

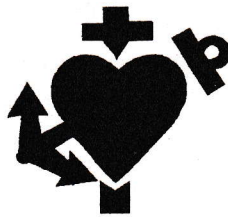
THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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.
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Castellorizian Newsletter No. 82 April, 1992

Castellorizian Newsletter No. 82 gives details of the Kannis Reunion in Western Australia. A moving report from the Sunday Times in Perth W.A. on Mr. Jack Kyris (Hatzikyriakos) and his story as a P.O.W. in the 1939-45 War. Also an article "Greeks up in Arms" from W.A. Michael G. Kailis is a life member of our Association.

IMPORTANT DATES

Annual General Meeting and Elections
Sunday 22nd August at Cassie House commencing 2.30

St. Helen & Constantine Day at our Club Rooms
May 24th, 1992

Tavern Night June 20th, 1992
Venue to be advised - all details from our Social Secretary
Mrs. Dianne Spartels Tel: 596 1787

HELLENIC STUDIES FORUM

A Seminar "Greeks in English Speaking Countries" was held in Melbourne over 3 days 27/28/30th March. Speakers from America, Canada, England, Cyprus, Greece and all States of Australia took part. The President of the Hellenic Studies Forum was Mr. George Papadopoulos. Speakers from Western Australia were Mr. John Yiannakis from the University of Western Australia, his subject "Castellorizians Participation and influence within Perth's Greek Community". Mr. John Kalafatas from the Greek Orthodox Community of Western Australia subject was "Hellenism in West Australia - is it nearing its end?"

Seminar objectives

The Seminar aimed to set in motion a process which explores analytically aspects of the settlement of Greeks in English speaking countries, particularly in those countries where Greeks form significant communities.

MAILING LIST - CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We once again ask Members to advise us of any change of address. We are now receiving far too many letters marked "not known at this address" **Please remember** it is very costly to post our Newsletter to wrong addresses.

50th BIRTHDAY PARTY

We congratulate Michael Spartels on his 50th Birthday, family and friends attended a party held at Michael and Dianne's Brighton home. From Sydney for the birthday party Dianne's mother Mrs. Maria James, the party was made more enjoyable when Dianne & Michael announced the engagement of their eldest daughter Evelyn to Dr. Jim Aroney of Sydney. The official engagement will be held in Sydney on April 19th, 1992.

BIRTHS

To Arthur & Helen Bouradanis a boy Dimitri (Mitso) at St. Vincent's Private Hospital. Helen is the daughter of Kiki Karageorge and grand daughter of Eleni Lazarakis.

To Jim & Pauline Bisas at St. Vincent's Private a boy Simeon on March 7th, 1992. Brother for Jacqueline 2nd child for Jim & Pauline and 2nd grandchild for Jack & Marika Bisas 20th great grandchild for Mrs. Eva Koutsouko.

To George & Effie Josephidis a boy (Forde). born at Cabrini Hospital March 25th and brother for Helene & Rosa & 5th grandchild for Rosa and Forde Josephidis, and 14th great grandchild for Mrs. Maria Karpoozes.

CHRISTENING

George & Helen Miriklis baptised their son Kyriako (Jack George) at the Church of Panayia. A party to celebrate the event was held at the home of Kyriako's grandparents Jack & Katina Miriklis. Godfather Savas Miriklis.

From Townsville grandparents George & Koula Augustis, Nick, Andrew & Maria Augustis, Manuel Krisohos with son George. From N.S.W. John Augustis and Helen's sister Peggy & Peter Mellios.

ENGAGEMENTS

Angela C. Mangos to Peter Briscoe on March 14th. A party to celebrate at St. James Hall. Angela is the daughter of Con & Dorothy Mangos, grand daughter of Evangelia Mangos. In Melbourne for the engagement from Sydney brother John C. Mangos, Angelas godfather George Koutalis with friend Margaret, Evangelia Kalaitzis with son Kevin, Maria Karp, Nick K. Zervos, Mary Koutalis.

On January 11th Evelyn Mangos (Daughter of Peter J. Mangos and the late Sevv Mangos) to Peter Tilley, grand daughter of Evangelia Mangos. From Sydney Evelyn's godmother Mary Koutalis and John & Melanie Koutalis, from Perth Drimatis cousins.

WEDDING

Tom Miriklis married Michelle Webster. Tom is the son of Manuel M. Miriklis & Doula (dec) at St. Ayden Anglican Church, Noble Park, reception at Merriml

In Melbourne for the Galatis-Cappai wedding held on Sunday March 1st from Magnetic Island Jim & Pat Chrisohos, from Sydney Mr. & Mrs. Peter Chrisohos.

HOLIDAYS

Kevin & Mary Kominos recently visited the island of Taiwan.

Returning to Perth Western Australia for the first time in Approximately 55 years Con & Katina Constance.

In Melbourne to visit his daughter Rose & Husband Peter Kailis, Hercules & Katnra Kakulas from Perth. While here they attended the christening of grand daughter by John C. Mangos.

In Melbourne from Castellorizo to visit their mother Mrs. Evangelia Kounera & family, Mr. & Mrs. Pandeli Papastatikos.

Off to Greece to attend her nieces wedding Smini Exintaris.

While in Perth Western Australia, Paul & Peggy Zervos attended the reunion of the Boyiatzis family.

ON THE SICK LIST

Still in hospital after her recent accident Georgia Loizou.

Home after a stay in hospital Mr. Michael Caripis.

VALE

On March 19th Stamatios (Stan) Pappas aged 74. Funeral from St Catherines, East Malvern to Brighton Cemetery. Survived by wife Bianca, widower of the late Panayiota(Boyatsis) father of George, Jim, Chris, grandfather of eight.

In memory of the late Mr. Stan Pappas Mr. Steve Paltos has donated \$10 to our Society.

In Sydney on March 13th, 1992 Anita Cotis aged 31, daughter of George & Daphne Cotis and grand daughter of Mrs. Nina Cotis. In Sydney for the funeral Mrs. Christina

Pavlou with daughter Leah Lemke. Funeral from St. Spyridon to Botany Cemetery.

A.G.W.S.

The Australian Greek Welfare Society this year celebrates its 20th birthday. Many functions and seminars will be held during 1992 a full list will be printed in our next Newsletter. A very popular function "The Sunday Beer Morning" will be held at 32 Chapel Street, Prahran on Sunday May 17th at 11AM. All welcome so come along and renew old acquaintances. 32 Chapel Street is the surgery of the President of A.G.W.S. Dr. Spiro Moraitis. The highlight of our birthday year will be a **BIRTHDAY BALL** at San Remo Ballroom on September 26th, 1992.

"We print the following article with the courtesy of the Sunday Times Perth W.A. Kyriakos Hatzikyriakos (Jack Kyros) was the only person of Castellorizian origin to be taken Prisoner of War in the 1939-45 War. Jack Kyros is the brother of Mrs. Mary Adgemis, Evelyn Karis, Michael Kyriakos, Mrs. Eva Peters and Herb Kyriakos all of Melbourne.

"For Your Tomorrow They Gave Their To-day"

KANNIS FAMILY REUNION

We have received two reports of the above reunion one from Mr. Nick Fermanis and one from Mr. Con Kanis we thank them both and in this Newsletter we print the report from Mr. Con Kanis.

"GREEKS ARE UP IN ARMS"

This article was forwarded to us by Dr. Spiro Moraitis "This has been a grave insult and I am leading a delegation to see the Lord Mayor"

Michael Kailis

"FOR YOUR TOMORROW THEY GAVE THEIR TO-DAY"

A group of W.A. war veterans made the trip to Changi Prison a day after an emotional memorial service at the Kranji War Cemetery to mark the 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore. Grandfather Jack Kyros relived the bitter memories of nearly being starved and tortured to death by a barbaric enemy inside the jail. Reporter Mark Russell and photographer Tom Rovis-Hermann joined the group. Jack Kyros will never forget September 15, 1945 - the day he left Changi Prison after suffering 18 months of starvation, torture and humiliation at the hands of the Japanese. The Ardross grandfather of five believed he would die in the infamous jail.

Mr. Kyros, 71, said his first day of freedom was nerve-racking. "I didn't believe the war was over. When I woke up from a deep sleep. I heard 12,000 men whispering to one another," he said. "I knew something was wrong and I saw these searchlights and the Japs running everywhere and I realised the war was bloody over. I sat down, I didn't cry or get weepy or anything like that. In my mind there was still a doubt because we'd been there for years."

Jack, a member of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion, was speaking after an emotional visit last Sunday to the jail where he suffered for 18 months. He and wife Kate joined a

small group of W.A. war veterans for a brief tour of the jail in Singapore. Memories flooded back as the large prison doors slowly swung open just after 9AM.

Jack chatted to the Singaporean guards, telling them about the atrocious conditions during his captivity, before setting out to find the cell he shared with two others when he was 23.

He walked nervously along the prison corridors remembering life as a POW and pointing out changes to the maximum security jail, one of eight in Singapore.

When he came to the first floor, Jack slowed noticeably as he searched for his cell but the authorities had changed the numbers so he was uncertain of where he had been held.

Jack was once thrown into solitary confinement for 30 days for incurring the wrath of his jailers.

"It was only in the second year that I realised that we were in a serious situation. We thought it was a holiday at first," Jack recalled.

"There were no doors or locks on the cells, but we weren't going anywhere. I always made sure I did something different every day to keep going, whether it was fighting someone or playing cards or draughts."

His weight dropped to seven stone during his ordeal.

As he left the prison behind, Jack said: "I felt all right until I started to come out and began to get a bit tense and weepy."

A short memorial service was held at the Changi Chapel before Jack helped to plant a tree in honour of those who were prisoners at Changi.

Jack said he had no feelings about the Japanese.

"My grand kids ask what do I think about the Japanese and I tell them I don't," he said.

Changi Prison, originally built to house 600 inmates, became a jail for 12,000 (including 5000 Australians) by early 1945.

The men were determined not to lose hope and organised lectures on subjects such as Shakespeare plays and foreign languages. They made paper from grass, water and potash, shoe soles from the latex of rubber trees, mixed with urine as a coagulant. Old car tyres were also used to make footwear. Old filing cabinets and the wood of rubber trees were turned into artificial limbs for amputees. Sets of teeth were made from chocolate bar foil. They grew vegetables to supplement their diet of pap, stewed rice, but found their Japanese captors would invariably eat them.

The daily ration was cut to 8ozs. of rice and 4 ozs. of vegetables during 1945. The Japanese never gave rations to POWs who were sick.

If only 500 out of 2000 men were able to work, rations would be given to the workers who would then share their food to help the sick survive.

"It was the greatest comradeship you've ever seen in your life," Jack said. "The rice would often have maggots in it but we ate it all because of the protein."

Jack managed to smuggle in 27 coconuts one day past the guards but refused to say how. "If anyone tells you the Chinese are the worst thieves, they're bloody mad. The Aussies could buy and sell them."

Paper was a precious item in Changi and the POWs learned how to split book pages to make cigarette papers.

Hibiscus leaves on hedges around the prison were also used for smoking, as well as for food and toilet paper.

Jack was sent on endless working parties from the prison and spent nine months in Thailand helping to build the infamous Burma-Thai railway. He was locked in a cage for several weeks on one occasion and his wife was informed he had died.

"I was very sick with malaria many times but I was never near death," he said.

Another POW in Changi, Mr Jim Duncan, said many stories were normally never repeated because people thought they were too far-fetched. Mr Duncan, president of the Ex-POW Association of W.A., said some prisoners would cut their water bottles in half, solder them up, and store food in them.

Jack and Jim will never forget their days and months in Changi as many Australians will hopefully never forget what the POWs were forced to endure for their country.

KANIS REUNION

In January this year, over the long weekend to be precise there was a gathering of the Kanis (Kannis) family in Perth. The idea was hatched from a chance comment at the birthday party of Peter Kanis, present there was Peter G. Kailis who decided there and then to do something about it.

Peter then on his return to Perth spoke to Theo Kannis and the two of them set about researching the family finding their addresses and circularising their intentions - quite a mammoth task.

The response was great. They came from everywhere, Brisbane, Surfers, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Darwin, altogether over 180 Kanis's or Kannis (in Perth) of up to second generation. There are too many to list but those from Melbourne included the elder states lady of the family Daisy Mangos, a very sprightly eighty two year old. She had a ball and was feted everywhere she went - I don't know about her visit to the Casino though.

Con, Gwen & Maria Kanis, Katrina Voyage, Peter, Juanna & John Kanis, John S. Heena Voyage with children Lara & Tony, Mary & Herbie Kyriakos, Rita Tatouros, Nick & Dulcie Fermanis, Lyn Kyrinkos, Jackie & Julie Lacombe, Kay Cavouras (S.A.), Kevin & Maria Komnos, Paul & Peggy Zervos.

The organisation in Perth was exceptional almost military in its precision. Three official functions were organised the first being at the Vineyard & Avocado farm of Peter G. Kailis at Baldivis. I stayed there for two days ostensibly to help in the organisation but it was so well organised I had little to do but enjoy it. The first function was held there on January 25th a magnificent day at the vineyard, nothing forgotten, quite lavish. Lambs on spits, prawns, fresh fish, salads etc. etc. just too much. The setting was beautiful, the younger ones using the swimming pool but we older ones the shade of the trees surrounding Lake Bianca. Some 180 or more were present and introductions to relatives not previously known and renewal of acquaintances of those known was great. It was not long before we felt we had known them all our lives. A day I will not forget - a huge effort by Peter and his helpers and Candy & John Galatis.

Sunday was a free day, some going to Fremantle, some to Rottnest Island and some just enjoying the Kastellorizian climate on the wonderful beaches. Goodness, why did my father come to Melbourne?

Monday January 27th a bus took us to the beach home of Theo Kannis at Mandurah on the foreshore of this wonderful estuary. Here again the hospitality was embarrassing. Nothing forgotten and I must mention those famous Mandurah prawns which required a special effort to obtain for us.

The following day was free up to 7PM and was used to further enjoy the wonderful beaches, some went shopping and I was fortunate enough with others to enjoy more hospitality from Sophie & Michael Kailis aboard their motor yacht to Rottnest Island.

The closing function of the gathering was held in a reception centre another great night, some speeches, some comical, some serious, some dancing Greek and whatever, and an exhibition harem dance. Most enjoyable but I won't elaborate.

So much for the program. It was a tremendous success, everyone still talking enthusiastically about it and plans are under way for another such gathering in either Melbourne or Kastellorizo. Many of the family drifted off have been reclaimed and contact made.

It was a great feeling but I think in more general terms of a Kastellorizian assembly in some form. Why not?

The whole thing resolved itself into a stark reminder of our proud Kastellorizian heritage.

To express the gratitude I feel towards Peter & Theo would be impossible as it is too great to express in words. To their helpers and there were many I say thank you too. And a very special thank you to that hard working lady Athena Palassis (Kannis).

Your hospitality and warmth was unbelievable, I feel so humble.

Con Kanis

"GREEKS ARE UP IN ARMS"

Report by Darcy Farrell

Mick Michael, Mick Kailis and Theo Kannis - three of the most prominent members of the Perth Greek community - are hopping mad.

So, too, are hundreds of their brothers, aunts and cousins.

They are applied that Perth City Council is considering ending its sister city relationship with the beloved island of their forebears, Kastellorizo.

The council may dis-continue ties with sister cities which have become inactive.

"This is a grave insult and I am leading a delegation to see the lord mayor," was the angry rejoinder from **Michael G. Kailis**, a CBE, former Citizen of the Year and vice-president of the world body of Kastellorizians.

Former lord mayor **Mick Michael**, whose father emigrated to Perth from the island more than a century ago, also is upset at the council's move.

"Thousands of West Australian descendants as well as the people at Megisti (Kastellorizo) will feel hurt if the council goes ahead," Mr. Michael said.

The Kastellorizians have had a significant impact on the development of WA.

They are prominent in all the professions with Con Zempilas the chief magistrate, professors Con Michael and Byron Kakulas leaders in medicine, Michael Kailis and his cousin Theo pioneers of modern fishing techniques and Ken Michael the commissioner of main roads.

Mick Michael was the first lord mayor of Greek origin. The honour board of Kastellorizian success in WA seems endless.

"We have contributed a lot to the community, but we are also thankful at being West Australians," Michael Kailis said.

"But does this mean we are no longer worthy?"

Theo Fermanis, of Dalkeith, said the sister city relationship was a gesture of goodwill and an acknowledgment of the contribution Kastellorizians had made to WA society.

He said there had been a steady stream of migrants from the island from late last century until World War II.

Kastellorizians had shown a remarkable ability. They had introduced free schooling and medicine long before most of Europe. The islanders were under Turkish rule for 400 years but managed to obtain peaceful co-existence with their hated enemy.

"The island has been our inspiration," **Theo Kailis**, of City Beach said.

"Members of the Perth community are helping to rebuild the old homes in Megisti.

"It makes sense to keep the sister city relationship going."

Another prominent city businessman, **Theo Kannis**, said he was appalled by the council move.

"I find it grossly unfair and very petty," he said.

Mr. Kannis said his grandfather, also Theo Kannis, was born in Kastellorizo in 1848.

The WA community was proud of its Kastellorizian heritage.

"We are all Australians but we have different backgrounds," he said.

"We should be fostering relationships, not breaking them off."

Mick Michael said it was also important that the ties with Houston and San Diego were maintained.

There were strong historical links. The USS Houston fought alongside HMAS Perth against the Japanese 50 years ago. Both were sunk with heavy loss of life.

"And most of the American fleet which served here during the war came from San Diego," he said.
