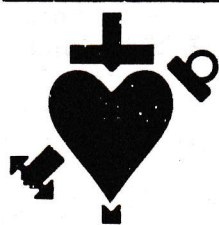


CASSIE News



the
NEWSLETTER
of the
CASTELLORIZIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF VICTORIA

Κατελληνοριζιακά Νέα

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Welcome to the 1st Edition of Cassie News for 1996

CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER No. 101, our first for 1996. On behalf of the Board, we wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

1996 will be an election year for our Association. Most current members have served the Association for many years, some up to 20 years. We hope that this year will see the changing of the old guard and the election of a new Board to take the Castellorizian Association into the 21st century. Once again I repeat that the future, if it has any future, is in your hands, so start thinking now how you can help.

I as President for a period, on and off, of over 20 years will not be seeking re-election. Your current Board will leave the Association in a strong and sound financial position, a far cry from the 1970's when we took over. We were left with a club that had a mortgage, unpaid debts from a previous building program and an empty front hall.

Step up, therefore, and come forward in September/October 1996 and help to continue the heritage and beliefs of the Castellorizian Association of Melbourne and Victoria.

1995 was a very successful year, as I have repeated in my Annual President's Report. There were many highlights for those attending including the 1995 Castellorizian of the Year, Professor Byron Kakulas; launching of a few books on Castellorizo; and, a very successful Christmas Tree. Special thanks to the many people who have assisted in 1995. Most were thanked in the Annual Report, however special thanks to Mr. George Verginis for his Santa Claus act. Also to the ladies of our Committee, in particular Anna Adgemis, Stella Salvaris and Betty Adgemis together with Sandra Varvodic for the special Christmas Day help.

This year we will once again be organising the Castellorizian of the Year and the presentation to our successful V.C.E. students. Please fill in the form in this newsletter and post it to V.C.E., The Secretary, Cassie Club, Box 112, South Melbourne.

Jack Bisas OAM, Editor



FROM THE HAND OF THE PRESIDENT

Read on...

We print in this newsletter:

1. Letters from Dr. Peter Mangos
2. Jacob Fronistas from the Society for the Care of the Elderly
3. Mrs. Carolyn Holmes
4. Mary Sgouromallis
5. An article by Helen Pitt entitled: "Greek tragedy which had a happy ending"

In the next edition of Cassie News...

In our next newsletter, we will print an address "Australia Remembers - 1995", a speech given by Mr. Michael Michael O.A.M., at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Perth, 22 October, 1995, and forwarded to us by Mrs. Mary Adgemis and received from her brother, Mr. Jack Kyris of Perth, W.A.

Congratulations

- ✓ To Roza and Tony Stabelos on their 40th Wedding Anniversary a conducted tour of Adelaide was organised by their sons John and Dr George Stabelos.
- ✓ We congratulate Dr. Peter Mangos on his award for service to his country in the Vietnam War.
- ✓ We congratulate Michael and Dianne Spartels on their 30th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations Michael and Dianne.
- ✓ To Prof. E. D. Hondros, Ex Director of the PETTN Establishment Committee of E.C. Joint Research Centre, on his award of the C.M.G. (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George) for services to science. Ernest is the son of the Late Dimitri and Athanasoula Hondros. The award was announced on the 1st January, 1996.

Cassie Association Senior Citizens

The next meeting of the Cassie Senior Citizens will be held at our Club Rooms on Wednesday, 6th March, 1996. All are welcomed.

Our February meeting was cancelled due to the passing away of fellow member Tom Adgemis.

Mail received

✉ Jim Bisas has received from John Apeitos who is working and studying overseas phone card purchased in Athens to the value of 100 telephone units. The phone card, however, features the island of Castellorizo on one side, and more specifically the "Old Castle"/"Παλιό Κάστρο". And... on the other side, the beautiful harbor/"το λιμάνι". John is

studying and conducting orchestras including the Athens National Radio Symphony Orchestra. John is also known for his musical involvement with the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Victoria.

Holidays

➔ Off to Antarctica, Shirley Koutsoukis sailing aboard a Russian Ice-Breaker. We look forward to her report and if she met any Cassies in the Antarctica.

Baptism

On Sunday, 28th January, 1996, Michael and Mary Mangos baptised their son (Cory Konstantine). Cory is the grandson of Con & Dorothy J. Mangos. Church service at Evangelismos. Godparents, Angela and Peter Briscoe. From Sydney, Steve and Mary Koutalis.

Wedding

🕊 Senator Nick Bolkus and wife attended the wedding in Melbourne of his cousin Ann Vassiliadis to Camillus Van Sateel at St. Eustathios Church, South Melbourne, on the 28th January, 1996. A reception followed at the Chateau Wyura, Lilydale. Ann is the daughter of Basil and Euna Vassiliadis.

Students Excelling

- ✓ Linda Michelle Christofas. Congratulations on attaining your Degree in the Bachelor of Business - Marketing.
- ✓ Stanley Michael Christofas. Congratulations on attaining your V.C.E. (Congratulations and love to both of you from your mother Christine and grandparents Nina and Michael Kyriakos.
- ✓ Congratulations Chris M. Christopher for passing his V.C.E. Chris is the son of Micahel and Hellas Christopher.

Birthdays

🕊 Theo Conos celebrated his 70th Birthday at a surprise birthday party on the 21st January, 1996 with family and friends. The party was organised by Theo's family and held at the home of his son Dr. Michael Conos and Janet. From Sydney, George & Chrissie and Maria Kazaglis. Happy Birthday Theo.

🕊 We congratulate Daisy Mangos on her 91st birthday. Congratulations Daisy.

🕊 A 21st birthday party was held for Basil A. Salvaris on 2nd February, 1996, with family, interstate guests and friends at Butleigh Wootton Receptions, Kew. Basil is the youngest son of Andrew and Tina Salvaris. Happy Birthday Basil.

Births

☛ To Chrisanthi and Peter Zougoulous at Cabrini Hospital on Sunday 14th January, 1996, a baby girl (Mikaela). Chrisanthi is the daughter of Mina Phillips and Granddaughter of Katie Hatzianakias. A great grandchild for Katie.

☛ To Peter James and Rose Hondros at St. John of God, Geelong, a son, Henry James, on the 2nd February, 1996. First grandson to Peter and Pam Hondros, great grandson to the late Dimitri and Athanasoula Hondrou of Bentleigh. (Obstetrician Mr. Michael Koutsoukis.)

Now available: "Ancient Megisti: the forgotten Castellorizo"

We advise members that Professor Norman Ashton's book, "Ancient Megisti: the forgotten Castellorizo" is available from our Club Rooms at a cost of \$45. Please contact any member from the Committee for your copy.

Obit

☛ **BARBAYIANNIS, Savas**, on February 4th, 1996, in Melbourne. Funeral at St. John's Church in Carlton and to Williamstown Cemetery. Savas is the son of Mrs. Despina Savas Barbayiannis.

☛ **In memory of the Late Jack Cotis**, the following people have donated to our Society: Mrs. Jasmine Verginis and Mrs. Tasia Kalaf.

☛ **ADGEMIS, Economos (Tom)**, on 17th January, 1996, aged 83. Funeral at Holy Trinity Church in Richmond and to Kew Cemetery. Tom is survived by his wife Mary (Kyriakos). Officiating at the service, His Grace Bishop Iezekiel of Dervis and eulogy by John A. Kiosoglous of Adelaide.

Son of John V. and Despina Adgemis (both dec.). Brother of Vasili (dec.), Michalakena (dec.), Con, Steve, Nick Peter, Anastasios (AJ dec.), George, Angelo (dec.). Brother-in-law of Kaliopé (dec.), Antonios (dec.), Chrissie, Renie, Betty, Koula, Anna, Maria and Rose. Son-in-law of George and Christina Kyriakos (both dec.), brother-in-law of Jack, Kath, Michael, Nina Evelyn, Harry (dec.), Eve, Bill (dec.), Herb, Maria, John and Zeffie. Uncle and Great Uncle to many.

In Melbourne for the funeral: Xenia Kranitis, Despina Lucas, Rose (Angelo dec.) Adgemis, Jack Kyris, Maria James, John Kiosoglous.

In memory of the Late Tom Adgemis, the following people have donated to our Society: Mr. & Mrs. Jack N. Miriklis, Mr. & Mrs. Don & Tasia Diamond, Mr. & Mrs. Steve and Christina Bisas, Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Marika Bisas, Spiro Christopher, Nick and Ismini Exintaris.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A 40 day Memorial Service will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Richmond, on the 25th February, 1996, in memory of the Late Economos (Tom) Adgemis.

☛ **KAMBOUROPOULOS, Boulis** on 16th November, 1995, husband of Sue, father of Nicholas and Christopher, brother of Nellie Zombos, Nick and Tony. Funeral at St. Eustathios Church and to New Cheltenham Cemetery. Boulis was a well known, popular and highly skillful soccer player and had played at the highest level with South Melbourne Hellas and Heidelberg Alexander in the 1970's, with a long list of soccer distinctions to his credit.

☛ **PALLASIS, Kostas**, in Melbourne. Funeral at Carlton Cemetery. From Adelaide for the funeral, George and Evangelia Pallas with daughter Katina.

☛ **OIKONOMOU, Agapitos**, in Brisbane. From Melbourne for the funeral, Nick and Ismini Exintaris, Peter Exintaris, George and Betty Exintaris.

Memorial Service

☛ A 12 month Memorial Service was held at St. Raphael Church, Bentleigh, on Sunday 11th February, 1996 in memory of the late Athanasoula Hondros.

Castellorizian of the Year

The especially set up Cassie sub-committee has commenced its deliberations in selecting the Castellorizian of the Year 1996. No easy task. Once again, thanks to the members of the Sub-committee who include Nick Adgemis, Christine Dimer, Jack Bisas, John B. Salvaris, Jasmin Verginis and our Secretary Sandra Varvodic.

Mail received

✉ Editor, Cassie News.

Herewith details of medal given to me which you may want to insert in the Cassie News.

I spent three months (January 1966 - March 1966) in Vietnam as part of the Alfred Hospital Surgical Team as one of the two surgeons. We had a Physician, Anaesthetist, Radiographer and four trained Nurses. This was arranged by the Department of External Affairs and teams were sent

by the Alfred, Royal Melbourne, Prince Henry's and St. Vincent's hospitals. Basically we were there to treat Vietnamese civilians but being war time, we of course overlapped our duties. We treated a good deal of civilian war injuries and general medical and surgical problems.

The experience was unforgettable both medically and socially. naturally, I have some upsetting memories of the stay but also, and probably more importantly, excellent recall of human bondage and unselfish sacrifices. In particular, I was most proud of the Australian Forces, their toughness, discipline and standard of of military thoroughness. we were treated as an elite group by both Australians and Americans.

The medal is a Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal issued by the Prime Minister given in recognition to those who rendered service in support of Australian Armed Forces in Vietnam.

Again, thank you for your interest,

Mr. P.N. Mangos
M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.

Congratulations Peter

✉ Editor, Cassie News.

Dear friends,

Please find enclosed \$50 being my fees and a contribution to the Cassie News.

I always look forward to receiving your newsletter. Its been years since we have been to a Cassie function as we are now in Ballarat running our own motel. I now say I am a "country Greek". I have always felt close to the Cassie community from the days we lived opposite the Jackomos clan andvisiting the Conos family in Lygon Street, to when my father Panteli had the Omonia Cafe next to the Cassie Leski in Lonsdale Street.

Keep up the happy and good news in the newsletter and I look forward to receiving the Cassie News.

Yours sincerely,

Mary B. Sgouromallis (nee Loukides)

P.S. Anyone visiting Ballarat call in for kafethaki.

✉ Editor, Cassie News.

Dear sir,

I am writing to your organisation, hoping you may be able to give some information about Castellorizo.

My interest stems from my Father's family, whome I believe came from Castellorizo early this century. Since my father died in 1969, my knowledge is very limited. The family name was Karpoozis, known here as Karis.

Until recently I had little knowledge of the island's location, off the Turkish coast I believe. Any information at all will be of interest, and help me piece together the part of my past which is missing. I do hope to travel to Greece some day and see for myself the wonders of this part of the world.

Thank you in anticipation,

Yours truly,

Carolyn Holmes (nee Karis)

✉ Editor, Cassie News.

As you are aware, the Castellorizians have played a large role in the development of the Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly, and the Association was a very strong supporter in the early days.

I wish to advise that the purchase of the 30 bed nursing home at St. Albans will be completed in March, 1996, and the construction of the new 30 bed nursing home at Fairfield will be completed by the end of 1996. Both these nursing homes cost a total of 4 Million Dollars, and the Federal Government is only giving approximately 1.8 Million Dollars.

I request that you bring this matter to your Committee of Management meeting on monday 27th November, 1995. All donations above \$2.00 are tax deductible. All payments should be made out to:

"Frontitha,"
94 Springs Road,
Clayton South, 3169.

Yours sincerely,

Jacob Fronistas
(Senior Vice President - A.G.S.C.E.)

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Cassie V.C.E. students 1995

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Cassie Assoc. of Victoria

P.O. Box 112,

Sth. Melbourne, Vic., 3205

Greek tragedy which had a happy ending



Empire Patrol on fire; survivors Flora Tolitsa, below, in floral dress, and Lazaros and Vassiliki Koungras, front, brother and sister of Michael Koungras, right.

By HELEN PITT

Fifty years ago today, a ship caught fire and sank in the Mediterranean, spelling the end for the Greek island of Castellorizo – but the beginning of a new prosperous life half a world away for many of our most prominent Greek-Australians.

Tonight, the survivors, their descendants and other “Cassies” will get together in Sydney to mark the anniversary.

They include the Minister for Immigration, Senator Bolkus, whose family lost friends in the accident, and the NSW Opposition spokesman on transport, Mr Michael Photios, who remembers the sinking – which left 35 dead – as part of family folklore.

When British forces wrested the island from Italian control in 1943, the islanders were evacuated to Palestine to protect them from heavy German bombardment. At war's end in 1945 they left their makeshift refugee huts on the Gaza Strip for the voyage back to Castellorizo – an island by then reduced to rubble.

One of the ships, the Empire Patrol, was carrying 497 refugees, mainly children and women, when fire broke out in a cabin. For many, their hopes of returning to prosperity in Castellorizo went down with the ship and their belongings.



More than 80 per cent of the survivors simply took the few belongings they still had and headed for Australia.

There are now more Castellorizans in Australia than on the barren nine-kilometre-square island, and certainly for most of Australia's 30,000 “Cassies” the sinking is recalled more as a catalyst for migration to Australia than a loss of 35 lives.

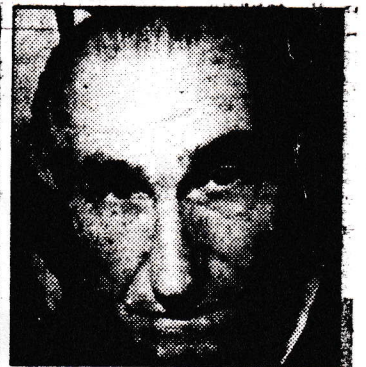
As Castellorizans, famed for their resourcefulness, left in droves to make their fortunes abroad, the population of the island dwindled to just 180.

About 80 survivors of the sinking will gather tonight at Kingsford's Castellorizan Club for the launch of a book about the tragedy.

Embers on the Sea, by Mr Paul Boyatzis, one of the survivors now living in Perth, and Sydney lawyer Mr Nick Pappas, examines why the ship sank and why so many Castellorizans chose Australia as their new home. Even a British naval inquiry failed to reveal the reason for the shipwreck.

“Had the Empire Patrol event not occurred perhaps we would have seen more than 180 people on the island today,” Mr Boyatzis said. “What was a loss to Castellorizo was eventually a gain to Australia.”

Another survivor, Mrs Irene Tatzidis, now of Maroubra, was 21 when the ship went down: “I remember it every time I go to sea, I came here to try to forget it.”



Mr Angelo Hatsatouris, the president of Kingsford's Castellorizan Club, said many of the islanders came here because there was family support.

Along with the Bolkus and Photios families, many well-known Greek-Australians hail from Castellorizo, including former Queensland Senator George Georges, actress Marilyn Paspaly, former Perth Lord Mayor Michael Michaels, and the family which provides much of Sydney's seafood, the Manettas.

“Cassies are known as ‘the Jews of Greece’ because they are incredibly resourceful and good at business,” Mr Pappas said. “It is ironic such a tragedy should precipitate one of the great success stories of Australian immigration.”