time: 10.30am to 2.00pm
(Lunch and morning tea is being provided)

RSVP is essential for catering purposes as only 50 places are available. Please contact St Basil's Aged Care Services if you would like to attend and require transportation: ph 9201 9655.

ICCWA
Injury Care Coordination Centre

Stay
On Your
Feet WA

Department of
Health

Funded by Department of Health WA

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 7:00PM October 27 2010
160 Anzac Road, Mount Hawthorn

AGENDA

Welcome meeting opening

Present

Apologies

Minutes of last AGM

President's report

Treasurer's report

Election of auditors

Notice of motions received

Constitutional amendments

Election of office bearers

General business

President's Award

Close

NOTICES OF MOTION

In accordance with clause 6(d) of the Association's constitution any notices of motion must be received at the above address by Wednesday October 6. For notices of motion received prior to this notice see over page.

Copies of the minutes of the 2009 AGM, the Association's Constitution and Notices of motion are available to members at the following site

www.castellorizo.org/agm2010

All members are welcome.

James Manifis

President

September 1, 2010

MOTION 1 – To Hand

In accordance with clause 5 of the Association's constitution the annual subscription be increased from \$10 per annum to \$20 per annum

MOVED James Manifis

SECONDED Allan Cresswell

EMPIRE PATROL MEMORIAL UNVEILING

By Nick Mitaros



The official unveiling of the *Empire Patrol* memorial will be taking place on the Independence Day of Castellorizo – 13th September, 2010 and a smaller memorial service will also take place on the actual 65th anniversary - 29th September, 2010. Both services will be conducted on Castellorizo.

SANTRAPE MEMORIAL SERVICE 24th October 2010



To be held at

**St Constantine and Helene Cathedral
20 Parker Street, Perth.**

After the church service a luncheon will be held at

**Castellorizian House
160 Anzac Road Mt Hawthorn**

To honour the contribution made by Louka and Anastasia Santrape for the Island of Castellorizion.

Could you please phone Jim Manifis (9344 4574 or 0433 165 601)

To confirm your attendance as we need to know numbers for catering purposes.
Cost is **\$30** per head, including food and drinks with children under the age of 12 **\$15**.

The committee has worked continually all year to provide opportunities to celebrate these special occasions and relies on the support of members to make the day a success.

EARLY DAYS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By Allan Cresswell

INTRODUCTION Recently I was handed a death certificate by Con (Goose) Kailis for John Louka Pitsikas who died on 22nd March 1912 at Depuch Island Western Australia. He was a great uncle to Con and also Jack Pitsikas' uncle. Jack had given Con a copy of the death certificate. Con had been making recent general inquiries with State Government agencies as to the circumstances of John's death at aged 23 years, that occurred in the far north of Western Australia, some 98 years ago. He made a request to me asking as to whether specific information could be obtained surrounding the circumstances of John's death. Con also advised that Doctor Terry Luke Pitsikas had visited the site at Balla Balla cemetery where John Pitsikas was buried. This is the result of inquiries made.

In March 1912 the North West of Western Australia was subject to a violent cyclone that resulted in the loss of many vessels. The major loss was of the coastal passenger steamer, the SS *Koombana*, which was travelling between Port Hedland and Broome. This ship went down with the loss of all 138 lives. This would become the greatest maritime disaster in Australia of the twentieth century. Further down the coast many smaller vessels were also sunk with the loss of about 60 lives. Vessels lost or beached included the ships *Crown of England* and *Concordia* at Depuch Island, vessels *Mary*, *Constance*, and *Kookie*, luggers *Clara*, *Karrakatta* and *Britannia* and lighters (a flat bottom barge) *Steady*, *Enterprise* and *Clyo*.

Ships and other vessels were anchored at Depuch Island which is offshore opposite a small settlement (in 1912) called Balla Balla. This settlement was the beach area that provided the lighters (barges) to transport mined copper ore to cargo ships anchored offshore at Depuch Island. The copper ore was mined and transported from Whim Creek, some 18 kilometres inland.



Satellite photo of Depuch Island, Balla Balla and Whim Creek

In December 1911 an argument had broken out at the Whim Creek Hotel between an Italian named Sileno and a miner named Thomas Darlington. During the quarrel another Italian, named Capelli, handed Sileno a knife and Darlington was fatally injured being stabbed in the neck and thigh. There were 14 witnesses to the murder and in March 1912 these witnesses were arranged to attend the murder trial at Roebourne. It was decided that these witnesses would be transported by the steamer *Bullarra* anchored offshore at Depuch Island and that the lighter *Clyo* would be used to convey some of them to the steamer.

During Wednesday March 20th 1912 the *Clyo* (a 83 ton lighter) had been unloading ore onto the ship *Concordia*. During late afternoon passengers for the murder trial were put onboard the *Clyo* and other lighters but because of rough seas remained at Depuch Island and they were not offloaded onto the steamer. The lighter remained at the island all Thursday as terrible seas were running. At about 5.00pm the anchor was let go in the hope of drifting ashore, but the *Clyo* struck a bank about 100 yards from land. It was low tide. The tide came in and constantly swept over the boat, which sank at about 7.00pm. At this stage all hands were safe in the rigging. Two hours later Edward Maginnis (Wharfinger at Balla Balla) was struck on the head by some part of the rigging and fell into the sea. Thomas Hill, the Licensee of the Whim Creek Hotel, attempted to swim ashore but was caught in the strong current. Robert M Thompson, the engineer of the *Clyo*, was not seen again after dark. One of the crew fell into the water, but managed to secure a floating spar and with the aid of this was washed safely ashore. The other two members of the crew hung on all night and were utterly exhausted. John Pitsikas was one of these crew members on the *Clyo*. The lighter became a total wreck.

Family stories were told that John attempted to swim ashore and his body was later found with his jumper around his head. Thoughts were that he was attempting to remove his jumper to assist his swimming to reach the shore. Con Kailis advised that the story also was that the jumper had been knitted by John's sister, Kristalla Axiotis (nee Pitsikas), who was Con's grandmother.

The *Enterprise* was also engaged in the same work as the *Clyo*. She let go of the anchor at about 3.00pm on Thursday afternoon and was washed onto a rock. One of the crew, named Scordis, a Greek, swam ashore with a line. After a severe struggle he managed to get ashore safely and made the line fast on Depuch Island. In this way all aboard, including six passengers and three crew were saved. They consider the brave act of Scordis is deserving of recognition. The lighter was smashed to pieces.

Continued on page 13

EARLY DAYS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – Continued from page 12

Captain Olsen of the Ship, the *Crown of England*, gave a full newspaper account of the wreck of his ship (*The West Australian* April 1st 1912 page 7) and the subsequent loss of eight of his crew. Six of the bodies were later recovered after being washed ashore during the following day and were buried on Depuch Island. In the afternoon the assistant wharfinger came out in a lugger and took off the bodies of Maginnis and Hill and two of the sailors whose bodies had since been located. John Pitsikas' body was later recovered and also conveyed to the mainland.

The third lighter, *Steady*, was engaged in unloading cargo from the steamer *Paroo* and had proceeded to Depuch Anchorage. She was unable to leave there on account of the weather and was lying 50 yards astern of the *Clyo*. She had onboard a crew of three and four passengers. The anchor was let go at about 9.00pm Thursday night and was washed high and dry on the beach, all hands being saved. The lighter was knocked about considerably and was no longer seaworthy.

At Balla Balla, about one kilometre off the coastline the remnants of a small cemetery exists. There are five bodies buried there that relate to the sinking of both the *Clyo* and the *Crown of England*. Another four bodies not associated with the Cyclone are also buried there. There is only one headstone remaining and that is for the licensee of the Whim Creek Hotel, Thomas Hill.



Balla Balla Cemetery looking towards the sea



Balla Balla Cemetery looking inland



The headstone for
Thomas Hill
Licensee of the
Whim Creek Hotel
and a passenger
aboard the *Clyo*.
Proposed witness
for a murder trial
to be held in
Roebourne

Those persons nominated as being buried at Balla Balla Cemetery as a result of the cyclone are:

Andriasen, CP 22/3/1912 56yrs - sailor on *Crown of England*
Gron, H 22/3/1912 17yrs - cabin boy on the *Crown of England*
Hill, TJ 22/3/1912 33yrs – licensee of Whim Creek Hotel
Maginius, EP 22/3/1912 36yrs – wharfinger at Balla Balla.
Pitsikas, J 22/3/1912 23 yrs - A sailor on board the *Clyo*

Eight other bodies recovered from the cyclone are buried on Depuch Island and numerous bodies of those persons drowned on other vessels were never recovered.

Doctor Terry Luke Pitsikas visited the cemetery in 2010 and is the first family member in 98 years to pay his respects at the gravesite of John Louka Pitsikas. Through the inquiring minds of the three Pitsikas family members and the wonders of the internet much more is now known about John Pitsikas' death.

In addition to John Pitsikas and the Greek hero previously mentioned, named Scordis, being at Depuch Island, there are other Greek names mentioned in the various recorded accounts. On the *Enterprise* the survivors included the master, Nicholas Papastatis, Angelo Peter Nicholas and Tom Kalmasalakas. On the *Clyo*, Tom Telezis and a Dimitrios Chambers (?).

SOURCES: Information from Doctor Terry Luke Pitsikas, Jack Eleftherios Pitsikas and Con (Goose) George Kailis
Websites – WA4WD Balla Balla Cemetery, photos at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/explorer59/LonelyGraves02#>
Various newspaper accounts in *The West Australian*, *The Adelaide Advertiser* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*

BATTLE OF CRETE SERVICE

Article and photos by Allan Cresswell

In May 2010 our association received an invitation from Ms Sofia Choli, The Western Australian Greek Consul, for us to participate in a wreath laying ceremony on Sunday May 30th at the State War Memorial, in Kings Park, in commemoration of the Battle of Crete and of mainland Greece. President Jim Manifis was to going to be travelling interstate at the time and he asked me to attend to represent our association and to lay a wreath.

On reflection it was particularly poignant that I was given the opportunity to participate in this ceremony. Only two years earlier I had visited Crete and observed firsthand the bond of friendship that exists between Cretans and Australians. The war years of sixty nine years ago when Cretans and Australians fought side by side in a futile attempt to withstand the onslaught of the largest German paratrooper assault of World War Two will never be forgotten on that island. Many lives were lost and the civilian population of Crete bravely risked their all to help and shelter the Allies, often to lose their own lives for doing so.

I had also read the book, The Road to Prevelly, by Geoffrey Edwards, which tells of the love and honour between Australians and Cretans. It tells about a Greek chapel being built at Prevelly in Western Australia in appreciation of these events during the war. It was built as a way of saying 'Thank You' to the Head Monk of Preveli Monastery in Crete, his fellow monks and the many villagers from the surrounding districts who did so much for the Allied Servicemen in the grim days of 1941.

Also what suddenly hit me was the realization that I had almost forgotten that my mother's first cousin, Spiro Agapitos (Karasavas), had travelled to Crete from Castellorizo (or from Rhodes) and fought as a guerrilla fighter against the Germans, like so many other young Greek men were to do. Spiro was never heard from again and his parents, Evangelos and Afrodite, always believed that he would return home one day. He never did. He lies buried somewhere in Crete, either killed during action or more likely brutally executed as a guerrilla, having no rights as a prisoner of war that many of the Allies became.

So as I laid the wreath, I did so for our association's commemoration of the Battle of Crete and of mainland Greece. But I also laid it in memory of my cousin and all those other island Greeks who fought and died as unknown heroes on Crete. **R.I.P.**



Agapitos (Karasavas) Family

From Left:

**Afroditi (nee Efrossini
Vassilis (youngest son)
Evangelos (Basil)**

**With their missing son Spiro
superimposed in the photo
by the family**



**Spiro Evangelos Agapitos
(Karasavas)**

**Who died somewhere in Crete
during World War 2**

**Born Castellorizo C1915
Died Crete 1941**



PHOTOS OF RECENT FUNCTIONS



**St Constantine and Helene Luncheon
at Hellenic Community Centre
May 23rd 2010**



**Welcoming of Nicholas Pappas
Castellorizian of the Year 2010
To Perth**



**Nicholas Pappas of Sydney
Talking to Olga Kailis,
Nicholas and Mary Nicholas**



**The Hellenic Bowls 2010 AGM
Held at Castellorizian House**



**Con Kailis presenting George Moulatsiotis
with trophy for Men's Single Champion 2010
Hellenic Bowling Club
20th Anniversary Function July 24th 2010**



**The Castellorizian Association Display
At the Greek Family History Week Function
Held at the Hellenic Community Centre
August 8th 2010**

CAZZIE TRIBUTE



Reference:

Yiannakis, John N. 2007. *Portrait of a Western Australian Artist: Vlase Zanalis*. In E. Close, M. Tsianikas and G. Couvalis (eds.)

Greek Research in Australia: Proceedings of the Sixth Biennial International Conference of Greek Studies, Flinders University June 2005, Flinders University Department of Languages - Modern Greek: Adelaide, pp. 165-174.

The ten pages (pp. 165-174) which details the life and achievements of Zanalis (from which this article is compiled) can be viewed online at:

http://dspace.flinders.edu.au/dspace/bitstream/2328/1764/1/165-174_yiannakis.pdf

Further Reading:

Vlase Zanalis: Greek Australian Artist. Book by Neville Green and John Yiannakis

Portrait of a Western Australian Artist: Vlase Zanalis

Palassis (Vlase) Ioannis Zanalis (Zanalis) was born on Castellorizo on 12th January 1902. His father, Ioannis, was a sailor. His mother, Eleni (nee Ponerós), was a skilled gold embroiderer in her youth. In 1914, Vlase accompanied his uncle, Antoni Ponerós, to Western Australia. A few years later Ponerós brought out his wife, their two children and his sister, Eleni Zanalis.

When Zanalis was in his late teens he gained the patronage of Michael Michelides. Michelides and his older brother Peter were prominent Perth businessmen, operating Michelides Tobacco Ltd. With Michelides' support Zanalis enrolled at Perth Technical School in St George's Terrace, where he came under the tutelage of renowned WA artist Robert James Linton. At a time when his compatriots sought to advance themselves by entering small business and ethnic community politics Zanalis chose to be different, forging an alternative path which would see him become a noted iconographer, portraitist and landscape artist. He would gain national acclaim in 1934 for his **The Birth of a Nation**, but it was his work after 1949 on the Australian landscape and Indigenous themes, notably his memorial to Indigenous Australians consisting of 88 images, that dominated his life paintings. However, it is his industrial depictions that modern critics regard as his best work.

A major commission that came Zanalis' way in 1936 was to decorate the Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helene being completed in Northbridge. He had previously painted, in 1935, icons in the Greek Orthodox Church at Innisfail in North Queensland and decorated St Sophia's Cathedral in Sydney. His icons are also to be found at the Greek churches in Bunbury, Geraldton and, until recently, the Annunciation of Our Lady (Evangelismos) in West Perth as well as the Serbian Church of Saint Savas in East Perth.

During 1940, Zanalis and his mother had moved to Adelaide. Here he worked in a munitions factory until his mother's passing when he left for Sydney, where he met and married in 1947 Mary (Molly) Arnold. She was originally from Perth and like Zanalis, a Christian Scientist. He had abandoned Orthodoxy in about 1938 to embrace Christian Science, to which he remained loyal until his death in 1973.

Beyond the religious paintings Zanalis captured in sweeping landscapes the contrasting red soils and white trees of the Pilbara, the rugged grandeur of Central Australia and the unique character of the Kimberley. Midway through his career, Zanalis began a romantic relationship with Indigenous culture, which dominated his art for the last twenty years of his life. He became one of the first non-Indigenous artists to incorporate the symbols of Indigenous art into his own work, and to value Indigenous Australians and their culture.

After a short illness, Vlase Zanalis died on November 8th 1973 and was cremated at Karrakatta cemetery.