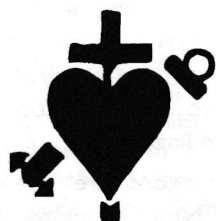


No. 113
November 1999

Cassie NEWS



the NEWSLETTER of the CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

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Welcome

Welcome to the Castellorizian Newsletter No. 113 which gives details of

- A story by the Late Panos George Livery which won a Literary prize at the Veterans Affairs Annual Awards
- Presidents report which was presented at the 74th AGM held on the 10th October 1999
- Eulogy of the Late Sampho Rose Malaxos
- Christmas Picnic

Christmas Picnic

The Cassie Christmas Picnic is to be held on Sunday 12th December 1999 commencing 11:00 am at Ruffey Lake Park The Boulevard (off George Street) Doncaster

Coin BBQ's available

BYO Chairs and Tables

Father Christmas to arrive 1:00 pm

Children wishing to receive a gift from Father Christmas are required to fill in their details on the application form provided in this newsletter. The forms are to be returned by the 1st December 1999. Children whose age is 10 years of age and under are invited to apply.

As this will be our last newsletter not only for the year but also for the century, the Cassie Board would like to take this opportunity in wishing our members, families, and friends a most Happy Christmas filled with love and joy and a healthy and prosperous start for the next millennium.

President's Report

Presented at the 74th AGM at the Castellorizian Association Clubrooms. 250 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne on the 10th October 1999. President: Mr. Michael N. Spartels

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that I present to you the 74th President's Report to be given for this century. As we sit here today, I think that we should all take a minute to reflect on the success of the Castellorizian Association as it has continued and grown every year, and is still around to witness the turn of the century. The Castellorizian Association heads into the new millennium with two of the most valuable assets that any association can have, a committed and strong

committee, and a very supportive members base.

We should be proud of ourselves, as we hold onto our traditions. Our great-grandparents, grandparents and parents, all worked hard to establish the roots in this country, that we have continued to nurture on their behalf. They provided us with stability, love, morals and education. We then have instilled this in our young, and make every effort for our children to keep together and support one another as ultimately we all come from the one family.

During the year, the committee has worked hard to produce an array of functions for our members. We had a joint cocktail party with the Ithacan Historical Society, to exhibit photos and reminisce on old times. Our next function was the Christmas family day at Albert Park Lake, where all the children who attended were presented with a gift from Father Christmas. Then during the course of the year we have held a Trivia Night, a Karaoke night and disco nights at the clubrooms for the benefit of our children. As always the St. Constantine and Helen's Day was a continued success, as we presented the Castellorizian of the Year Award and the VCE Awards. The Senior Citizens continue to meet on a monthly basis and have enjoyed many functions together.

Due to the financial prudence, our club is debt free. Our long-standing cordial association with the tenant continues.

I must point out, that it is crucial to our survival that we require more financial memberships and also continued patronage at all our functions.

May I take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members who have given their time and continual support towards the continuance, and future of our association. Special acknowledgment needs to be made to Kathryn D. Adgemis and Julie Constantas for their efforts in making the youth dancing group a success, and Mr. Steve Zombos for being our representative on the Dodacanese Association.

I would like to complete my report in wishing all our members, their families and their friends, good health and best wishes for the next millennium.

Michael N. Spartels.

Social Event

The Cup Eve Dinner Dance at the Manningham Club was a great success. The lovely venue saw over 184 people dine, dance, socialise and generally enjoy the evening. The dancing group danced and was presented with a cake and gifts to congratulate them on three years of dancing. There was an array of raffle and door prizes and the Cup Sweep.

Paramount to all, it was reassuring to see the next generation – our Cassie Youth enjoying the evening along with their parents and grandparents.

Congratulations to the organisers and all the helpers on the evening.

Following our success on Cup Eve we feel that as a club we still have the interest of our members and that they will continue to support us.

Cassie Shines In Rugby

"Willie" Peters, aged 20, son of Nick and Grandson of William and Cherie (nee Mangos) Peters (Mastropanagiotis) is having great success in the Rugby League World.

Born in Sydney, he was always talented and keen on Rugby at school. He progressed to play for local league South Sydney, playing half back, and is regarded as quick, tough and talented.

Currently he has a two year lucrative contract with Gateshead, (Manchester area), in UK, in the top league.

Recently their game was featured on Optus, Channel 22, replayed Sunday 4.00pm, when Gateshead defeated current champion Widnes. "Willie" played very well and was given "Man of the Match" and handled himself very maturely when interviewed.

We wish him all the success in the future.

Interstate

In Sydney for the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Lily and Peter Peters Mick and Nina Kyriakos, Jack and Marika Bisas

In Melbourne for a POW Reunion Jack Kyros (Kyriakos). The reunion was attended by interstate and overseas POW's. Jack saw service in Changi Singapore, Burma and Thailand where he was a POW. Jack is secretary of the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion.

Home after a stay in hospital

Chris Mingos
Steve Bisas
Esmini Exintaris
Marika Bisas

Get Well

To Steve Zombos who is recovering after an operation in hospital.

Thankyou

Nick and Maria Georgoulas through the newsletter would like to sincerely thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy on the passing away of Nick's father.

Thankyou to the Castellorizian Association, the Castellorizian Elderly and everyone who wished me well after my recent operation and stay in hospital. Your kind thoughts and wishes were very much appreciated.

Steve Bisas

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to Nick and Mary Patiniotis on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The Association wishes you many more happy and healthy years together.

Nick and Mary Patiniotis celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary at a surprise party organised and held at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Sylvia and George Varsamis. A further surprise for the couple was the attendance of their daughter Zephie Barboutis who had travelled from Brisbane for the occasion.

Birthday

In Sydney to celebrate the 2nd birthday of their grand child James were Dianne and Michael Spartels. Also attending the occasion was James's Aunty Marissa.

Wedding

Chris, son of Sam and Cherry Alexander, married Lana, daughter of Nicholas and Georgia Karantzis on the 4th September at the Evangelismos. The reception was held at Rippon Lea. The newlyweds will be honeymooning in the U.S.A. and Europe.

Engagement

Michael, son of Peter and Kathy Christofas to Therese, daughter of Kevin and Beverly Dickey of Christchurch, New Zealand.

Monday June 27 1999-11-03

IN MEMORIUM

Of The Late Glykeria (Daisy) Mangos nee Kanis

We, the bereaved nephews and nieces and children of Emmanuel & Maria Fermanis,

our mother's youngest sister, who are Nicholas E. Fermanis, Konstantine (Colin) Fermanis and Peggy Fermanis, enclose herewith the sum of \$75.00 as a donation to Her Memory as a Token of our deepest sympathy

Castellorizian Seniors Club

Annual Report October 1999

This year has had its high and lows. Sadly we have seen the passing of some members but in true Castellorizian spirit we have bounced back to have a successful year both socially and financially.

Firstly congratulations are due to our President Mr. Nick Patiniotis for the Castellorizian of the Year Award. Our gratitude is due to Nick for his continual efforts to gain support from the State Government Departments and the City of Port Phillip to enable us to continue activities for our members. Such activities included Yarra River Cruise followed by lunch at the Casino, a trip across the bay from Sorrento to Queenscliff, lunch at the "Iris Buffet" in Glen Iris, as well as our regular lunches at the Club. Of course we also thank the Association for its support in our endeavour to keep the Castellorizians active.

Christina Pavlou and Sylvia Coates represented the Club at Chadstone Shopping Centre selling "Daffodils" for the Anti Cancer Council.

Christina Pavlou and Anna Adgemis represented the Club at the Combined Greek Elderly Citizens AGM.

Our financial report is included in the Association's Financial Report.

Christina Pavlou (on behalf of Mr. Nick Patiniotis, President)

Castellorizian Seniors Club

Christmas Lunch at Olinda

Wednesday 8th December 1999

Join us for lunch at the Cuckoo Restaurant Travel by coach through the picturesque Dandenongs to Olinda where we will enjoy a smorgasboard lunch and light entertainment

Pick up points

Club Rooms South Melbourne 10 am

Doncaster Shoppingtown 10:45 am

Cost \$20 per member

R.S.V.P. Christina Phone 95982925

1st December 1999

Please Note that the Club Rooms will not be open Wednesday 1st December

An Olive Amongst The Sugar by Panos George Livery

G'day Sailors, Goodnight Sailors, Goodbye sailors

The night of the 8th August, the early hours of the 9th August 1942. The sinking of the HMAS Canberra.

It was about 11pm when I went up top for a breath of fresh air and as it was drizzling rain, I only had a quick look around. I saw 2 transports on fire and the island of Tulagi itself appeared to be on fire. It looked like a few ammunition stores had been hit by bombs going by the intensity of the fire, as flames were leaping into the air. I spoke to one of the 4" gunners who was also having fine minutes off – a chap called Starkey Cox and he said "I think we got one Jap plane". The funny thing about that meeting with Starkey was that it was to be the last time I saw him because they were later to take him off the Canberra critically wounded, but miraculously he somehow survived and as far as I know he is, to this day well and good.

And then it came. A great big thud. It seemed to come from the middle of the ship which was about 20 to 25 yards up from us. It was difficult to tell because anything exploding on the water line or below we could feel but anything exploding on the ship we could not. Simply because we were five stories below the top deck and each deck was secluded from the other by locked sealed doors in each compartment.

I said to my mate "Smally, I reckon that would have had to have been a torpedo blast". No sooner had he agreed, when he came back with "and I would say it was not too far away". Yeah the blast was followed by another couple of smaller blasts coming from what appeared to us to be the same position.

Two minutes later, a great big thud! You could see that the ship was starting to tilt to starboard and then it cam on the indicator clock. Abandon Ship!

Everyone made a beeline for the stairs but the hatch was locked. I was about fourth in line up the ladder and started to panic. Would they leave us here and floor the magazine as a safety precaution if the ship was on fire further along?

By now, three or four minutes after we were hit, the lights were out, the ventilation had stopped and the ship was starting to tilt a little further. Our leading hand passed an iron bar to the seamen on the top rungs and told one to bang as hard as he could, the other to yell as loud as he could. The hatch doors which separated the compartments were locked by specially assigned personnel in the above compartment and could only be opened from the top, not from below. So where were we to go from here? Dark, no air, perspiration. Fear and panic started to take over. I can always remember the leading hand saying, "If I ever get my hands on the person responsible for opening the hatch above, I'll kill the bastard".

But the two boys on the stairway kept banging away in the dark, in the hope that someone might hear. It sounded loud to us but could they hear it from above? We all took a turn. Unbelievable it was. The air was thick, stifling. The breathing was getting more difficult but we kept banging away. And believe me it was 2.30 am, half an hour after the order to Abandon Ship was given that our prayers were answered. Yes, half and hour without air, light and on the verge of collapse that another leading hand, checking out the damage to the forward area of the ship had heard our noise and opened the hatch door. Thank God. Another minute or so and it would have been too late. He had to help us out, one by one, our only strength being from his arms, our only light being from his torch. He then helped us up the next flight of stairs and once we got air into our lungs we gradually began to regain our strength. The air wasn't fresh, but it was air that had been circulating from an open compartment and as we slowly ascended to the top decks the air became fresher and we were slowly getting back to regular breathing.

As we left compartments behind us, this leading hand would close the hatch doors of each and flood the rooms by opening the valves. You could see why. The ammunition from the 4" gun decks was exploding, the ship was on fire and about 20 yards from where we were heading the fires were raging and coming towards the forward part of the ship where we were. There was only one compartment, the locker room, where the seamen stored their goods and belongings, between us and the fire.

We then made our way back to the top deck again. By now it was becoming almost impossible to use the stairs because the ship was listing even more so to starboard. In another minute or so the angle of ascent would make it impossible to climb the stairs. As I reached the top, the fires between the decks was spreading. The fires up top, started by the Japanese's direct hits mid ship were still burning and bombs were exploding from the ammunition storage's near where the 4" anti-aircraft-gundeck used to be until it was wiped out by the bombs. But the rain kept the fire from spreading quickly on the top deck and the flooding of ammunition magazines between decks helped contain the fire down below. The ship had ammunition magazines forward mid ship and that is what our leading hand in the cordite room was hoping and saying "For God's sake, I hope they let us out before they flood the damn things".

You know how lucky we were. This leading hand who opened our hatch only stumbled upon us by sheer luck. He decided for himself to have a look around. He was looking for wounded before flooding the cordite room when he heard noises. He couldn't make out where the noise was coming from until he shone his torch and saw the hatch door closed. I said to him "Where was the prawn who should have opened I and let up out when the signal to abandon ship came through?" To this he replied "Maybe he panicked and forgot, or maybe he was supposed to flood the place with all of you in it. Maybe the valves

didn't work when he turned them on. Maybe he just panicked and bolted up top. Aren't you lucky that I came along and if we don't hurry up we will be caught up in it. And do you know I didn't stop to see whether those valves were running water as he turned them on in our compartment and the one above ours. His last remark was after all, you are a part of the forward magazine".

By 4:30 am the USS Patterson, a fair sized destroyer, decided to forsake the exploding shells and fire and come alongside the Canberra in the darkness. We quickly threw a plank and even a large table (where that came from I do not know) between the two ships so the sounded could be carried across the destroyer was tossed up and down by the wild sea it made it very hard work. Somehow we managed, under extreme difficulties to get across about six stretchers and a few walking wounded.

Then all hell seemed to break loose. Shells were coming at us, exploding all around us. You could see them coming. Talk about confusion and chaos. No orders from the Canberra were being given. The officers on the bridge of the USS Patterson were yelling and screaming "Stand clear. Stand clear. For Christ's sake, stand clear". The hooter on board the Patterson was blowing and then whether you were ready or not the Patterson pulled away, taking with it ropes, planks, tables and guardrails. Everything that was tied to it went with it. And the firing did not stop. I ran for cover behind the A turret to dodge the shells coming straight at me. Everyone else had the same idea and dived on top of me. This episode lasted about 5 minutes. The USS Chicago, thinking that the USS Patterson was an enemy ship, had fired at it. I must admit they were landing very near to where she was whilst taking on the wounded. A lot of shells landed to the rear of where I was sheltering thus

helping fires further along but I reckon we were lucky that the rain continued. It kept the fires at bay up top but not so down below. The fire could only spread further to where we were, as if it were to spread to the rear it would have to jump the centre which had water pouring into it from the ocean, from the direct hits that were received to that part of the ship earlier on. It wasn't until dawn that the USS Patterson came alongside again. At least now everyone could see what they were doing instead of previously having to grope in the dark. We found more planks and shoved them across the two ships, helped to get more wounded across and when the Patterson's Captain decided he had had enough for the moment, they yelled "Stand clear" and pulled away. The wounded were taken over to the USS Fuller and the USS Barnett, high transports, who had just dropped off their load of marines on the beaches, about 3 to 5 miles from where we were, more to the Guadalcanal side.

I looked for my mate Smallwood and there he was on the USS Blue, about 20 yards up the forward part of the ship. He yelled out to me "Throw your parcel over" which I did and then

he said "when the ships become level, jump and grab the handrail and I will grab you or your hand. It took five long minutes before I could do just that and we in turn helped others over. It was only a matter of two feet but if your judgement was wrong you could have fallen between or be squashed by the two ships.

Later, I was to learn that this was not so. She helped on her way to the bottom by a few hundred rounds of shells from the US destroyer, Selfridge. This was after the USS Patterson and Blue returned to rescue the remainder of the survivors, the USS Blue taking them from the forward port side and the USS Patterson taking them from the aft port side. Altogether the Patterson took off 372 ratings and 29 officers and the USS Blue took on 321 ratings and 22 officers, a grand total of 744 crewman. 74 were missing, believed killed and of the 744 survivors, 109 were wounded. By 6.30 am the USS Blue took us to the USS Barnett and the USS Patterson had off loaded to the USS Fuller. Our captain, Captain Getting was taken to the USS Barnett with us in a very critical condition. He and nine others were buried at sea on the way to New Caledonia, which was to be our next stop when we got away from this hole of a place.

After 14 days survivors leave, we were once again ready for another posting. This one was to be England where crossing the Atlantic and avoiding the U-boats was to prove to be more nerve racking than being on the HMAS Canberra.

This story won a literacy prize at the recent Veterans Affairs Awards. This was presented posthumously to Pinos widow Mary Livery by Bruce Ruxton.

Supplied by Theo Conos

Memorials

Donations received in memory of Late Mrs. D. Mangos from

Mrs. M. Adgemis, Mrs. C. Bisas, Mrs. K. Miriklis, Mr. & Mrs. M. Kyriakos, Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis and Mr. & Mrs. S. Alexander and Mr. & Mrs. A Bisas.

In memory of Late Mrs. Penglis from Mrs. T. Anastasiou

In memory of Late Mrs. Matchos (Castellorizo) from Mr. K. Kharsas

In memory of Late Mr. C. Constance from Mr. & Mrs. L. Koutsoukis and Mr. & Mrs. A Bisas.

In memory of Late Mr. M. Kailis (Perth) from Mrs. C. Bisas

Christina Pavlou & Sylvia Coates represented the Castellorizian Seniors at Chadstone Shopping Centre selling daffodils for the Anti-Cancer Council.

Anna Adgemis and Christina Pavlou represented the Castellorizian Seniors at the Combine Greek Elderly AGM with Nick Patiniotis, the secretary.

On 6th October 1999 the Seniors had a very enjoyable trip across Port Phillip Bay from Sorrento to Queenscliff.

Eulogy of the Late Sampho Rose Malaxos

Our beloved mother – of Maria, Katina and Michael. Grandmother of Anna and George, Sister of Nick, Katina, Rita, Colin & Peggy passed on peacefully at the age of 83 years.

She was born on the 17th of March 1916 in Perth, Western Australia a mere 2lbs in weight! Her early days were a feat of survival. The family of three, moved across from the west to Melbourne (1921) where a shop was leased at 303 Clarendon Street, South Melbourne and a Café. The Ton Hall was established. Her parents were happy when Father's, Brother's and Mother's family (the Kanis's) joined them. This was in 1922. Sampho now 6 years old started school at Our Lady of Lourdes a few blocks from the shop. She had a happy childhood and was spoilt by her Yeya, her Aunts and Uncles, being the first born. The family lived above the shop and she was always in the Café helping her parents, if she could.

May 1923, Mother presented her with Brother Nick; she was overjoyed treating him as her doll, to play with, as little girls do. The Café was a great success, causing the parents to work long hours. As Nick grew, so she mothered him. These were great happy times, her mother's cousins the Spatalis family lived close by and the Café was the meeting centre. With the success of the business, Father bought a Chev van, and the great part was the trips to Luna Park, rides on the merry go round, on hot summer nights and on Sundays, to Hampton Beach or Rickett's Point for family picnics. In 1929 the Café was sold, caused by the economic depression.

February 1931, twin girls were presented to Father, Nick cried he wanted a brother. Rose was an able assistant to her mother helping with the nursing of Katina and Rita, Nick fought her for the job of pushing the huge double pram up and down Bridge Road. What a shock! In June 1933, twins again! At last a brother for Nick! Mother was so happy, Konstantino, (Colin) named after her father Kotso, and Despo or Despina, (Peggy) a real Fermanis so petite and she still is.

With the profits dad bought three shops on Bridge Road, Richmond. Two became vacant, so they were opened by him into a Café and a fruit shop; a doorway was knocked through the wall, becoming a large dwelling. Rose, now a teenager, helped everywhere she could, waiting on tables, serving in the fruit shop, life was tough, they were lucky, never to want. She had many girl friends who visited her, in the saloni at the back. One lasting friendship (now 60 years on) was with

Marie Donellan, later Mrs. George Manning.

The Café was closed, reluctantly; the fruit shop was far the more profitable. An archway was opened up thus joining the two shops, making a mini fruit market. At this time a newly arrived (from Athens) George Malaxos, was introduced to the family by mutual friends. Some months later Sampho was engaged to George. He was employed in the shop. A deal was made with Nick, George would help him with his Greek, and in return Nick would brush up Georges English. They both profited, George was well educated, he mastered English as did Nick with Greek. In 1936, father purchased 2 Creswick Street, Hawthorn. This was really living. On the Yarra, a villa of style bought for 1100 pounds. Views over the river to the city. This became the launching pad for the marriage of Rose to George, the whole Kazzie pre wedding ritual. A typical Greek wedding, six bridesmaids etc, reception for 300. How did Emmanuel pay for all this, sheer hard work and native cunning.

A house was bought in Burnley Street, Richmond. George worked with father and a year later Rose presented George with Maria. The first daughter, later on followed by Kay, now Petropoulos and in 1943 Michael. Shops were opened at different times, Swan Street, Richmond one a fish shop, this was successful, as was a fruit shop when they changed over. Later on in Burwood Road, Hawthorn. Rose carried on this shop when George decided retail was not his scene. He spent a few years at General Motors, some time at Bonegilla with a group of Greeks during the later part of the war in the AIF as interpreters. The business was sold, she managed to buy a house in Coburg, George to Australia Post where he managed to Act as a correspondent for Greek newspapers, becoming an editor of Phos.

Rose meanwhile, moved onto the present house in Heidelberg where she remained until her death. They were happy times, great enjoyment, when Kay married Peter Petropoulos, later on she had the pleasure of her grand daughter and grand sons weddings. She battled on in her later years bound to wheel chair, an amazing constitution, a razor sharp brain, so much so that uncle Mick Kanis dubbed her the "Agramatos Dikigoros" The recent birth of two great grand children completed her joyous life. No doubt by now her soul will have been welcomed by her relatives God bless her, may she rest in peace. Farewell dear Rosie.

The CASSIE CHRISTMAS TREE

**for children
Sunday 12th December**

Name of child(ren): M/F Age

Address:

Telephone numbers:

(BH) _____

(AH) _____

This form for Christmas gifts must be returned by no later than
the 1st December to:

Christmas Tree, Cassie Club

P.O. Box 112

South Melbourne, 3205

Age up to 10 years.

Only children in attendance will receive their gifts at

Ruffey Lake Park

The Boulevard (off George Street)

Doncaster.

MEMBERSHIP

**subscriptions to the
Cassie Club of Vic.**

NOW DUE

**Are you a financial member of the
Castellorizian Association of Vic.?**

**If not, why not? Membership is only
\$15 for families and \$10 for singles.**

**All membership fees are due from the
1st January of each year.**

Please indicate if you re over 65 years

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone numbers:

(BH) _____

(AH) _____

Kindly fill in the above form, detach and mail to:

The Secretary, Cassie Club

P.O. Box 112

South Melbourne, 3205