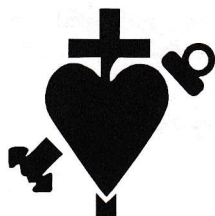


Cassie NEWS



the NEWSLETTER of the CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

Postal Address:
PO Box 112,
South Melbourne, 3205

Edited By:

Michael Spartels

**The Board of
Directors**

Executive Committee:

President

Michael N. Spartels

Vice President/Treasurer

Peter Coates

Secretary

Christina Pavlou

Board Members

Dianne Spartels

Sandra Varvodic

Sylvia Coates

Anna Miriklis

Iris Anastasiou

Welcome

Welcome to the Castellorizian Newsletter No. 118. In this issue you will find details on:-

- * The Castellorizian of the Year Award
- * Victorian Certificate of Education Awards
- * St Constantine and Helens Day Functions
- * An article on the exceptional performance of Daniel Pallarus
- * Feature of the John Karayannis memory of wartime Kastellorizo

St. Constantine & Helen's Day

St Constantine and Helen's Day will be celebrated on Sunday, 26th March, 2002.

10.00am

Church Service
St Constantine & Helen's Church
Barry Street, South Yarra.

12.30pm

Luncheon at the Club Rooms
250 Dorcas Street,
South Melbourne

1.30pm

Presentation of Awards

Castellorizion of the Year Award

We would like to congratulate Mr Kenneth Comninos Michael AM on being awarded the Castellorizian of the Year 2002

Greeks succeed in every aspect of life, inside and outside of their homeland. Another fine example of this, is Kenneth Comninos Michael, who was recently appointed Chancellor of the University of Western Australia. He is, in fact, the only university Chancellor of Greek origin in Australia. The Award, together with the VCE Awards, will be presented at the St Constantine and Helen's Day function to be held on Sunday 26th May, 2002.

V.C.E. Awards

Students who have completed their Victorian Certificate of Education during 2001 and would like to receive an Award for their achievement, please send your details to our Secretary no later than 22th April 2002. The Awards will be presented at the St Constantine and Helen's Day function at our Clubrooms on Sunday 26th May, 2002.

Facsimile

The Association has purchased a facsimile machine, which will become operative from the middle of May.

Any correspondence or information and topics for the Newsletter will be most welcomed.

The Phone/Fax number is

(03) 9699 7875

The first Greek University Chancellor in Australia

Kenneth Comninos Michael was born in Perth on 12 April 1938. His primary education was at Highgate State School - which still exists. He moved onto Perth Boys High School for three years and then completed his secondary education (a further two years) by gaining entry to Perth Modern School. Both Perth Boys High School (now closed) and Perth Modern School were government schools.

Like many people of Greek descent, his early years were in Northbridge, very close to the Church of Saints Constantine and Helen. He was baptised and married in this church. His father (deceased) was Agapitos Michael and he was known as Jack. His mother, who is nearing her 90th birthday, is Panagiota Michael - her maiden name was Zafiris. Both his mother and father were born in Kastellorizo. His middle name of Comninos comes from his grandfather on his mother's side.

His father migrated to Australia in the mid 1890's as a young lad and was naturalised as an Australian citizen in 1905. He worked in Cue in the Murchison goldfields until the beginning of World War II, when he volunteered for service in the AIF. He was injured and he was formally discharged in 1919. He married his mother, his second wife, on her arrival from Kastellorizo in 1935. His father died in 1946, when he was 8 years old.

Kenneth Michael has 5 brothers and 3 sisters, including half brothers and sisters. They are a close family and much of the credit for this goes to his mother, who never remarried. He married Julie Kalaf in 1964, just before they went to England for his postgraduate studies. Julie's father (deceased) was Con Kalaf, who arrived in Perth from Kastellorizo in the 1920's. Her mother (deceased) arrived in Perth in 1936 from Athens.

Julie and Kenneth Michael have two children - Philippa and Justin, both of whom are baptised in his parents' names of Panagiota and Agapitos respectively. Clearly their names have been suitably anglicised!

Philippa is married to Andrew Kalafatas, an orthodontist. Justin, an accountant, married Evangeline Kostarelas earlier this year.

Kenneth Comninou Michael ***Am, Cit WA***

BE(Hons), DIC, PhD, FTSE
,Hon FIEAust, FCIT, FAIM

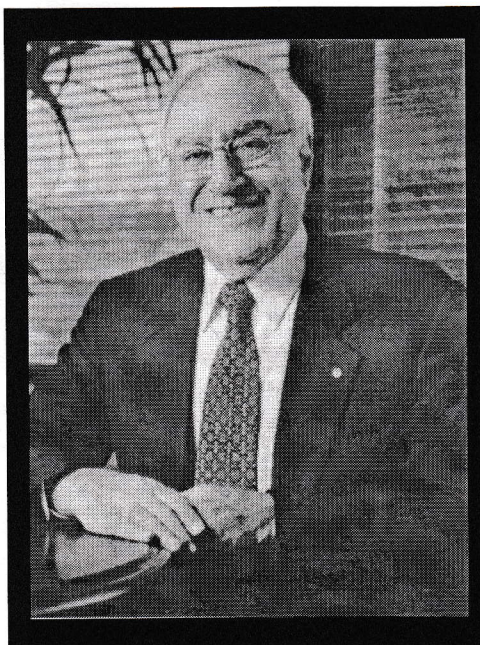
APPOINTMENTS

Western Australian Independent Gas Pipelines Access Regulator (1999-2002)
Acting Western Australian Independent Rail Access Regulator (2001-2002)
Managing Director, Ken Michael Consulting - engineering & management (1997 onwards)
Chancellor, University of Western Australia (2001 - 2005)
Former Commissioner of Main Roads (1991-1997)
Former Public Service Commissioner (1993-1994)

HONOURS/AWARDS

Appointed a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in the 1996 Australia Day Honours in recognition to his contribution to public service and engineering.

Awarded Western Australian Citizen of the Year for 2001 in the category of the Professions.



QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Engineering with First Class Honours in Civil Engineering (BE Hons) - University of Western Australia (1961)
Diploma of Imperial College (DIC)-Imperial College of Science and Technology, London (1965)
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) - University of London (1968)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (FTSE)
Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia (Hon FIEAust)
Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Transport, Australia (FCIT)
Member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia..
Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (FAIM)
Member of the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA)

Kitchen Renovations

Work has commenced on the refurbishment of our kitchen. The Kitchen area will be expanded to incorporate the office room.

The kitchen cupboards and appliances will be completely renovated and we are hoping the entire renovation will be completed by the middle of May.

Part of the cost of the new appliances will be funded by Grants provided by the State Government.

Graduation

Paul Pavlou, son of Demetrios and Christina Pavlou, graduated at Monash University Master Business Administration (M.B.A.) on 25th October, 2001

Visiting

In Melbourne from Brisbane to visit her family Zefi and Basil Barboutis with their sons Kyriakou and Nicholas. Zefi is the daughter of Nick and Maria Patiniotis.

In Adelaide for a family wedding, George and Georgia Exintaris with Elizabeth A Exintaris.

Antipodes Festival ***2002 - 13-28th March***

The annual "GLENDI" cocktail party was held at the Greek Community Centre, Lonsdale Street, Melbourne on Saturday 23rd March at 6.00pm.

Representing the association were Mrs Dianne Spartels and Mrs Sandra Varvodic. Also present were Mr and Mrs Steve Zombos. Amongst the many officials that attended were special guests; Mr Steve Bracks, Mr Denis Naphine, Mr John Pantazopoulos and the Mayor of Melbourne.

It was a most enjoyable evening.

Birthdays ***Congratulations***

Michael Kyriakos
on his 80th Birthday
19th March 2002

Na Ta Ekatostisis



Michael Spartels and Nick Patiniotis together with John Thwaites, after receiving the Grants at a presentation held at Prahran.

Family

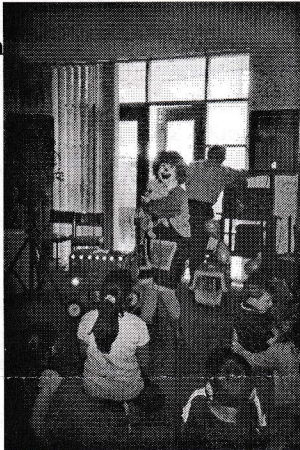
Christmas Tree

Christmas 2001 was celebrated on 16th December at Cassie House.

Over thirty children received gift from Father Christmas. A highlight of the day was an entertaining performance by Kikki the Clown

Kikki the Clown presented an entertaining session of magical tricks, as well as singing of Christmas Carols by all the children and of course Santa.

It is of vital importance that the younger generation continue to attend our functions as they are indeed, the future of our valued club.



Wedding

On Sunday, 24th February, 2002, Dr Noel Leon married Marissa Spartels at St Constantines and Helen Church South Yarra.



A reception was held afterwards at The Terrace Royal Botanical Gardens in Melbourne.

Noel is the son of Nicholas and Stephanie Leon of Brisbane.

Marissa is the daughter of Michael and Dianne Spartels of Melbourne.

A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

Achievement

Daniel Pallarus is the son of Stephen and Stacey Pallaras who live in Perth and grandson of the late Alec and Joyce Pallaras. The following is from a recent article in "The West Australian" newspaper.

Daniel's early start on higher learning

The TEE (Tertiary Education Exam) is tough - especially when you are 15, take seven exam subjects and teach yourself the entire economics curriculum in few months.

But for Daniel Pallarus it was a breeze.

Despite his exceptional circumstances, the Trigg boy scored an impressive 99.35 and was one of nearly 600 students to receive a TEE certificate of Excellence this week.

The impressive performance by the former Scotch College student is understandable considering he learnt to read before he was two and did Year 10 Maths at his local high school when he was only nine.

His exceptional ability saw him skip several grades, enabling him to do the exams two years before most of his age group.

It was his indecision about what to study at university which lead him to take seven subjects - above the acceptable limit of six.

He started studying the seventh subject - economics - in his spare time about two months before the exam and scored a respectable 77.5 per cent.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do at university, so I studied as many things as possible," he said. "I also wanted to see how I would go in a subject in which I was completely untutored."

Despite his natural intelligence, Daniel had to work hard, putting in up to 14 hours of study a day during he exam period.

He applied to study medicine or a double degree in law and commerce at the University of WA and two Victorian Universities.

But from mid-Januray he will be spending a year in Estonia on a Rotary exchange.

"I didn't get to choose which country I got to go to, but if I had, I would have chosen a country like Estonia because the exchange is about learning about other cultures, and Estonia is completely foreign to me" he said.

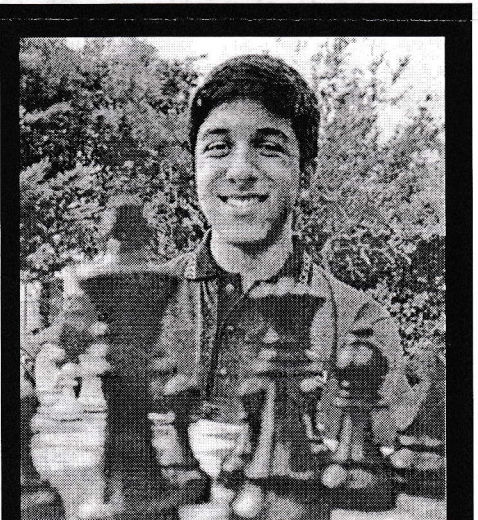
His parents say they are proud of Daniel, but have never pushed him academically because they want him to have a well-rounded life.

His other interests include swimming, chess, rowing and debating.

He also is believed to be the youngest member of the Australian Republican Movement and is an accomplished pianist.

He has won many awards for French, maths and science.

Last year he came second in the national Australian Business Week championships for young entrepreneurs and was the winner of the teamwork and commitment award in the same competition.



Daniel Pallarus

Memories of the War

Interview with John Karayannis and his memory of wartime Kastellorizo. He was aged 15 at the time of the war and came to Australia in 1952. This interview is part of a soon to be published collection of memories of war torn Greece.

Before the war, the port of Kastellorizo was filled with boats that traveled throughout the mediterranean. They bought supplies and products from Alexandria, Egypt and Asia Minor. Slowly, the number of boats began to decrease. By the time the war began, many of them had stopped sailing to other lands. In 1941 The British arrived and landed on the island, but they only stayed for three days because the Italians then took control of our island once more. This was all part of the plan of the British troops to pass from Crete through to Egypt. Every day our horseshoe-shaped port was filled with battle ships of all kinds. Among them was the Greek destroyer ship "Pavlos Kondouriotis", with its enormous Greek flag, which flapped on the stem of the ship, and conjured up feelings of national pride amongst the islanders. This also boosted our morale.

World War II saw a noticeable decrease in the population of Kastellorizo, however, there were still enough people around to give the British a tumultuous welcome. During this war, Kastellorizo suffered greatly. We had no food. People's stomachs were bloated, suffering from malnutrition. The Italians tormented us. They took 40 people away and threw them in jail in Italy for political reasons. We never saw them again. A young man was conscripted to Egypt. He returned with a brave plan to blow up 15 Italian aeroplanes that were waiting in the hangers of the Navy airbase in Rhodes. However, the Italians intercepted this plan, and he was killed. Also, unused bombs that had been dropped by aeroplanes, or left lying around by the Army, killed many small children. One of my classmates tried to remove the core of a bomb and it exploded in his face. We gathered the scattered pieces of his body. Another child found a bombshell and wanted to take it back with him in his boat. We were all shouting at him "Throw that away! It's a bomb!" That too, exploded and his body was strewn all over the place. he was the only son in a family with 5 daughters. This is what we had to deal with.

All this lasted up until 1943, and ended with the fall of Mussolini. Then the British arrived. This lasted for a week. We were so happy that they had come and taken over the island. but this didn't last long either, because the Germans arrived and they bombed Kastellorizo.

More bombing followed - both strategic and submerged. The island was bombed twice; firstly in 1941 by the Italians, and again in 1943 by the Germans. They caused a lot of damage.

Where exquisite houses were, was now nothing more than ruins. Our famous Castle was also destroyed. Many houses were knocked down, burnt and ransacked. Many people were killed.

And as if that weren't enough, they also set fire to the Island. Half the houses were ruined and still lay abandoned today. Many of the inhabitants had fled the island after the second bombing. They migrated without taking any of their belongings with them. They all left and migrated to Australia. Some were sent as refugees to the Turkish coast across from us. We were sent opposite us, to Turkey and then from there we were to be taken to Cyprus. We were promised that we would only be staying for a little while in Cyprus so we left all our belongings in our houses. All the expensive items in our houses were left behind, because we were told that the army would look after them. This was a lie. From Turkey we were then taken to Cyprus where we stayed for 3 months.

Then the ally ships took us to Palestine, where we stayed for 3 years. Some lived in tents, other stayed in rooms in the army headquarters. We were given 3 liras per family each month. With this we would buy some fruit. Many found jobs, some in post offices, others indifferent places, until it was time to return to Kastellorizo.

Only the well-known Despina Ahladioti - The Lady of Ro - managed to stay behind, standing firmly on her island rock, so she could raise the Greek flag every morning as she had done for the past 40 years. During the war she refused to leave her little island. She remained the guardian of Ro, even while the Germans were bombing Kastellorizo, and everyone had become refugees and fled the Island. This fearless woman would bravely raise the flag and passing Greek ships would see it and wave to Despina, the courageous woman well known for her loud voice and bravery.

Immediately after the end of the war, two groups of refugees, equal in number, returned to Kastellorizo. The first consignment left. The second consignment left. There they found ruins and the remains of hundreds of burnt down homes. Ruins and remains that had accumulated not only from recent bombings, but also from the inexplicable fire that had swept over the surviving houses. The third and final group of refugees that was returning from Palestine on the 29th September 1945 was both the largest and most unfortunate consignment of all. The boat caught fire on its return. 38 people were burnt. Others drowned as the boat went down. My mother, my sister and I managed to stick together and hold onto a wooden crate that had fallen off the ship.

We held onto this box in the frozen water for 17 hours until we were rescued. We saw many people drowning all around us, but we could not do anything. I remember asking the British sailor that rescued us to get a cup of tea for the three of us.

Then we were taken back to Palestine and were given clothes because we lost everything in the fire. This final catastrophe managed to dissolve even the smallest hope that we had for survival and for returning to our island. Returning to Kastellorizo, we found all the houses empty and in ruins. What we saw was a picture of decay and misery.

The British occupation of the island lasted for only another year, until the time when they handed over the island back to Greece. After this there weren't any jobs for anyone. Life on Kastellorizo got worse and so everyone was fleeing to Australia. Upon leaving, we left behind a burnt rock and a few fishing boats to remind us of the time when the port was once full with the famous boats of Kastellorizo.



Memorial Service

A three month memorial service was held at St Raphaels church Bentlyigh for the late Mrs Nin Papacotis. The late Mrs Nina Papacotis was the mother of Christine Pavlou and monther-in-law of Jim Pavlou.

In Melbourne for the service, was her son George Papacotis.

In Melbourne to attend the 12 months memorial service of the late Maria E Adgemis, was her brother Jack and niece from Perth.

Donations in Memory

The late Mrs Kontilou and Mrs E Papacotis (Sydney) from Mr & Mrs H Kyriakos.

The late Mrs L Caripis from Mr & Mrs D. Pavlou and Mrs S Coates.

Vale

A funeral service for the late Peggy Fermanis was held at St Catherine Church Malvern. Peggy was the youngest daughter of the late Maria and Emmanuel Fermanis, sister to Nick, Rita, Katina and twin Colin.

A funeral service for the late Lucy Caripis was held at St Panayias Church Balwyn. Lucy was the wife of the late Michael Caripis and the mother of Andrew, Kyriakou and Elizabeth.