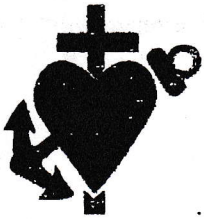


Cassie NEWS

Number 124 September – October 2003



CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION of VICTORIA Inc.

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79th Committee are as follows:

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Director/Secretary: -

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Director/Assist Sec: -

0428 982 925 Christina Pavlou
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0412 662 079 John S Karis
0438 003 920 Chris M Christopher
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Directors/Board Members: -

03 9859 7784 Sylvia Coates
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

It has been a one-year of office and to enlighten our members, I felt it was important to bring the annual general meeting to you, for many reasons people cannot attend. They miss out and never find what is going on now or with the future of our club

Presidents Report (Annual General Meeting) A.G.M. 19th October 2003

This year being our committees first year we have revived many of our members interest and put down some new foundations for the future, the AGM is the only day of the year we can reflect and praise the efforts and all the work the committee have done.

Property: -

Our property is looking good, with the upgrade of security and replacement of all the door locks that were seized and faulty, repair of the leaking roof, plumbing leaks and lighting. We have taken back our clubrooms from the tenant by fitting of the sink and hot water service to his area. We have installed filtered boiling water service for the use of our members, repaired the legs of the chairs and tables we have initiated the upgrade of our sound system and will continue to improve this, generally it is pleasing to see the building in its current condition, we will continue to keep it in check and make repairs as required.

Newsletter: -

In 2003, we have produced six newsletters, with the continued improvement in quality, variety and the interest from our members sending us their news articles we will have a newsletter all Castellorizians will be proud to have in their homes. We are striving to attract advertising from our members to promote our businesses to members

Events: -

During this 12month period, we have had our Christmas function, picnic,

Name day, six pleasant Sunday mornings one with a guest speaker, an afternoon tea also with a guest speaker, these functions have aroused a lot of interest. Next year we have lined up three speakers to date and we are open for suggestions for others.

IT: -

2003 has also seen the beginning of our development of a WEB Site for Victorian Castellorizians, over the summer period this should with the help of a couple of volunteers be well progressed for and ready for launching in the first half of 2004.

Membership: -

Our mailing list now has in excess of 350 Victorian Castellorizian addresses, these are not all financial members but this is on the increase and has more than tripled from last year, we will continue to seek lost members and to attract the youth with a variety of initiatives in 2004

Financial: -

We will continue to invest in our members and to build our financial position for the future. As many of our members are aware, it been a stone in our shoes, the fact that we pay almost one third of our rental income in TAX. 2004 will see us seek advice and professional assistance to improve our clubs charter and to reclassify the club to a non-taxable institution

Committee: -

This next year we the committee will be busier working on a greater variety of functions to satisfy a wider range of our members, so we have to ask those who have not participated as extensively to roll up their sleeves and work together.

Yes in 2004 the committee will be looking for additional members to help run individual functions, we will contact people who are interested in participating and fulfilling the needs of themselves and their friends, there

have been plenty of people sitting on the fence this year. Now we are asking them to come down and do something to benefit the club.

Future: -

We will continue to seek a new premises for our members we will communicate with our members, they all have different needs and we want to be there for them, several members want alternative functions and 2004 looks as if the committee will be very busy.

We look forward to the next twelve months and to your participation.

Historical and Archives: -

This area was omitted from my AGM report and I wish to let you know where we stand with our Club Archives. Having been overlooked and or hidden in the cupboard due to rapid technological changes in computers and the applications with which we have to work. We do not have the computer hardware and the committee have been reluctant to spend members funds in the acquisition of such hardware. We do have some very talented people in our community who would take delight in archiving our history. This does mean we have to either invest in such hardware. Otherwise, we hire, rent or outsource at great expense.

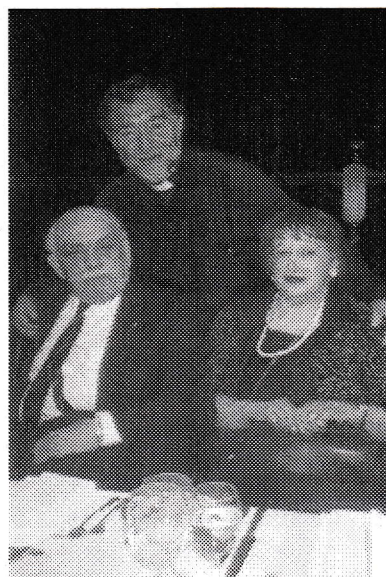
This area is of utmost importance if we wish to pass on the history of our fore fathers and Kastellorizo to our children. We have a body of enthusiastic Castellorizians who wish to put it into order in order for them to be effective we have to support these people who with enough time and resources will do our club proud. It is a matter of commitment.

Interstate Visitors

Lola Zographou (wife of Vasso) in Melbourne to see her Mother-in-law Nina Zographou & the rest or the relies



Births: - Welcome Madeline Grace born 21.09.2003 Congratulations Natasha and Stuart Ballinguall First Grandchild for our Vice President Jasmin Verginis (nee Kalaf) and George Verginis also to first time uncle Nick



Golden Wedding Anniversary

Sunday the 21st of September 2003 saw a milestone achievement for Jack and Marika Bisas (who were married on the 20th of September 1953) as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. This was a Five Star event held in Queen's Hall Parliament House Spring Street Melbourne. Jack, Marika and family turned on this lavish event for approximately 250 guests. The invitation was for 11.30am commencing with drinks followed by a three-course meal with anniversary cake, tea and coffee. Entertainment from daughter-in-law Pauline and speeches from all the

family showing their love and appreciation for the wonderful lives their parents have bestowed upon them to date, this was followed by a generous round of dancing where Marika and Jack floated their way around the dance floor as they must have done some fifty years ago. Their guests and relatives from interstate included Lily Peters, with daughters May Tory, Leah & Arthur Kouloumbrakis and George Papacotis all of Sydney. Patricia Kailis of W.A. and from Darwin via the USA Lilianne (Jordan) Gomatos. We must also include George Bisas from Hong Kong. Jack and Marika thank everybody for their attendance, kind wishes, cards and gifts and to Father Andrew of St Katherine's for his blessing of the table.

Congratulations: -

Colin Tarlamis on the celebration of his 21st Birthday at Kabana Brothers Tavern Glenferrie.

Renie Adgemis celebrated her 80th Birthday with daughters Despina Lucas, Senya Kranitis and son in-law Luke L Lucas, of Sydney along with all the Melb lot of course.

Steve Zombos

For the celebration of his 78th Birthday not his 80th

Get Well: -

Vera Constance following a stay in hospital is now convalescing at home Mary Dimitriou hope to have you back on your feet soon.

Historical Photos

Page four of this newsletter has a historical photos one is re entered as it has corrections we will continue to reprint any photos that require identifying or corrections, 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 newsletter for every one to assist in the identification of the people who appear.

Immigration Museum: -

The Tribute Garden

In 1997, it was suggested that the new immigration museum feature a wall of names paying tribute to immigrants whose contributions have helped shape Australia. With the fourth stage completed in 2002, 7285 names stand as a poignant and constant reminder of this nation's immigrant history. People have been able to pay tribute to someone who made the journey of immigration, whether that journey was made in the 1800s, 1900s or 2000s. Over 90 different countries of origin are represented in the tribute garden.

Evangelos Sakaris, a Melbourne artist designed the first stage. The garden is designed to recreate in the mind of the visitor the journeys of immigrants across water. In stage one the names of the immigrants are engraved in polished granite over which a film of water flows, representing the passage over the ocean to reach Australia. This theme is reflected in the three subsequent stages.

My sisters and I took advantage of the third stage of the tribute garden (unveiled July 2001) to show our respects to both our maternal and paternal grandparents. For a small fee, we registered Michael and Flora (nee Augustes) Economides/Conos and George and Evangelia (nee Hatzi Eleftheriou) Livery. On the courtyard wall facing William Street (west) we can drop in at anytime and find the brick, we prefer to call it a plaque, just simply noting their names.

A simple name, in a sea of hundreds, that's all it is. However, I can assure you that each time I drop in to see the names a tear is brought to my eye. "It affords people like myself who are children of immigrants, grandchildren of immigrants, the opportunity to do something to commemorate our forebears and the fundamental decision they made to leave their homeland and settle here." (Charlie Farrugia 2001).

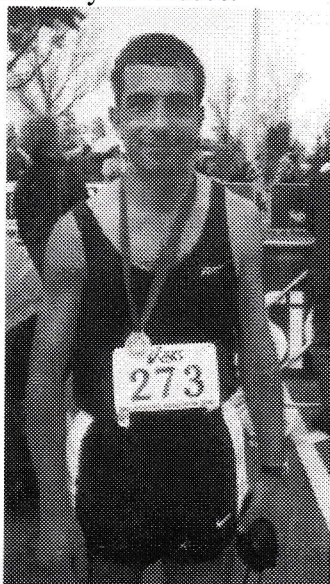
I will never forget the unveiling ceremony for the third stage. The place seemed to be dotted with George Liverys. The look that so many male immigrants have. The weathered face and hands, the battered and bent body, the steely-glazed eyes, the homeland still in their gaze, looking at you but always beyond you.

At this stage, there are no plans for a fifth stage but I urge you to take advantage of the opportunity if it so arises.

Article supplied by: - Florence Livery
Daughter of Pino and Mary Livery
Grand-daughter of George and Evangelia (nee HatziEleftheriou) Livery and Michael and Flora (nee Augustes) Conos

Welcome home

Anthony & Rosa Stabelos after an extended stay in Greece.



Congratulations Michael Angelo Miriklis on completing his 13th marathon on Sunday 12 October. The Frankston to Melbourne course (42 klms) Michael produced his fourth personal best time of 3 hours 13 minutes and 49 seconds. Michael is the son of Catina and the late Angelo Miriklis.



Annual Mayoral Charity "Snow" Ball was held at the Manningham Function Centre Doncaster. I was honoured to be sitting on the table with the Lord Mayor and his wife Councillor John and Patricia Bruce and Greek Councillor for Manningham (Doncaster) a pleasant time was had by all.

Vale: -

Kristeena Christofas passed away on September 17th 2003. Teena is survived by husband Michael and daughter Kristy. Michael was formerly of Melbourne now resides at the Gold Coast.

Pleasant Sunday Morning October

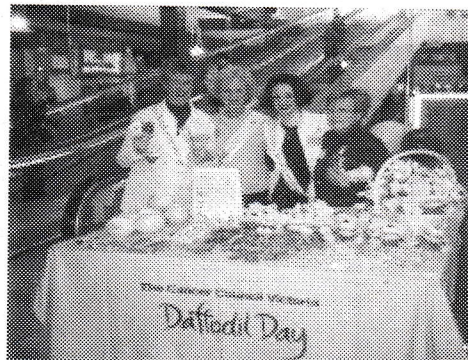
The last for 2003: - this was a first class event (held as usual in our clubrooms).

We were addressed privileged to have guest speaker Mr Peter Mangos (Surgeon). Peter described his adventures and experiences in 1966 as a civilian volunteer during the Vietnam War. Peter also enlightened us on his times and years at South Melbourne Football Club, then later

as doctor for the Swans. This event was attended by approximately 30 guests. Peter has consented to come back and talk to us again next year to enlighten us further on his experiences with the Swans. Thank you Peter for a very informative morning and your tolerance. **We'll** gag the crowd next time!



The annual Commonwealth Bank Ball was held at the Palladium Room at Crown. I was given the opportunity to meet the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mr David Murray. David has been with the organisation for 37 years and truly lives his job. It was a pleasure to meet such a friendly and down to earth man. Report by Anna Miriklis



Annual Daffodil Day Fundraiser was held on Friday 22nd August with 4,588 volunteers raising \$2.2 million for Cancer Research. Committee members who participated in this fundraiser day were Sylvia Coates, Christina Pavlou and Anna Miriklis.

Please Note New Contact Number and Address: -

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Olympic Club Year approximately 1946-7

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, Jack Bennetts, Mopsy (Mark) Simons, Steve J Adgemis



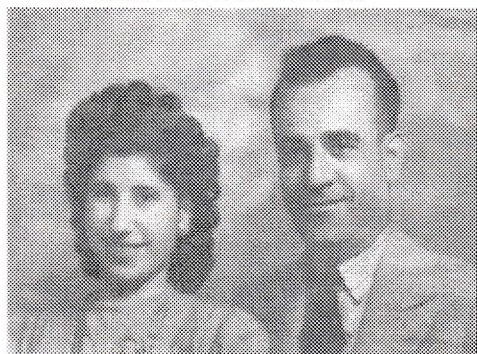
Thank you to all the Cassies who assisted with the names of all the people in this photo, if you have a photo of interest to the members or you would like the people in the photo identified please contact me. Here is the next one!

Castellorizian Convention W.A. 1987



Left to right: -, Peter Baroulakis, Jack Bisas,, Nick Nicholas, The late Michael Kailis, Marcus Michael,, Theo Conos

George Hatsatouris: - A Passion for films



George Hatsatouris' interest in movies was to lead to a lifelong involvement in film exhibition for both himself and his brother, Peter. The three cinemas they built still stand today as landmarks in the NSW country towns of Taree, Port Macquarie and Laurieton.

George Hatsatouris was born in Kastellorizo in December 1906, to Evangelos Hatsatouris (d.1948) and Maria Georgouras (d.1953) and died in 1998. In a 1994 interview with his son, Angelo, to record aspects of his life, George recalled that the island of Kastellorizo had been marked with turmoil during his childhood; first the Italian War in 1909, which affected sea trade, and then the First World War.

Kastellorizians were seafarers and traders, and after the Italian War the sea, trade was lost to Turkey. As a result, Evangelos went to work for the Suez Canal Authority as a pilot. In 1911, he decided to come to Australia.

When the Great War began, the island, then under French occupation, was being shelled from the Turkish coast. Maria decided it was time to start removing her children from Kastellorizo,

beginning with the eldest son, Peter, in 1917.

George, two years younger, was next to emigrate. At night, leaving "through the back", from the little port of Navlakas Bay, he went by steam launch out to a two mast caique and, with about 150 families, set sail for Port Said. This was St George's day, 23 April 1918. It was five days before they reached their destination, and although there were no facilities and many passengers were seasick, young George found the experience exciting, especially as he had never left the harbour before. Port Said, Egypt, was a real revelation with "trams pulled by horses. A lot of activity...many kids.... I never thought people would be so different".

George was travelling with an aunt, and it was with her that he waited for 1 month in Egypt to catch a boat for Australia. He was then placed in the custody of another Castellorizian who was to watch over him until he reached Singapore.

The passengers, all Castellorizians, were headed mainly for Perth or Darwin, and had been sponsored. George was headed for Port Pirie. In Singapore, they had to wait a month to get another boat to Australia.

Unfortunately for George, the man who had been entrusted with taking care of him used George's fare to help another family get to Darwin. A group of the passengers smuggled George aboard the ship in Singapore and successfully got him to Australia, undetected, even to the extent that he ate his meals in the dining room.

George arrived in Fremantle on 10 August 1918. He went immediately to Perth to stay with cousins and had to remain there for 5 months, working in a shop to earn the money needed for

the fare to Port Pirie. His father sent for him and luckily a lot of people "sort of adopted" him and cared for him during the steam train trip, changing trains at Kalgoorlie and Port Augusta, onto Quorn, Peterborough and then down to Adelaide. In Adelaide he caught another train to Port Pirie, where the trains "in those days, used to go in the middle of streets". Finally, after a 6 day, 7-night train journey, George was re-united with his father, Evangelos and brother Peter. There were many Castellorizians in Port Pirie. Evangelos worked at the smelters while George worked at the Britannia Restaurant. He tried going to school but "the kids wouldn't accept you...[They didn't] help you. They would laugh every time you speak...[They didn't] come near to us, to help in those days".



In 1919, they were joined by Maria and the other children, and the family rented a house in Port Pirie. A strike was called at the smelters, after which they did not re-open. This precipitated a mass migration from the region. "All the Greeks left. There were 800

Greeks working there at the time...Some went to Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Darwin and Sydney." The year was 1921.

Once in Sydney, the family was forced to split up, with the two boys 'going bush' to find work: Peter to Warren to work with the Mottee family, and George to Forbes to work for another Kytherian family, then onto Coonabarabran. Eventually the family was to open a fish shop in Australia Street, Newtown, close to the centre of Sydney.

George was impatient with his work in Newtown and spent a lot of time hanging around the Enmore Theatre and the White City Studios. A friend had been given a job as a film extra, further adding to George's interest in the movies. The Hub Theatre was also built in Newtown at this time.

Young George was fascinated by the glamour of the movies, so when the family bought a timber cafe in the coastal town of Port Macquarie, the White Rose, in 1923, George agreed to join them when he could, as it had a theatre, the Empire, attached to the back.

"In those days, there were no ads in the paper. You used to go [to] the Athenian Club in Castlereagh Street [Sydney] and the owner of the club...knew all about what was going on in every country town, because [in] most of the country towns...[there were] Kytherians. There were no others...[He acted as a] sort of agent...He wasn't doing it for a profit..."

In 1926, George left the Newtown fish shop and joined the family in Port Macquarie to run the theatre, which was built out of timber and

fibro and had an iron roof. He had observed the Zarka Brothers who had built the Enmore Theatre and, being young, felt that he could step in and run the Empire Theatre. "I used to watch what they [the Zarka brothers] were doing and I learnt a lot. But I mainly learnt by trial and error...I was helped by a projectionist...I did a lot of damage before I got it right."

George's family rebuilt the Empire Theatre and the cafe (renaming it the Monterey) in 1933, the year Mussolini came to power. There were two cinemas in Port Macquarie, the Empire Theatre and the Amusu, both of which had been owned by a German, who retained ownership of the Amusu. The Amusu had its own electricity supply. The Empire relied on the supply provided by the local electricity franchise, which unfortunately for George, was owned by another German businessman.

George anticipated that his restricted electricity supply would eventually be totally cut off, so set up his own electricity supply and then forced a confrontation with the German franchisee, legally freeing George to use his own supply. "It was a bit of a risk. Engine wasn't that great. It was second hand...Later we got a Lyster twin cylinder cold start diesel."

The first Talkie to be shown in Port Macquarie was called The Innocents of Paris, starring Maurice Chevalier, and was shown at the Empire in 1933. Port Macquarie then had a population of just over 2000, too small for so many theatres, so George and Peter bought out the opposition, the Amusu (later named the Oxley), using it only as a dance hall. (Dances were also held at the Empire.) The Oxley was eventually sold and was later pulled down.

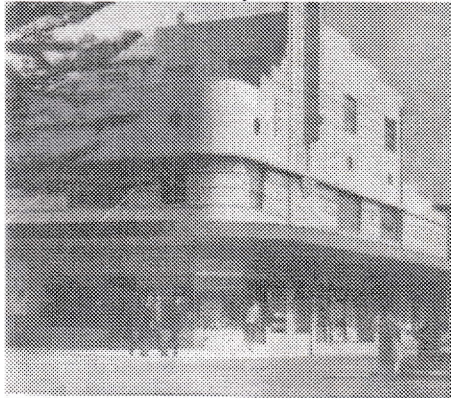
In 1937, George and Peter built the Ritz Theatre in Port Macquarie and connected it to their existing power supply. The theatre, designed by George Kenworthy, cost about six thousand pounds to build. It took 5 months to complete, all the materials coming from Sydney by boat, and then loaded onto horse-drawn drays. Tickets to the Lounge cost three shillings, the Circle two-and-six, and the Stalls one-and-sixpence.

The Monterey Cafe business was sold in 1939, and eventually the building itself. The Empire theatre burnt down in the 1940s, but the Monterey Cafe survived the fire, as it was a 2-storey brick structure. The former Cafe building still stands and the site of the former Empire Theatre is now incorporated into a large shopping complex.

In 1940, George went to Walcha (pop'n 1500) and acquired the Civic Theatre. It had its problems initially. Owned by RCA, the company took the equipment and sold the freehold to George. The previous operator then opened another theatre in the town, in opposition.

"It was difficult for me... There was a war on. Someone told the locals I was an Italian citizen... On opening night, someone stole the front lens on one of the projectors. I overcame that by adjusting the side lens and focussing it on the other back lens. It wasn't perfect but it worked." George spent a month in Walcha until his sister Helen and her husband Philip Lucas took over this theatre. They ran

the theatre for the next 25 years. The Ritz in Port Macquarie was still being run by brother, Peter, who had married by this time.



Ritz Theatre, 100 Market & Clarence Sts., Port Macquarie

In 1941, George (who married Anna Paltoglou later that year) went to Taree. During their years in the picture theatres, Anna worked alongside her husband, running the box office, while raising a family of five. The two brothers purchased a dance hall cum small theatre, the Bower Theatre, renaming it the Civic Theatre in 1943. Over a period of years, the Civic was extended and completely rebuilt without any screening days. The extensions, designed by Joe Arena, were done in stages, with George doing much of the actual building and finishing work himself. When the final work was completed in 1954 a grand opening was planned with visiting dignitaries, but floods meant they were stranded in Newcastle. The 1,000-seat theatre was packed, and the film had to be flown in. The Civic was used not only for movies, but for all the music shows..."Kevin Jacobsen, his brother Col Joye, Johnie O'Keefe, Winifred Atwill, The Platters, Lucky Starr, Little Patty and Judy Stone..."

In 1945 George then went to West Kempsey and opened The Roxy (previously the Adelphi) "It was not successful. I got. [My wife's] younger brother, Bill Paltos, to run it... until 1948. There were two other theatres in the town...[One was owned by the Rose Bay Wintergarden people, the Lawson's. The other was the Western Suburbs Cinemas.] ...We eventually sold back the freehold and the business to [the Lawson's'] East Coast Theatres." This was in the 1950s, and the theatre was eventually converted for commercial use.

In 1947, the Hatsatouris brothers were showing films out of the School of Arts at Laurieton, two times a week, in opposition to the travelling picture showman. They opened with the film, The Corsican Brothers, starring Douglas Fairbanks Jnr. In 1959, they built the Plaza Theatre there in partnership with a Mr Bruce Longworth. Shortly after this, in the 1960s, George also took over the Savoy in Taree, and ran it for eight years. Except for the Laurieton theatre, all the movie theatres had been owned jointly by the two brothers, George and Peter, both of whom served as council aldermen; George in Taree and Peter, for twenty years as in Port Macquarie, during which he served as deputy mayor.



The Hatsatouris brothers, 1st Peter and George, 1948

Of the three theatres they built, two of them, the Ritz in Port Macquarie and the Civic in Taree, continue to be owned by their descendants. The Civic Theatre, operated by George until 1971, was partially damaged by fire in 1982 after which it was converted into shops. The Ritz, now a mixture of shops and offices, has had two small movie theatres added to it. The third, the Plaza in Laurieton, was sold to their partner, Bruce Longworth, in the mid 1970s, and it continues to operate as a theatre. Both brothers were involved in the film exhibition industry for over sixty years and introduced sound (Talkies) to Port Macquarie.

Written by Ann Coward, extract from Vema News

Copyright, photographs and text: Angelo Hatsatouris

I attended the Melbourne Gift Trade Fair 2003 at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre, Southbank. It was an excellent exhibition of giftware and fine stock from the "Largest Melbourne Fair". Cousins Alex & Vivienne Mihalos had an impressive stand from their business "Metropak". I was very proud to witness their well-prepared stand of distinctive range of elegant gift packaging.

Article by Anna Miriklis

What has been happening in Kastellorizo — By Louise Katris.

September saw ex Melbournites now living in Athens — Despo Filopoulos and husband Dimitri (daughter of George and Maria Adgemis) and Stephen Adgemis (son of Betty Adgemis and the late Nick Adgemis) holidaying in Kastellorizo for one week. From South Australia staying for a month were John Kiosoglou and his wife Chris (son of the late Anthony & Mehalakina Kiosoglou).

Liberation Day

On 13th September Kastellorizians celebrated "Liberation Day", this day in 1948 is when Kastellorizo regained Greek citizenship, many Kassies were born Greek but labeled Italians during the Italian occupation of the island. Kastellorizo was one of the first islands in the Dodecanese to regain citizenship within Greece. A ceremony took place at the monument of the "Lone Soldier", the town witnessed the laying of wreaths by children, Army, Navy Officers and other prominent Kassie figures, our very own John Kiosoglou laid a wreath on behalf of all Australian Kastellorizians.

September marked the end of the tourism season for the island; those who remained were Australian, German and Italian homeowners. There were four Cruise ships which came from Rhodes and Cyprus bringing in tourists for the day and those who were on board enjoyed a trip to the Blue Grotto and fantastic food at the local tavernas.

In October, a day trip to Fethiye, Turkey was organised by Papoutsis Travel Agency, and transport provided by "Barbara" Tourist Boat. Locals and teachers on the island enjoyed a fantastic day shopping, tasting Fethiye's cuisine and fantastic cake shops, 2004 will see a lot more excursions to Myra & St Nicholas, and Kekova (the sunken city), and overnight trips in Kas, Fethiye and Antalya.

OXI — Independence Day

On the 28th October Greece celebrated "OXI DAY" where students, Army, Police, Harbor Police, Council Members and locals parade to the tomb of the "Lone Soldier" where wreaths are laid and a festival begins. In 1940 Greek Prime Minister "Metaxas" rejected Italy's ultimatum by Mussolini to join the war, this resulted in the Italian Army attacking Greece through Albania, the Greeks however not only stopped the Italian advance but pushed them back into Albania. OXI Day is of course a public holiday in Greece.

This brings me to the start of November where I am getting organised to leave for Australia and the locals are preparing for their migration to Athens or Rhodes. Those who remain for the winter months on Kastellorizo have started to renovate their shops, the harbour is now bare as all the cafes are now full of locals either watching soccer or playing cards, the nightclubs are in full swing on Friday and Saturday nights, the cinema is getting ready to start up again and the winter woolies are out of the closet.

2004 Olympic Year

Rumoured for 2004 the "Olympic Year" Kastellorizo is going to see the return of the new shop "The Medditeraneo" which sells linen, rugs and tablecloths; a Pizza Taverna; Laundromat; Brunch Café Jewellery shop. Apparently during the Olympics, Australia Square will have a huge Television screen to watch the Games, and the Olympic Torch in July. Hotels and Pensions will open earlier than usual as bookings for the Olympic year were taken as early as 2002.

Any enquiries on Kastellorizo-accommodation, tours and boat and plane timetables please email me at kastellorizogreece@hotmail.com

For other bookings Papoutsis Travel Agency- paptrv@rho.forthnet.gr or 22460 49356 and boat tours to Blue Grotto, Island of Rho, St George, Plakes and Turkey - Barbara & St George Boat Tours- George Karagiannis via kastellorizogreece@hotmail.com

July 19th "Prophet Ilias Day"

According to the Kastellorizian historian Achilleas Diamantaras, during the Greek war of independence against the Turks in 1821 the Kastellorizians also took up arms against the Turks.

Because the island is situated close to Turkey, they feared the Turks might invade and slaughter their families; they took them to the islands of Karpathos, Kassos, Amorgos and Crete. During their stay in these islands, some Kastellorizians married locals. People like Lazarakis, Sotirakis, Hatz-Yiannakis and others, can trace their roots to Crete.

I remember the late Panagiotis Hatz-Yiannakis often talking about his Cretan ancestors. When part of Greece became independent a few years later, the Kastellorizians returned to the island (still under Turkish rule), they were so anxious to reach their homes they would not wait for the vessels to drop anchor, they jumped into the sea with their clothes on and they were welcomed by the only remaining person on the island, a priest named Father Sofronios. That took place on the 19th of July, on the eve of Agios Ilias Day. The Kastellorizians have kept the custom of jumping into the sea for the last 170 years and on doing this they sing Tai Lia Tai Malla:

Malla is the corruption of the words: Me Olla. Which in Greek means "with everything" Like our ancestors did all these years ago.

Tai Lia in our slang means on the day of Saint Ilias. Story by Steve Zombos

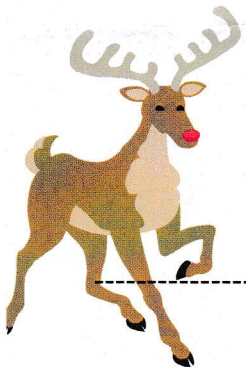


This is a Family Day you cannot miss!

These are some of Victoria's most significant gardens established in 1873 by the Chandler Family

A stylized illustration of a deer running towards the right. The deer has a brown body with a white patch on its chest and belly. It has large, grey antlers and a red nose. The background is white.

A simple, stylized illustration of a green Christmas tree with a yellow star on top. The tree has a thick black outline and a small red trunk. The star is yellow with a black outline.

[illegible]