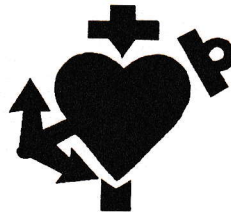


THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA
P.O. Box 112 South Melbourne 3205

THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.
"REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST - PUBLICATION No. VBH3850"

Castellorizian Newsletter No. 79 - October, 1991

Newsletter gives details of our A.G.M., details of a Concert given by Nana Mouskouri on the island Castellorizo and a reviews of a book by Alick Jackomos.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Our Annual General Meeting was held on September 22nd at our Club Rooms, 38 Members attended and we received 52 proxy votes: the Sub Committee appointed by Members at the A.G.M. in 1990 presented its report together with a new proposed Constitution. At the A.G.M. in 1990 all Members had the opportunity to assist in the preparation of this report, however only 3 Members came forward to commence this important task.

Over the past 12 months despite many requests in the Newsletter etc. only one member has come forward to give any assistance or advice to the Sub Committee, however at the 1991 A.G.M. many Members suddenly found voice and your Board received a lot of advice and criticism.

Because of certain legal matters the whole matter of the Constitution and the 1991 A.G.M. has now been referred to our legal adviser and it would not be proper for me to give any further report on the above Meeting. Your Board will keep Members informed and as soon as a decision is reached all Members will be notified.

FUNCTIONS

An **Afternoon Tea** at our Club Rooms will be held on **Sunday November 24th**. Final details in our next Newsletter. Fashion Parade & Bingo.

This years **Xmas Tree Party** for the children will be held at the Castellorizian Club on **Sunday December 15th**.

Have you **booked** for our Cup Eve Dinner Dance to be held at International Receptions on Cup Eve

CUP EVE DINNER DANCE

Venue: International Receptions
81 Bay Street, Brighton

7.0p.m. - 12p.m. Price \$40.00 per head - all inclusive

Band: "Omega"

Bookings now open:

Dianne Spartels	596 8610
Betty Adgemis	857 4035
Christine Dimer	592 9450

Have your paid your subscription yet?
If not please do so as soon as possible.

AWARD

On 28th August the Rotary Club of Waverley Central made a special award to Elizabeth (Betty) Exindaris for Vocational Service and Excellence in Music and Community Involvement. **Congratulations Betty.**

OFF OVERSEAS

Our Secretary Christine Pavlou off to Cyprus and Castellorizo to join husband Jim, we wish her bon voyage and a safe return home.

HOLIDAYS

Jack & Katina Miriklis with grandchildren Georgia Plafadellis, Basellia Konstas, Katina M. Miriklis & Jack M. Miriklis went to Coffs Harbour for the School holidays.

Home after an extended holiday overseas Kevin and Maria Kominos.

Home after a holiday in Europe and America George & Melody Papadopolos.

Dr Spiro and Margaret Moraitis in Sydney for a Seminar on Ethnic Health and Language Service. Dr Spiro presented a paper and Margaret's contribution was in the working party on Ethnic Health Services.

BIRTHS

To Dr Michael Koutsoukis and wife Helen a son (Caspar Constantine) 1st child for Michael & Helen & 4th grandchild for Mrs. Shirley Koutsoukis & 17th great grandchild for Mrs Eva Koutsoukis.

Michael has recently returned from an overseas posting to take up his position as Registrar at the Geelong Hospital.

BAPTISM

On Saturday November 30th at St. Haralambos Church Evan & Zefi Evangelou will baptise their daughter Panayiota (Penny). Penny is the granddaughter of Steve & Christina Bisas, godparents will be John & Joan Petridis. Reception at Egialian Receptions Wantirna South.

21st BIRTHDAYS

Diane Jackomos daughter of Angelo & Nicky Jackomos celebrated her 21st on 7th September, 1991.

Marissa daughter of Dianne & Michael Spartels celebrated her 21st with a party at the home of her parents on Saturday 28th September, 1991. Interstate guests included her grandmother Mrs Maria James from Sydney.

To Christine C. Lucas (daughter of Con & Despina) 21st congratulations party to celebrate at "Mitzi's of Brighton" on Sunday October 6th, 1991. Best wishes to you Christine from your grandparents Con & Chrissie Adgemis, your Aunt Mary, and cousins Louise & George, Uncle John & Aunt Mary Joanne and cousins Jonathan & Daniel.

Congratulations to Georgina Mingos daughter of Chris & Irene on your 21st birthday.

Congratulations to Sandra Lucas on her 21st birthday. Sandra is the daughter of Steve & Betty Lucas. A family party was held on October 6th to celebrate Sandra's 21st.

On September 29th Priscilla Salvaris celebrated her 21st birthday at a family luncheon at the home of her parents John & Stella Salvaris. Congratulations Priscilla.

WEDDING

On Sunday October 6th at St. Haralambos Church Michael Platis married Elizabeth Gazeas. Michael is the youngest son of Elaine Platis & the late Spiro Platis. Reception at "Villa Borghese" Kilsyth. From Adelaide to attend the wedding Fotini Moshakis with daughter Kathy and sons Jack with wife Nicole, and Peter together with Nicholas and fiancée Julie. From Western Australia Mrs. Ethel Xanthis.

Michael & Elizabeth are off to Los Angeles and Hawaii for their honeymoon.

In Memory of the late **Mr. S. Paltoglou** N.S.W. the following have donated to the restoration of St. Nicholas Church in Castellorizo:

Mr & Mrs. P. Paltoglou \$50

Mr. & Mrs. B. Hondros \$50

Mr & Mrs. C. Paltoglou \$50

Mr Steve Paltos \$20

In Memory of the late **Mrs. Xanthi Potamidis** the following have donated to St. Nicholas Castellorizo:

Mr & Mrs. A. Stabelos \$20

Mr & Mrs. A. Miriklis \$20

VALE

In Melbourne on August 27th, 1991 Mrs. Xanthi Potamidis, funeral at Ayios Anaryia's Church, Oakleigh. Mrs. Xanthi was the grandmother of George Varsamis.

NANA MOUSKOURI CONCERT

We are indebted to Peter Jasonides for forwarding us a copy of a Sunday newspaper "Tubos" from Athens. It features a two page spread on the Nana Mouskouri & Mano Hadtzidakis Concert held in honour of "**Kyra Tis Ro**" (Despina Ahladiotou) who as all Castellorizians should know kept her nationality alive by raising the flag during the 2nd World War on the island of Castellorizo. Nana was accompanied by Units of the Greek Navy and other distinguished guests.

The flag is now being raised daily as she did for 55 years by Costa Houlis and his wife. (Despina died on 13th May, 1982). The programme went to air through Channel 1 Athens, those fortunate enough to be on the island at the time of the Concert included Paul & Peggy Zervos.

We print the following article from the Sunday Age 29th September, 1991.

"Selling off pieces of Greece"

"Is this the ultimate case of selling off the family silver?"

A government proposal in Greece to sell off some of the country's 2000 or so Aegean islands in an attempt to ease the country's chronic budget deficit problem has prompted a massive outburst of indignation.

Earlier this week, Greece's National Economy minister, Mr Efthymios Christodoulou, announced the sale of 35 islets, most of which have no fresh water, harbors or beaches.

The government may be a conservative one, but that didn't stop its members from jumping up and down with disgust. A government official said the 30 inhabitants of one island were asked how they would feel about it? And the thought of neighbouring Turkey getting hold of a small chunk of Greece caused paroxysms of horror.

But the proposal to sell has not yet been ruled out. "There has been no final and definite decision on the issue of the possible sale of certain rocky islets," a Government spokesman, Mr Byron Polydoras said. "We realise it is an emotionally very unpleasant solution."

Now, who's got any bright ideas about our deficit?"

----- **ROLL OF HONOUR** **1939 - 1945**

Mr. Themistoclis Borobokas who is to give a lecture at the Phillip Institute is seeking the names of all persons of Greek origin who served in the Australian Armed Forces during the 2nd World War: the information is required to complete a Roll of Honour for all those who served their Country whether overseas or elsewhere, many names have already been forwarded but if you know of any person who served during this period please phone or write to Themistoclis at the following address:-

33 Godfrey Avenue, East St. Kilda 3183
or for further information - Phone: 534 5552

N.B. The information should include Division, Battalion and what part of the Services : A.I.F., R.A.A.F., Navy or Merchant Navy and rank held.

----- **ALICK JACKOMOS**

Recently I attended the official launching of a book by Alick Jackomos, title being "Living Aboriginal History of Victoria". We print an article by the Editor of New Generation from the Neos Kosman Newspaper George B. Bisas in which he reviews the book. The official launching was by Mr. Tom Roper.

"Living Aboriginal History of Victoria - The Greek Connection"

Living Aboriginal History of Victoria is not an ordinary book; it is a corroboree in print. The living past of the Aboriginal people of Victoria, Australia is brought to life through the stories told by the Koori people and the picture collections of Alick Jackomos and the Museum of Victorian, and members of the Aboriginal Community of Victoria.

The stories describe at first hand the Aboriginal experiences of life and include: living on mission stations; the forced removal of children from parents; living on the river bank and the fringes of town; agricultural work; the creation of art; the rediscovery of Aboriginal roots; international politics; sport and music. These are stories of triumph and hope that tell a part of Australian history which has long been ignored. It is written both for Aborigines - to better understand their Aboriginality - and for non-Aborigines - to understand the Koori people and their past.

Alick Jackomos has had a long and distinguished career in the service of Aboriginal people. In 1957 he was a founding member of the influential Aborigines Advancement League. In 1965 he was employed as a Community Adviser to Aborigines. He performed this work for 24 years until his retirement in 1989 at the age of 65.

Alick Jackomos occupies a unique position in Victorian Aboriginal society. For more than 50 years he has been involved in Aboriginal issues and has the honour of being the only non-Aborigine to be made a Life Member of the Aborigines Advancement League. His wide knowledge of Koori history in Victoria and his large collection of photographs inspired this book.

Alick's parents migrated from Kastellorizo, a small Greek island close to the Turkish coast, and settled in Melbourne during the early 1920s. Alick was born in 1924, the eldest of six children. His childhood was spent around Collingwood where his father ran a fish shop in Johnston Street. It was the Depression and life could be tough in Melbourne's inner city. Alick recalls, "In those days, there were mobs around Collingwood and Fitzroy. Dad was very friendly with the Don mob. He became a patron of the Don Football Club and every Saturday night he donated a crayfish to their raffle. Although there were many brawls and stabbings in the area, not once was Dad victimised. The Don were his Guardian Angels."

Prior to World War Two, there were few Aboriginal families in Melbourne and, except for the Australian League, created by William Cooper from Cummeragunja Mission, there were no Aboriginal organisations. Marg Tucker, whose life became immortalised by the film Lousy Little Sixpence, and Doug Nicholls, who was later knighted and made Australia's first Aboriginal Governor, were among the group who formed around Cooper. Thanks to "Grandfather James", an Indian teacher at Cummeragunja, they were among the first Victorian Aborigines to receive the same education as non-Aborigines.

They used their knowledge to educate white people about the terrible conditions in which Aborigines lived and to demand social justice from politicians.

Although only in his teens, Alick was already involved.

"On Sundays, Doug Nicholls, Marg Tucker and William Cooper gathered at Melbourne's Yarra Bank, a one acre reserve where anybody with a cause could speak. Doug would tell people about the Aboriginal situation. In those

days, Aborigines weren't even citizens in their own country.

They needed permission to leave reserves. They were totally under the control of state governments. I took around the collection tin, did odd jobs and ran messages."

Alick's ties with the Aboriginal community were grounded in a mutual love of sport, particularly boxing. Alick trained with many Aboriginal youths at the Exhibition Youth Club, Carlton. He was only 12 when he first fought with the Harry Johns Boxing Troupe.

During the early years of World War Two, the Aboriginal population of Melbourne grew. Alick said, "The war brought Aboriginal people to Melbourne and many were employed in the glass works at Spotswood and the munitions factory.

In 1940, 20 Aboriginal men from Lake Tyers joined up. They performed regularly at recruitment rallies outside the Melbourne Town Hall, playing in their Gum Leaf Band on the tray of a military truck. Their families moved to Fitzroy and Collingwood. The Melbourne community was getting bigger."

In 1942, at the age of 17, Alick enlisted and, after training, was posted to New Guinea. He was on the east coast of Borneo when the war concluded. He was lucky to get home alive; "While in Balikpapan, I stood on a land mine. Fortunately for me, mud had seeped under the mushroom cap setting off the firing pin." In 1946 Alick was discharged and looking for a new life as a civilian.

He returned to boxing and wrestling with Jimmy Sharman's Boxing Troupe. In country towns he joined the crowds and promoted himself as the Greek cook in the local cafe, the plucky, new-Australian who was ready to take on Sharman's top punchers. Sharman played the scene like a true showman, ignoring him or mocking his broken English from the boards.

The crowds became incensed. Alick won his challenges and became the local hero in towns across Australia. "It was all a show." said Alick.

After his marriage to Merle Morgan of Cummeragunja in 1951, Alick's involvement in Aboriginal issues took on a new pace. He settled down, bought a 1936 Chev truck and worked the Victoria Markets, supplying cafes and hotels with vegetables.

The culture and welfare of the First Australians has been the great passion of Alick's life. His life is so thoroughly bound with theirs that it is easy to forget his own cultural heritage has its origins in the Mediterranean Sea.

In more than 50 years of involvement in Aboriginal affairs, Alick has witnessed and participated in profound changes. Many of those changes are narrated in this book, from life on government missions and reserves to humpy settlements along river banks, from the indifference and cruelty of government policies to the resurgence of self-determination and cultural pride.

"But there is still a long way to go," said Alick. "Many non-Aborigines in government departments which deal with Aborigines remain paternalistic and find it difficult to relinquish control. There are still many Aboriginal families living well below the poverty line, and with health problems which would be unacceptable to the white community. Mortality rates remain very high. What saddens me is that so many of the Aboriginal people I grew up with died at an early age. Even their children have passed on.

This is something members of the non-Aboriginal community do not know or understand - the pain that Aborigines suffer in losing so many of their family."