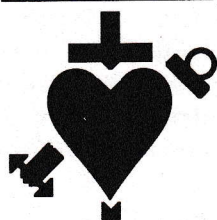


# CASSIE News



the  
NEWSLETTER  
of the  
CASTELLORIZIAN  
ASSOCIATION  
OF VICTORIA

## ΚΑΣΤΕΛΛΟΡΙΖΙΑΚΑ ΝΕΑ

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST  
PUBLICATION NUMBER: VBH3850

POSTAL ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 112, SOUTH MELBOURNE, 3205

### THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

*President:*

Jack Bisas O.A.M.

*Vice Presidents:*

Michael Spartels & Anna Adgemis

*Secretary:*

Sandra Varvodic

*Treasurer:*

John B. Salvaris O.A.M.

*Public Officer:*

Michael Spartels

*Social Secretary:*

Dianne Spartels

#### BOARD MEMBERS:

Steve Zombos,

Betty Adgemis,

Stella Salvaris,

Theo Conos,

Jack, N. Miriklis

CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER No. 102, gives details of our successful "Castellorizian Of The Year 1996". We wish all members, friends and families 'Chistos Anesti' and we hope they enjoyed our Easter festivities. Enjoy this month's bumper edition of Cassie News.

Jack Bisas OAM, Editor

### Castellorizian Of The Year 1996

This years successful 1996 Castellorizian of the Year is: A/S Professor Katherine Georgouras  
MB BS (Sydney); DM (Sydney); FACD  
Associate Professor Dermatology (UNSW) 1994

First woman in Australia to achieve this academic level in Dermatology. Director and founder Dermatology Centre, Lidcombe Hospital. Director and founder Dermatology Centre, Liverpool Hospital. Fellow of Senate, University of Sydney 1979-1993. First woman president Convocation Standing Committee, University of Sydney 1977-79.

Married to Dr M. Symons. Mother of Marianthe, George and Patricia, Katherine is the first female University professor of Greek decent in Australia. She hails from a Castellorizian family and is married to a Castellorizian.

**Previous Award Winners:**  
1993 Senator Nick Bolkus  
1994 Michael G Kailis  
1995 Prof. Byron Kakulas

We look forward to Katherine receiving her Award on 26th May 1996 at our Celebration of Sts. Constantine and Helen's Day, commencing with a Church Service at 10.15 and the presentation of the award at our Club Rooms, 250 Dorcas St., South Melbourne at 2.00pm. A/S Professor Katherine Georgouras will be accompanied by her husband Dr Michael Symons of Sydney NSW. We thank Katherine for her acceptance of this prestigious award and their acceptance to be present in Melbourne to receive the award.

Once again thank you to our Selection Sub Committee for their assistance in the final selection which is no easy task! Nick Adgemis, Jasmin Verginis, Christine Dimer, John B. Salvaris, Sandra Varvodic, Nick Zorbas and Jack Bisas.



## *VCE Students*

Presentations will also be made to successful VCE students at the above ceremony:

Stanley Michael Christofas  
Chris Michael Christopher  
Konstantinos Georgeakopoulos

Any other successful students can still be accepted.

## *Congratulations*

✓ We congratulate the President Mr Peter Paxinos and members of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society (the Ulysses) on the celebration of their 80th Anniversary 1916-1996. Jack & Marika Bisas represented the Cassie Club.

A cocktail party to celebrate the event was held at their club rooms on the 21st April 1996. We thank them for their invitation to attend.

✓ To Elia James Dimer who graduated from Melbourne University with a Commerce degree on Saturday 2nd March 1996.

Stephen and James are the grandchildren of Mr Steve Paltos.

## *Dodecanese Islands*

On Sunday 17th of March 1996 at Northcote, a luncheon was held to remember the 48 years since the acceptance by Greece of the Dodecanese Islands. The luncheon was attended by the Presidents of most of the Dodecanese Islands. The President of the Pan Dodecanese Society, Mr Steve Zombos accompanied by his wife Nellie, welcomed guests and officials. Jack & Marika Bisas represented the Cassie Club.

Speakers included the Consul General for Greece Mr. George Veis, the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne, Mr Fountas and Mr Stathis Raptopoulos. Mr Borokokus of the RSL, congratulated Mr Nick Patiniotis on receiving his service medal from the Greek government. It was pleasing to hear the many references to the island of Castellorizos involvement in the history of the islands. The cocktail party was closed with an emotional speech by the Secretary of the Society, Mr Angelidis.

## *History of Cassies in Victoria*

Your society has joined in a project with the Department of Inter-cultural and Language Studies from Melbourne University RMIT Campus in researching and recording the history of Castellorizians of Victoria.

This in depth study and research could take up to 2 years to complete. We will keep members informed as to what assistance will be required into the provision of records, photographs etc. We ask all members who are able to assist to do so when the time comes. Thank you.

## *Holidays*

✈ Home from a holiday on Hamilton Island are Steve and Christina Bisas with Zefie, Evan and daughters Penny and Christina.

✈ In Melbourne from Sydney to visit Lucky on his 50th Birthday (14th April), Irene & Max Condos.

## *Sporting News*

✓ The 1st cricket team have defeated Geelong Grammar outright with Stephen Dimer (captain), scoring an unbeaten 136 runs. This was Brighton Grammar School's first outright win in 15 years. Congratulations Stephen and our best wishes for the rest of this season.

✓ In March 1997, a team of Lawn Bowlers will be visiting Melbourne to play a Victorian Team. Anyone who would like to play and join in, please contact Herb Kyriakos 9531 3108 or Steve Adgemis 9803 7713. The West Australian team has already visited South Australia and New South Wales.

## *New Book*

We print an extract from a book being written by Kaye Cavouras (nee Fermanis) South Australia, The Rhodian Experience.

## *Birthdays*

🎂 To Rose (Zampho) Malaxos on her 80th Birthday, 21st March 1996. Happy Birthday.

🎂 We congratulate Mrs Anna Adgemis on her 60th Birthday. A party to celebrate was organised by her daughter in laws Irene and Kathleen Adgemis and held at the home of Irene and John Adgemis.

🎂 A surprise birthday party was held at Cafe Amalfi Restaurant, to celebrate the 70th Birthday of Steve Bisas, by his daughters Vivienne, Zefi and Kathy. Na ta ekatostisis.

## *Best Wishes*

Home after a stay in hospital, Sam Alexander and Jim Pavlou.

## *Births*

👶 On 22-11-95 a boy (Alexander David) to Yvonne and Russell McCart. Yvonne is the daughter of Herb and Mary Kyriakos and Alexander is the third great grand child for Mrs Daisy Mangos.



☛ To Steve and Samantha Abeckett a girl (Camilla Florence Mary) First child for Steve and Samantha and first grand child for Basil and Sandra Hetrel (Hetrelzis). Birth at St Vincent's Private Hospital.

☛ To Roslyn and Michael Zervos a boy (Marcus Constantine), at the Masonic Hospital, East Melbourne. Grandchild for Chrissie Zervos and Lucy Peronis.

### Vale

☛ In memory of the late Tom Adgemis, Michael and Patricia Kailis (W.A.) and Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis have donated to our society.

☛ COUFAS, Argyro (Confos), on 2nd January 1996 at Stegi Nursing Home. Funeral at St Raphael Church Bentleigh and to Fawkner Cemetery.

☛ In memory of the late Boulis Kambouropoulos, Nick and Ismini Exintaris have donated to our society.

☛ LIVERY, Pino (Peter), 23rd March 1996. Husband of Mary (Conos), father of Everlyn, Florence and Georgina. Father in law of Bevan and Trent and Pappou of Brett and Andrew. Brother in law of Theo Conos. Funeral at Evangelismos Church and to the Northern Memorial Park Glenroy (Fawkner). From Sydney for the funeral Mosca and Angelo Spiros.

In memory of the late Pino Livery, the following have donated to our society and Senior Citizens Club: John and Effie Trellis, Mr and Mrs L Koutsoukis, Daisy and Spiro Panouris, Jack and Marika Bisas, Michael and Nina Kyriakos and Alex and Maria Bisas.

**Memorial Service:** A 40 day Memorial Service for the late Pino Livery was held at Box Hill on Sunday 28th April 1996.

In memory of the late Mr Tom Adgemis. On the 7th April 1996 we received from Mr J S Adgemis on behalf of the family of the Mr T Adgemis, the following donations:

George J Adgemis and family, Mr and Mrs Spiro Mangos, Christulla N Bisas, Mrs L Manyotis, Alex and Maria Bisas and family, Mr and Mrs Bill Hondros, Maria A Adgemis (Sydney), Mr and Mrs J G Trellis, Mr and Mrs Jack Miriklis, Mr and Mrs D Pavlou, Michael and Dianne Spartels, M. Malaxos and family, Peter Mastoris, Mrs Maria Karpoozes, Mrs Evelyn Karis, Mrs C Zombos, Dr Andrew and Mrs C Varigos, Messes Mavridis, Chrissie Zervos and family, Nick Fermanis, Mr and Mrs Con Mangos (S.A.), J. M. Joseph, Mr and Mrs Con J Mangos, and anonymous donors. Total: \$611.70

Mrs Mary Adgemis wished to express her sincere thanks to family and friends during the sickness and death of her beloved husband Economos (Tom) The kindness and support offered have been most appreciated and assisted her through this difficult time.

☛ In memory of the late Agapitos Oikonomou, Steve & Nellie Zombie have donated to our society.

☛ A 6 month Memorial Service for the Late Angelo Augustes was held at Evangelismos Church on the 28th April, 1996.

### "A Rhodian Experience"

by Kaye Cavouras (nee Fermanis)

In Greece it is never wise to take any plan or decision as final until it actually happens. I had flown from Athens to Rhodes with the intention of catching the Monday morning flight to the island of Castellorizo.

My schedule was tight and my annoyance became apparent when the booking clerk at the Olympic office at Rhodes airport informed me that there was no flight to Castellorizo on a Monday. He suggested that I make arrangements to stay in Rhodes until Wednesday when the next flight would be available.

"Do some sightseeing" he said. With that he produced a card, that of his cousin who ran a hotel "very clean" in the old town. I looked at him in disbelief. he was drumming up business. I asked "Is there a boat for Castellorizo?"

The clerk's chin went backwards, he clicked his tongue against his teeth and cast his eyes above me in the well known Greek gesture meaning "I don't know and I don't care".

I grabbed my bags, was about to leave when I heard a behind address me.

"Mrs Lady " he said "there is a boat leaving for Castellorizo tonight. It is the Kalymnos, I often travel on it. go to the ship's agent at the Port and he will sell you a ticket".

My luggage was placed in the boot of a decrepit old taxi driven by a kind old man and in no time my journey to Castellorizo was organised and the ticket safely in my handbag. the Kalymnos was to leave at five thirty in the afternoon. the taxi driver assisted by depositing my luggage in a locker on the pier.

Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands and has a long and turbulent history. It has evolved into a trendy tourist haven, somewhat plastic with an artificial exterior and has lost most of the charm and simplicity of earlier years.

I looked forward to strolling through the old town and being a tourist for a day. Observing the milling throngs one could be excused for thinking that



*Rhodes is a Viking city. Tall blond beautiful young men and women were everywhere.*

*Mandraki harbour is alive with yachts arriving constantly from far away places and yachts departing for other Mediterranean ports. I noted the flags of Australia, America, New Zealand, Britain and a host of other countries.*

*Cafes line the harbour front; they are the ovens of the community selling good food at reasonable prices. The taverns have gone up market, no more paper table cloths. The wine is served in ceramic jugs or glass carafes, not the anodised beakers of past years. A veneer of glitz and glamour blankets the old town and that is a pity.*

*Rhodes is the Mecca for young travellers and boats leave regularly for the other islands of the Dodecanese and for Samos, Chios, Mytilini and Turkey.*

*The walled castle offers fact and fiction to the tourist. One can stand and ponder near the water's edge thinking of the Colossus which spanned the harbour entrance in ancient times. The flowering hibiscus trees line the streets and with the ancient buildings that surround the Turkish style market places, are a joy to see. The impressive water cisterns once fed the old town. The surrounding sea is like blue enamel.*

*Rhodes the ancient, the medieval and the modern beckons all who visit her.*


**Kaye Cavouras (nee Fermanis)**  
Eden Hills, South Australia

### *The Cassie Tavern Night: Success*

A successful Tavern Night was held at Stathis Athenian Tavern, Box Hill, on Friday, 26 April, 1996. Over 84 members, families and friends, attended and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

We thank the Ticket Secretaries for their effort and in particular Mrs. Dianne Spartels.

### *From the mailbag*

 Editor, Cassie News.

We print a speech given by Mr Michael OAM at the Greek Orthodox Church on 22nd October 1995 in Perth WA.

The speech was forwarded to us by Mrs Mary Adgemis and received from her brother Mr J Kyris.

▼▼▼▼

**The Reverend Father Stylianos**

The Consul for Greece in Western Australia, Mr Theodore Passas.

The President of the Hellenic Community of W.A. Mr Paul Afkos and the Committee.

My name is Mick Michael. I am honoured and privileged to be invited to address you today. The day chosen by our community to commemorate and observe the 50th Anniversary of the end of World War Two. The year Australia remembers.

I welcome our distinguished guests, and to say how pleased we are, they have paid our community, the compliment of being present today, and welcome personally Mr Keith Mattingly, the Executive Chairman for W.A. of the Australia Remembers 1945-1995 Committee, and I welcome the Greek the Greek Australian ex-servicemen of WWII who are present here today.

Welcome those of our community who are here today and I especially welcome the families of those who lost their lives during WWII.

I ask you to remember the Australian men and lads, and the Greek lads, who did not return, and who made the greatest sacrifice anyone can make, the sacrifice of giving their young lives for their country, during WWII, and those who did return, and who have since passed away due to war causes.

And to remember those men and women, and the Greek and Australian born lads, who served Australia on active service in the navy, the army and the air force, who faced the enemy, and those who were taken prisoners of war during WWII.

To remember the mothers and families, and their constant fear and concern for their sons, brothers and husbands would not return home, and remember the mothers and families whose sons did not return.

I ask you to remember the Greek men and women who served, and fought the enemy in our motherland, Greece.

To remember those who fought and died in other theatres of war, and in Crete.

And the Greeks of Crete, who risked their lives to assist the Australian and allied troops and remember the Australians, New Zealanders and the British who, rather than surrender, managed to escape from the enemy during those desperate times.

One of those Australian men who was helped by the Cretans to escape. has repaid his debt in full, with interest, and in magnificent way.

I welcome and speak of Mr Geoff Edwards, who is with us today, together with his wife.

To repay his debt of the monks of Prevely, and the people of Crete for their assistance, Mr Edwards gifted a magnificent and elevated piece of land .../



directly above the mouth of the Margaret River, and called it Previlly Park.

With support from Colonel Ken Johnson, and financial assistance from the Greek community of W.A., Mr Edwards then planned and built a superb replica of a Greek Orthodox chapel in the style, very similar to the one of the Previlly Monastery where he was hidden, and until called by the underground forces to finally escape the Island.

The Chapel was consecrated on the 4th June 1979, Mr Edwards was awarded the medal struck by the Greek government, for those allied servicemen who fought in the Greek campaign.

He was also awarded the Patriarchal Gold Cross of St Andrew, for his gift and service, to the Greek Orthodox Church of Australia.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you are ever in the Margaret River area, drop in to Privilly Park and view this delightful Greek chapel.

Another who served in Greece and unfortunately was taken as a prisoner of war at Crete, is present here today, and I speak of Dr Allan King, who served with the Australian Medical and Ambulance Unit.

Dr King is one of the many people who hold the Greeks in the highest regard. Dr King and I are both members of Perth Legacy.

I ask you to remember those of the Greek community who could not serve our country in uniform, who served on the home front and the contribution they made for their adopted country, in raising funds for the war effort. If we can turn back the clock to those times in Perth at the outbreak of the WWII, the Greek community was indeed extremely small compared to the numbers of today.

We all knew each other, or most of us were closely or distantly related, most of our parents came mainly from Castellorizo and other Greek islands and our church was the rivet that held our heritage and the community together. This magnificent building had just been built. Almost everybody lived a walking distance from our Cathedral. Russell Square opposite was our community park. We played or sport there as children.

WWII changed forever, the isolation of ethnic communities.

The relationship between them, and those of Anglo-Saxon descent, became more understanding, accommodating and much stronger. And the relationship between the two, and at that time, 'allied' ethnic communities became stronger. And who were they? the Chinese, the Greeks and those of the countries occupied by Germany. They had their own fund raising committees, but more

importantly, they were raising funds for the war effort of Australia.

The Greek community also had a committee to raise funds for the red cross of Australia.

In fact, funds were also raised for the Red Cross of Greece, before the country fell to the Germans. Members of our community were decorated by the Greek government - for their service to the Greek Red Cross.

Combined ethnic community functions were held to raise funds to help the war effort.

I was reminded by Les Aris of one substantial fund raising exercise during 'The Miss Allied Nations Queen Quest'. Our representative was a young lady, Daphne Michelides who, with the assistance of the Greek community, raised thousands of pounds.

On a lighter note, the Greek community had the Quest won until, at the very last minute, the Chinese community, with a very substantial donation, tipped the scales and were declared the winners.

During WWII, some will recall, the Australian Government awarding all wives and mothers whose husbands or sons were on active service, a gold brooch form which hung a small bar. It was embossed with a star or stars, depending on how many of their menfolk were on active service.

I know my mother wore her brooch with great pride.

The days started to darken for Australia with the Fall of Singapore and also for the small Greek community of Perth. In fact the first Greek casualties of the war were:

Des Colleval, Peter Dimopoulos, Peter Omirides and John Caimanis, members of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion. And Jack Kyros, a member of the 2/4th Signals Unit. All captured at the fall of Singapore.

Jack Kyros' brother also served in the Pacific. Des Collevas was a sergeant with the 2/4th Machine Gun battalion, and was one of the first Australians to face the Japanese.

He was shot and badly wounded, and in this condition swam the Cranji River to escape the advancing Japanese, but only for a short time. He was eventually captured, and together with the others, spent more than three and a half years, as prisoners of war, on the infamous Burma Railway.

Des Collevas is here with us today. The Unit Jack Kyros served with, suffered 73% casualties. The average death rate was 43% whilst prisoners of war. All the Greeks who returned home at the end of hostilities.

Another I wish to mention, is the Late Gerry Collevas. The Collevas family lived just across the park in Milligan Street. Gerry was called to the army and in a very short time, found himself in the mandated Australian Territory New Guinea at Port Moresby early in 1942 - his Unit poorly trained and



poorly prepared. In fact, Australia was ill prepared and its forces under trained. Our trained and battle experience forces were in North Africa, fighting the Germans and the Italians.

And another country, Japan, was in the process of trying to steal our country from us. Gerry was a member of a W.A. Signals Unit, attached to that famous volunteer militia 39th Battalion, and I stress volunteer, who were the first to oppose the Japanese on the Kokoda Trail, and, in a desperate withdrawal against vastly superior forces, to about 14 miles from Moresby, held on until Australian reinforcements from the Middle East reached them, to the commencement of the first victory against Japanese forces in the Pacific. I mention Gerry Collevas because he is referred to, together with the men to the Kokoda Trail, in a book called: Onward Boys Soldiers because that's all they were - boys. It hasn't been long published - but it makes interesting reading.

I ask you to remember the Australian Navy at New Guinea which played such an important role; and the Australian air force, particularly, 75, 76 and 77 Squadrons. They hurriedly assembled out of crates, almost obsolete American Kittyhawk fighters. They were overweight and out manoeuvred by Japanese Zero fighters, during the Battle of Milne Bay. 75 Squadron was shot out of the sky in 41 days.

I had the honour of serving with 77 Squadron during those times. Another of our small band of Greek Australian servicemen, was Varol Spartallis, who, along with his brother and others of us, served in the Pacific; many of whom are here today. Varol was serving with the 15th Battalion, which formed part of the 29th Brigade. In 1945, they were serving at Bougainville and on the front line. At that time the Japanese had mounted a suicide charge. The Battalion repelled the Japanese back to their own lines. Varol Spartallis survived the attack.

About five weeks later, a Japanese Major appeared at a crossing on the Mivo River, with his escort, who carried a white surrender flag. The Japanese Corporal spoke perfect English, and stated the Major had been sent to negotiate terms of surrender of the Japanese on the Solomon Islands. The Japanese were then blindfolded. Varol was then given the honour of escorting the Japanese party to the Brigade Headquarters. I think at that moment, Varol was immortalised, both in photography and on documentary film.

The photograph of that momentous occasion in Australian history, when Varol escorted the surrender party, is displayed at the Australian War Museum in Canberra for all to see.

Varol is present, together with his family, here today.

I do hope our community will request the Australian Government for a copy of Varol's escorting the Japanese surrender party, and have it placed in a position of prominence, to remind our community, now and in the future, the service Varol and all those other Australian Greek ex-servicemen, gave to our country, Australia. A memorial plaque has been placed before us, in the position in front of the altar, to signify and pay respect to those who have passed away, in the tradition of our Greek faith, when a memorial service is held in our church. Engraved on this plaque, are the names of those Greek lads, who gave their lives for our country, Australia. I will read out those names to you:

**Michael N Sofoulis** - Royal Australian Navy.  
Killed in action when HMAS Parramatta was sunk off Tobruk.

**Demetrios A Pittos** - Australian Imperial Forces.  
Killed in action New Guinea.

**Nicholas Ross G Zimbulis** - Royal Australian Air Force - Accidentally killed while on service.

**Nicholas C Kykeros** - Australian Imperial Forces -  
Died of war causes.

**Stavros Bellos** - Australian Imperial Forces -  
Accidentally killed while of service.

**Stavros G Stavrianos** - Australian Military Forces -  
Accidentally killed while on truck convoy.

Stavros and I were the closest of friends.

Like all those heroes of Ancient Greece, they are eternally young. I would like you to reflect for a moment on those I have mentioned as well as all the Australian and Greek Australians, who contributed to the way we are able to live in Australia today.

Jack Kyros brought to my attention a quote from a eulogy written by one of the Ancient Greeks; Pericles, and wish to attribute, to all those who paid the supreme sacrifice and gave their lives for our country, during WWII. It is so apt for this special occasion.

EACH HAS WON A GLORIOUS GRAVE,  
NOT THAT SEPULCHRE OF EARTH WHERE IN THEY LIE,  
BUT THE LIVING TOMB OF EVERLASTING REMEMBRANCE,  
WHEREIN THEIR GLORY IS ENSHRINED,  
FOR THE WHOLE EARTH IS THE SEPULCHRE OF HEROES,  
MONUMENTS MAY RISE AND TABLETS SET UP FOR THEM  
IN THEIR OWN LAND.

BUT ON THOSE FOR OFF SHORES  
THERE IS AN ABIDING MEMORIAL,  
THAT NO PEN OR CHISEL HAS TRACED,  
IT IS GRAVEN NOT ON STONE OR BRASS,  
BUT ON THE LIVING HEART OF HUMANITY.  
TAKE THESE MEN FOR YOUR EXAMPLE,  
LIKE THEM, REMEMBER THAT PROSPERITY  
CAN ONLY BE FOR THE FREE,  
THAT FREEDOM IS THE SURE POSSESSION  
OF THOSE ALONE,  
WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO DEFEND IT

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS 1995

Artwork, Layout, Desk-Top Publishing, Printing by  
Peter Jasonides • Marketing Impacts • (03) 9840 6504