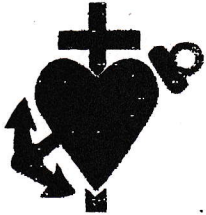


Cassie NEWS

Number 123 July – August 2003



CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

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03 98538582

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0438 045 559 **Maria Katris**
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0428 982 925 **Christina Pavlou**
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0410 488 823 **Anna Miriklis**
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0438 003 920 **Chris M Christopher**
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0412 596 861 **Dianne Spartels**
03 9696 0047
0419 555 542 **Sandra Vavodic**
03 9509 4449
03 9807 9932 **Jim Zombos**

Events Manager: -
0416 226 581 **Jasmin Verginis**

Presidents Column:

I would like to pass on to all our members the thoughts we are working around for our club. It has been said and told to me that we intend to sell the property (this is gossip, which is not healthy). Many of our members are tired of coming to South Melbourne because of the distance and the on going parking difficulties, I will express even the ladies on the committee have to be escorted to their cars when they leave our meetings as they feel insecure about walking in the poorly lit side streets. We would like all our members to keep their eyes and ears open for a "suitable premises". I have explored one option at this time and it has been with drawn by the City of Boroondara. They will keep us informed should other sites that meet our specific requirements become available for tender. Our membership is very diverse and has all age groups to cater for so, what ever we find will not be 100% perfect; it will require some remodelling and acceptance from us all. If we find premises within the boundaries of the City of Boroondara or even just across the boundaries will be relatively good. We have to cater for people access, on freeways, public transport and demographically central for the majority of our members. This does not mean that it will be located central to one person it, will favour the majority of the people of Castellorizian Association of Victoria. So please keep an open mind as we go forward and see if we, can generally think of all members.

We have no intentions

of selling our property, it is to be the source of income for our club to operate. So please relax. **Enjoy what we have without fear of the gossip.**



Mary Argyros of Brisbane & Renie Adgemis
25th May 2003 St Konstantine and Helens' Day

Get Well

Theo Conos Following a stay in hospital is now convalescing at home and looking forward to a revived Blues in 2004

Chrissie C Zervos following her stay in The Avenue Hospital

Maria H Kyriakos following her stay in The Avenue Hospital

Helen Koutsoukis is convalescing after an arduous two months with operations in Cabrini, now she will show all the seniors how to walk to the club. Helen would like to thank the many friends and family for their cards their visits and thoughts.

Harry Vamvakis who is convalescing following a Heart attack

Jim Calmer who is recovering following surgery and a stint in Cabrini Hospital.

Dianne Spartels who is recovering following her brief stay in Hospital.

Bon Voyage

John and Stella Salvaris who made the trek to Sydney to celebrate the first birthday of their grand daughter Christina

Paul and Peggy Zervos on their annual pilgrimage to Kastellorizo

Mary Comminos off on her annual pilgrimage to Kastellorizo

Nick, Helen and Katherine Constance off to Europe for the first time

George C Lucas following a couple of weeks on Kastellorizo and a runabout Europe **Ops!! Welcome Home** George thanks for the phone call!

Danielle Scotis daughter of Cynthia Scotis (Lolatgis) of to Europe and the USA for Month or so.

Nicholas G Verginis and friend for a 4 week visit if Athens, Lefgatha and Kastellorizo

Have a great time!

Vale: -

Luke Emmanuel Loucas (formerly of Melbourne) passed away on the 18 July 2003 in Perth WA at 76 years of age. Only brother of Nina and brother-in-law of Spiro Mangos. Much loved Uncle of Maria, Nick, Julie Stella and Ilia and their families.

Nina would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind thoughts and sincere condolences on the passing of her beloved brother.

Con J Diamond passed away on August 12th 2003 he is survived by his wife Martha, Daughter Catherine son in-law Jim and grand children Marianna and Christian

Interstate Trippers

Con and Val Mangos have just returned from a short trip to Brisbane to Visit Simeon Diamond. **Betty Adgemis** has recently returned from a quick visit to see her grand children and children along with the opening of the new section of the Castellorizian Nursing home in Sydney

Welcome Home all the International Travellers

Stephen J Adgemis, Colin N Fermanis, Nick L and Mary-Anne Lucas spotted on Kastellorizo, **John and Despina Tarlamis, Sandra Georges' Daughters Georgina and Jessica** who were spotted visiting Melbourne's nightspots on their return.

Donations in Memory: -

Late Luke Loucas - Perth
Mr & Mrs Con Lucas -
Mr & Mrs Con Adgemis -

Kastellorizo Tourers

Information on ferries, flights, accommodation and tours please email me "Lou Katris" <kastellorizogreece@hotmail.com> @INTL



Congratulations

Paul Constance (Koutsoukis) for Having satisfied all the examinations and experience requirements and is now entitled to professional designation as C.F.P. (Certified Financial Planner) and is committed to abide by the code of ethics and rules of professional conduct and continuing professional requirements as a practitioner member of the association. Granted under the Seal of the Financial Planners Association of Australia Ltd on the 27 February 2003

Congratulations

Steve Zombos on the celebration of his 80th birthday Well done!

Maria J Miriklis many Happy returns for your 70th birthday

Terry N Bisas on having reached his 50th birthday n the 11th of July (they said it would never happen)

John A Salvaris who has been promoted to Director of KPMG

Jack and Marika Bisas on the celebration of their 50th Wedding anniversary on

Nina Zographou on her 79th birthday. Visiting for the celebration were Irene (Lolatgis) and Max Condos and Vasso Lolatgis from Sydney

Michael Christopher 70th Birthday Surprise Party!!! was held when Michael returned home from a day at the football, to find his mother in law, brothers and sisters waiting for him to celebrate his day. A wonderful time was had by all and a huge surprise for Michael who did not suspect

anything. Michaels surprised party was sneakily initiated and prepared by wife Hellas and children Melissa and Chris.

Report by Chris Christopher

Is this a new family business????

At Last!!!!

Births! Congratulations to all the new parents, grandparents and great grandparents listed below.

Four (4) new Cassies in one twelve month period in one family (it has been a long time since we have experienced a Cassie population explosion of this proportion).

Sam and Grace Athans have become proud grand parents to four (4) gorgeous grandchildren in less than twelve months, the last three all born in July 2003. Sam's son Nick and wife Liza were first with the arrival of son Theo on September 10th 2002. (They all caught their breath to prepare for the onslaught that was to follow) Then on The 6th of July 2003, Daughter Simone (Athans) and Steve Vitas were blessed with a son, Marc. Nick and Liza had got used to the one and then followed again with the birth of their second son Christian. Then just to make sure that July was a big month and not to be left in the shadows Sam's eldest son Adrian and wife Sandra produced a beautiful little girl, Alexia born July 30th 2003. All this has guaranteed that there are two very proud and excited great grandmothers Helen Athans and Esme Conomos (Sydney).

Engagement



Congratulations Elias Dimer and Anna Pettigrew on their engagement and return home after 2 years working in the UK, they celebrated with family and friends at the Castellorizian Clubroom on Sunday the 24th August. Elias is the eldest son

of Christine (Paltos) and George Dimer and Grandson of Steve J Paltos

Historical Photos

Page four of this newsletter has a couple of photos. Please see if you can assist and correct the names of anyone who may have been incorrectly listed and or the ones we have not been able to identify. If you have a photo which has a lot of our past and current families please send it to me (John S Adgemis) or ring me and I will come and get it, that way we can scan it and put it in the news letter for every one to assist in the identification of the people who appear.



Back Row: - Jessica, Louise Katris, Stephanie Maskovas, and Georgina

Front Row: - Stephen J Adgemis with cousin Anthony (Grandson of John A Kiosoglou)

NEWS FROM KASTELLORIZO:

(Reported by: Louise Katris)

With the War and the outbreak of SARS at the start of the year it saw a lot of people canceling their trips who were planning their holiday to Kastellorizo, therefore the Australian tourism to the island has been only those who have houses here and those who were still keen to travel. However, Kastellorizo has had a lot of Germans, English and a few Americans. The month of August is tradition for the Italian tourists who arrive in groups of 10 or more by yachts, the island and Greece as a whole has seen a lot of internal travel by Greeks themselves.

"Panayeia"

August 15th marks Panayeia, a huge day in Greece and the rest of Europe where practically the whole island was celebrating their Name days at house parties or restaurants. On the eve of "Panayeia", there is a festival after the church service, which finished with the lighting up of the Castle and fireworks display.

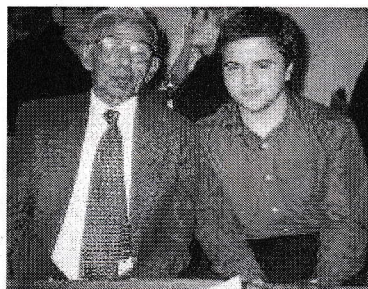
Reported by Louise Katris



Top photo: - Jessica, Georgina and mother Sandra Georges, Colin Proprietor of the Kazbar and Stephen Adgemis

Middle Photo: - John Mascovas, Yiorgios, Robert and Michelle Morehead, Anthony, Jessica, Louise, Stephen, Stephanie and Georgina

Bottom Photo: - Colin Fermanis, Stephanie and John Mascovas, Sandra, Jessica and Anthony



Con Adgemis & grandson Daniel 25.May

July 19th - "Prophet Ilias"

Every year in Kastellorizo on July 20th the locals celebrate "Prophet Ilias Day" by throwing everyone into the water, the festivities start at 10am and continue through until 2pm. Papa Yiorgi leads the locals and tourists to the hotel and then back to Faro whilst throwing all in front of them into the water and wetting those on balconies who are trying to hide. All cafes and restaurants are closed for the day for the celebrations. This tradition began in the 1940's when both the Turks and the Greeks lived together on Kastellorizo, to help the Kastellorizian's to get rid of the Turks the Athens army and residents came to join forces. Unfortunately, the Turks were too strong for the Greeks and after they defeated them, they sent the Kastellorizian's away from Kastellorizo, all except one Priest who refused to leave. When the war was over the Turks left Kastellorizo and a ship arrived bring all the Kastellorizian's backs to their homes, the priest saw them coming from a distance and couldn't contain his excitement he jumped into the harbor to swim and get closer to them, all those on board jumped into the water too out of joy on July 20th, which is celebrated as

"Prophet Ilias Day"

HEARING PROBLEMS?

Or Ringing in your Ears?

For assessment, advice and management by University trained Audiologists specialising in hearing and tinnitus. Individually tailored programmes

Call to arrange a consultation:

Lynette Kyriakos & Associates

Audiologists & Hearing Consultants

1601 Malvern Rd, Glen Iris

9823 4419

Back Row L – R Bill Piperoglou, _____, Nick Adgemis, Nick Zervos, Peter Lolatgis, Angelo Adgemis, Peter Christopher, George Adgemis, Hidden Anastasi (AJ) Adgemis, Sam Alexander, Tom Adgemis
Front Row L – R Vic Adgemis, _____, John S Adgemis, Stanley Piperoglou?



Olympic Club Year approximately 1940-42

Back Row L – R

Nick Cecil, Peter Polites, George Karis, Con Doubaras, Nick Lapis, Harry Gregory, Dr Michael Lolatgis, Sim Simons, George Fisher, Nick Fermanis

Centre Row L – R

Diny Athans, Nick Polites, Max Peronis, Micky Calaf, Con Kanis, Peter Lucas

Front Row L – R

Con Mangos, Arty Janson, Dr Peter Mangos, Mopsy (Mark) Simons, Steve J Adgemis



Thank you to all the Cassies who assisted with the names of all the people in this photo, if you have a photo of interest to the members or you would like the people in the photo identified please contact me.

News Article from Louise Katris Our News correspondent on Kastellorizo

I was fortunate enough to acquire this article so I could forward to you in Melbourne for insertion in the Cassie News letter: -

A Perfect Greek island

Next May's Olympic torch running relay will begin on tiny Kastellorizo, which is experiencing a renaissance after a century of trouble. Come drink the wine, admire the flowers and enjoy the gossip.

A hand-painted wall sign in a popular alfresco restaurant, Lazarakis, proclaims "Welcome to Megisiti. Europe Starts Here!" And so it does. This small, three-square-mile rocky Greek island in the Aegean Sea is the eastern-most outpost of Europe. As the crow flies, Kastellorizo, which has been known as Megisti since ancient times, is just a mile from the coast of Turkey and situated midway between Rhodes and Cyprus. Consequently, its history is rich, complex, and its people intriguing and resilient following centuries of encounters with occupying forces of nature and men. Among the more recent historical invasions was that of Prince Charles, who together with Camilla Parker-Bowles and his sons Princes William and Harry unexpectedly sailed their yacht into the island's harbour in August 1999 and ate at Lazarakis' restaurant.

Less than 100 years ago, the island was a thriving seaport with fleets of schooners and a major trade centre with 20,000 inhabitants. Today, only 300 live here year-round. The population was decimated over the 20th century: By heaving shelling in 1917, during World War I; the devastating earthquake of 1926; sequential bombings during World War II; a disastrous fire in 1944; and a shuffling international economy, which collectively

waged a considerable toll on this once prosperous and magnificent place.

Throughout the hardships, the spirit and beauty of Kastellorizo remained intact. The world will see its distinctiveness in May 2004. The island has been selected for the prestigious honour of launching the Olympic torch running relay, since it's the farthest point east in Greece.

The torch will then be passed through all of the Greek Islands on its way to Athens for the opening of the Summer 2004 Olympic games. Understandable excitement is brewing among the resident "Kassies", for the world will once again focus on this noble island.

Natives are returning

Also marking the island's comeback is the return of some of the native population who left in the 20th century exodus, particularly those who moved to Australia, which was seen as a prosperous land of good fortune during Kastellorizo's troubled years. Now, some people are establishing dual residences in Australia and in Kastellorizo. Other Greeks and non-Greeks alike are also rediscovering the island. Therefore, in the early years of the new millennium, Kastellorizo is experiencing a renaissance, and evidence of rebuilding and restoration is everywhere.

"Join the community"

Whilst I could never be considered a Kassie, the nickname Australians or Aussies made up for those who are born there, I was warmly welcomed. I easily assimilated into the community and developed friendships with local residents and other visitors during my six-week stay last September and October. I was introduced to the island by Lynda Benglis, an artist who was born in Lake Charles, introduced me to this piece of

paradise. She established her professional career in New York, but like many Greek-Americans, has maintained family ties in Greece, and, when she was a child, often visited her paternal grandmother in Kastellorizo. She eventually inherited her grandmother's two-stone house and now spends part of her summers here.

Kastellorizo is growing again, slowly, with a conscious effort to keep outside influences at bay. There's the European Union, which may include Turkey, and connections to Asia that may cause complications on the island.

I hope Kastellorizo's unique environment and resilient culture will provide a haven for visitors, such as myself, who are welcomed warmly and long to return to the small island with *Megisti* spirit.

(Bill Fagaly is a contributing writer for Louisiana Sunday Paper Travel Section written on the 16 May 2003.) By William A. Fagaly

Adrift in the Open Sea - 1945

In 1942 at the age of 7, Maria Sarinas lived on the Greek island of Kastellorizo with her family. It was 1942 and they ran a small goat farm and grew crops on the lush land when the war came to their village.

Kastellorizo soon became a battlefield and the family spent the next few months hiding in the hills while World War II raged around them. Finally, the island's residents were saved by the British Army and taken by ship to Palestine. For the next two years, until the war ended, they lived as refugees on the Gaza Strip.

On September 29, 1945, 9-year-old Maria and her family lined up at Egypt's Port Said to board the British ship *Empire Patrol*. There were 494 people

making the 2 day voyage, most of them going back to Kastellorizo.

Maria couldn't wait to see the farm and house again, but as she gazed at her mother's expression, her excitement began to fade. Her mother told her not to expect their home to look like it used to, as it may have been bombed.

The ship set sail and the children went exploring, but eventually Maria fell asleep in the communal living area. Suddenly, her dreams were interrupted by loud shouting, people were running all over. Without thinking, Maria leapt to her feet and scampered up a ladder to the deck to see what was afoot. The boat was on fire, people were screaming as they ran past her. Maria saw clouds of smoke from the ship streaked against the dawn sky. A siren sounded as the officers tried to direct the terrified refugees. She then heard her father calling her name through the panicked crowds whom he was helping onto life rafts. Maria told her father that she couldn't find her mother as he led her to a boat. In the panic, there was no hope of finding the rest of the family. They got into a crowded boat, without lifejackets, just before the ropes were cut.

The boat hit the sea with a crash and capsized. Maria couldn't swim and started swallowing mouthfuls of water as she sank. Suddenly, two strong hands pulled her up out of the sea; the same strong hands threw her into another lifeboat that was already swamped and close to sinking. When Maria sat down, the water inside the boat came right up to her chin. Her heart sank with despair, was she the only one of the family left alive? Tremendous waves crashed over the struggling little group, and, in the distance, they could see their burning ship. Worst of all the bodies of people who had died in the panic kept floating by. Then she saw British planes above, and lifejackets were dropped into the water. In

the distance, she spotted a light and the group cheered as motorboats appeared from the darkness and surrounded them. Then a man scooped her up and took her on board. She felt like she was in a dream as the boat took her back to a bigger ship and the man carried her up a ladder to the lower deck. Then she heard in broken English when she'd reached the deck, "my baby! This my baby!" There her mother stood, holding her arms out to her as she sobbed tears of joy. Her mother had told her that she stayed on board the burning ship with the children until another ship had come and rescued them all. Maria told her mother that she had been with her father when their boat capsized, but did not know what happened to him after that.

After all the survivors were rescued, the ship returned to Port Said. Maria heard wailing voices and sobs, as families grieved over their lost loved ones. She hoped that her father was still alive, but her mother didn't look hopeful as the family was put on a train to a camp where they'd wait until another ship could be arranged. When they finally arrived at their destination, they walked through the station, when Maria saw through the crowd a familiar face. It was her father! After exchanging stories of what happened her father told them that he'd managed to stay afloat on a piece of debris with another man, and the tide had washed them back to shore. Maria heard that 33 people had lost their lives, and the blazing ship had sunk. There were even rumours that the fire had been deliberately lit. Those who survived had lost all their possessions. A week later, the family boarded another ship, and again set out for home. As they sailed into the bay, Maria's heart sank at the sight of the barren land, blacked by the war. Things

will never be the same, but at least, we have our family, her father said.

They spent the next few years trying to rebuild their farm, but in the mid-1950s, they followed many of their friends to Australia.

Maria immigrated with her husband, Theofani Nicolacopoulos, and their son George. They settled in Townsville near Maria's parents Evangelos and Chrissoula Sarinas. Maria is now 69 and widowed, but seven of her siblings live close by. "When I look back now I value our lives and feel lucky for my entire family. It seemed that once the war had ended, that was it. However, the worst was yet to come for us. It's a miracle that we all survived the burning ship; I'm lucky to be alive to tell the tale. If I hadn't survived, my children and grandchildren wouldn't be here either. I miss my island, but life in Australia has been good to me. Our family has prospered in this great nation".

(Article from Take 5 Magazine on 25/6/03)



Two Weeks in Kazzie

After a wonderful 8 weeks touring through France, Italy and mainland Greece, we spent the last 2 weeks of our European trip in Kastellorizo to wind down and relax.

As always, we enjoyed the wonderful weather and company on the island.

We made 2 trips across to Kas to stock up on pressies for home and some shopping for ourselves. Kазzy has a new customs official this year and she does her job by the book, needless to say the locals don't like her in the least. As each boat returns from Turkey, it is called in for a customs inspection at the harbour. This amounts to the customs official asking if anyone has anything to declare, any tobacco, carpets or drugs. When everyone says no, she may check a random bag then wave the boat on. Very interesting.

There are a lot of Albanians now on the island and the locals are happy to blame them for almost every problem i.e. the shortage of accommodation for tourists, the continual and rapid usage of the water. The population of Albanians on the island is now rumoured to be close to 100, all men carrying out most of the labour and trade work, especially at the new military buildings and installations. While we were there an Albanian boy married into a local Kазzy family (she was a few months pregnant). No doubt now there are some local concerns that the Albanians will build up enough money that they will begin to run businesses and commence extortion and protection rackets on the island. Stand by.

We enjoyed several wonderful evening walks on the island led by Stan Theodore from Sydney. Every evening a group of between 5 -12 of us would meet outside the Satouris house for the nominated adventure.

Walks included trips to St George of the Mountain and St Haralambos, St Stefanos, Paleocastro, The twin tombs, and a memorable walk to Navlakas Bay along the French Wall where the more courageous took the leap from the rocks high above the bay into the beautiful clear waters.

In a stroke of genius, to save us from the long walk back, George Kailis and Paul Satouris organised for George to pick us up in the "Barbara".

We enjoyed eating, drinking and partying with a number of Australian Kазzies, including Stan and Ann Theodore, Mick Kondilios and his niece, Paul Satouris, George Cooney and Claudia Reeves, George and Anna Cooney, all from Sydney George and Athina Kailis and son Theo from Perth and George Lucas from Melbourne.

For the month of August a new, larger aeroplane is operating from Rhodes to Kазzie. It seats 38 people and their luggage and sometimes they even serve coffee! On one day the pilot was sick so the plane didn't leave Rhodes---the next day of course there was a backlog of passengers so they crammed as many people on as they could-41 in fact-with 2 people seated in the cockpit!! However, on the return flight the plane can only take 24 passengers and their luggage---the runway on Kазzy isn't long enough for the plane to get up to full speed. There was talk of the runway being extended, but it may be another Kазzy myth. Eating Out

We tried to sample as many of the restaurants as we could and here are some of our opinions.

For true value for money and tasty servings, we couldn't help

returning to Kyriacou's restaurant, Tis Ipomonis that delivered night after night the tastiest, souvlakia, gyros and biftekia washed down with nice cold Heinekens and robust salads.

We found Oraia Megisti, run by George and Sofia, a nice place to escape the passing throngs and enjoy the peaceful surrounds, the lovely pasta dishes and big servings of souvlakia.

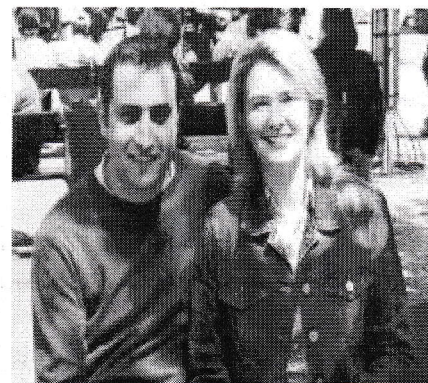
Another one of our favourites was "the restaurant under the vines" (we don't know its real name but formerly known as "The International") where we received outstanding service and attention by our good friend Louise Katris.

Stratis at Stratos Café was great for snacks including the delicious yoghurt and honey and we enjoyed the best coffee again from Louise at Café Aquarium.

A special mention must be made to our wonderful Auntie Betty Theodore who spoiled us with superb lunches and her never-ending hospitality!

All in all we had a magnificent time on Kазzie and will look forward to going back for our fifth trip very soon.

Report from Elia Dimer and Anna Pettigrew.



Function Report

On Sunday the 31st of August at our clubrooms, we hosted an afternoon tea with Guest speaker our own Nick Lolatgis. Most males stayed away as they thought that the subject was more of a women's domain, this was not true as on balance men asked as many questions as the women, it was quite enlightening, approximately 55 persons enjoyed a pleasant social afternoon.

Future Functions

Pleasant Sunday Morning 5th of October 2003 from 10.00am this is the last one for the year, we are going to arrange for a surprise guest so please bring along all the males in the family

Annual General Meeting

Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm at our clubrooms 19th October

Anyone wishing to join our committee or a sub committee please attend and let us know.

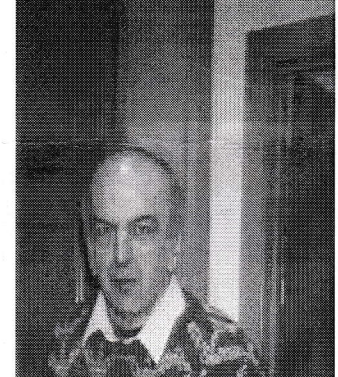
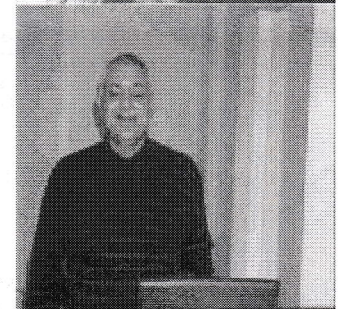
Tavern Night

Saturday the 15th of November at Stathis Athenian tavern Box Hill Phone Maria Katris and Jasmin Verginis to book your seat Phone numbers are on the front page of this newsletter

Children's Christmas Party!

Sunday the 7th of December

Venue to still be found if you know somewhere that will offer both wet and dry weather accommodation for this event please help us to secure it.



Letter to the committee: -

I thought it was a very well organised afternoon. Nick was very informative and natural. A job well done by all of the committee. Please pass on my congratulations to them. A few more afternoons like that with speakers who have appeal to all Cassies would be very successful. From Christins Dimer