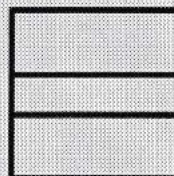


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Cassie

NEWS



126

Newsletter Number 256 August 2004

Castellorizian Association of Victoria Inc.

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Presidents Column

Much is said of our club in greek circles and the misunderstanding of us (Castellorizians) I as many others have wide diverse interests. Friends! (persons who would welcome you into their homes and you would welcome into yours) and acquaintances (those with whom you like to associate but would not have at home for dinner.) Yes we do not classify persons with whom we mix correctly and waste valuable time in

the pursuit of new and the unknown only to find dissatisfaction. Most people include acquaintances as friends. Social friends and acquaintances, **you** would not invite into your home for a meal are not real friends. If one does a test of all their friends they will probably look at the members of our club and say wow! these people are my real friends, I have known them all my life! We have grown up with the Castellorizian way of being loving and tollerent, Yes! We are very criticle of our own and worry what every one will say! These concerns we have been burdened with in our youth, have been watered down by real life and the fact that we cannot control all the outcome of all that happens to us. Our parents set us guide lines and we can only follow what we believe is the right path for us at that time, this will depend upon external and internal family pressures. The best thing a parent can do is to guide, a parent must restrain the thought of control, for in the real world that parent will lose. We should do ourselves a favour and enjoy what we have been blessed with for no matter what your wealth, being children or asset is today, life can deal you a different hand any day and that could change in a breath. Tollerance, patience, understanding and love all come to mind. Have fun and enjoy your family and friends. **We are here for a short time so let's have a good time!**

Function Calendar to date for 2004 year is as follows so please make the necessary entries in your diaries: -

Pleasant Sunday mornings are now to be held on the last Sunday of each month at 10.30am August 29th guest speaker is to be our own **Peter Kanis** former league footballer who

played between 40 & 50 senior Games with Hawthorn

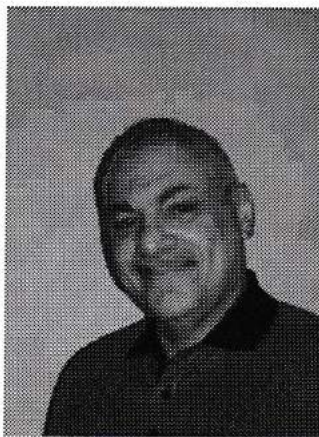
December 12th 2004 Christmas function

Report: - our first pleasant Sunday morning was a very layback casual affair attended by some 30 persons members and non members of our guest speaker as it happened was the former Carlton "Grand final" player (winner) Alex Markou (his former side kick (Spiro Kourkoumilas) was unavoidably detained.

St Konstantine and Helen's' day, commenced with the annual name day church service, followed up with lots of laughter good food and wine. We received a very colourful talk from our Castellorizian of 2004 (Nick Lolatgis) Who followed on with the **VCE Graduates of 2003 who are: -** Philip J Adgemis Tina Konstantinidis David Karis Luke Pallaras Katina Miriklis Simon Tapepas Kai Ulrik Madeleine Brody Alexandra Miriklis

We want you to promote Cassie businesses our members are involved with and or own. Cassies supporting other Cassies so, should you wish to promote a business with us drop me a line and we will get the ball rolling. We will be offering members the opportunity to advertise business or services free of charge. With any promotions for discounts to members, **(let us support our members there are benefits from doing so)** decorating tips, recipes, overseas travel hints and company for those travelling. Let us know your travel plans and meet other Cassies while you are away. Send us your business cards and we will include them in our database. It is something we can do without any cost.

NICK LOLATGIS



Profile

Nick was born at Horsham Victoria in 1948 to Peter & Nina Lolatgis, third born of 4 children. Nick was 5 when his father, Peter was killed in a motor vehicle accident. Nina worked very hard to raise her 4 children, leaving Country Horsham to return to her in-laws in Caulfield for a short stay and then to her mother's in Murrumbena, Nick spent some time in Murrumbena, and played in the hall that his father built to celebrate Christenings, Engagements and Weddings. The family moved to Elwood, "Edrie" the home that Nina and Helen still live in today. Nina met and married Nick Zographou and they had Vasso, bringing the siblings to 5. Nick Zographou was a great Dad and brought some calm into a rather chaotic world. It was not easy living and studying at "Edrie" with 4 families sharing the same house. Nick found it enjoyable and has many fond memories of that time. He recalls his Uncle Leo Koutsoukis's Name Days. Nick's job was to remove all the doors to accommodate more people in the house. He recalls his childhood on reflection was very interesting having so many adults around with all their rules and regulations it made life a little bit difficult and of course there was Grandma, the matriarch. Nick went to school at St Columbus (the Greek have a passion for Catholic schools) and then on to Elwood Central and Elwood High. Nick played football and basketball for Elwood High and continued to

play football through his university career.

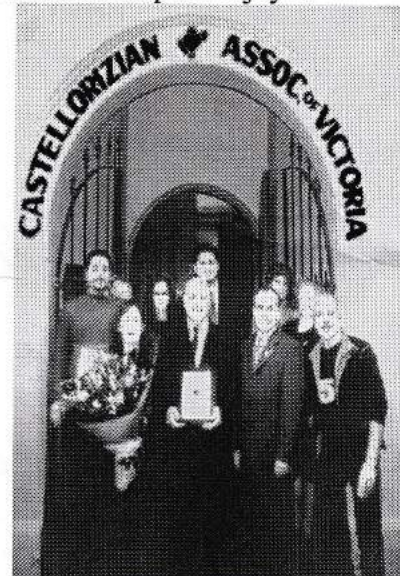
Nick played football and basketball for the Cassie's but played most of his football with the Melbourne High School Old Boys in the A Grade Amateurs. During 1971 Nick played one season in the Queensland Football League before coming back to Melbourne. During his time playing basketball and football and after a lot of pressure he performed in a Can Can at a ball with a few of his friends, who included George Verginis and Michael Jackamos. They had the words Cassie on our undies, which was promptly displayed to all.

Nick finished his matriculation in 1965 and gained entry to Medicine at Monash University graduating in 1971. His clinical year was at the Alfred Hospital and Dr Peter Mangos was instrumental in guiding him into a medical career. He had no idea which area of medicine to pursue however after spending his first year in Queensland Nick was exposed to obstetrics and decided it would be his vocation.

Nick married early in life and had 3 children (Nicholas, Steven and Lisa) Nick and his family went to England to further his studies where they lived in Buckinghamshire. He worked over there for a year before travelling through Europe for 3 months with his Mum and Dad. Marika and Jack Bisas visited them in London Nick recalls having quite a wonderful time whilst they were over there.

On returning to Australia he devoted myself to work at building up a practice in obstetrics and gynaecology and then In Vitro Fertilisation. Numerous changes occurred during his medical career, which included the further development of In Vitro Fertilisation techniques, the use of the laparoscope to perform quite major surgery. The development of some understanding and

knowledge in Polycystic Ovarian disease. Nick took great interest in the management and treatment of endometriosis and established clinics to further the treatment of these conditions. Nick's current interests include infertility and endometriosis but still delivers babies as he quite enjoy it.



Nick remarried and has a 6-year-old son, Alexandros Lambros Lolatgis, named after his late brother-in-law, Lambros Scotis. He is a delight and a source of constant amusement for him. Nick's other children have grown up and are pursuing their own career paths (he is very proud of them). Nick's interests include a passion for art and pursues this with great enthusiasm. Football has taken its toll on him most of his joints are wrecked, he does occasionally enjoy having a hit of the tennis ball with young Alexandros and Anne (his wife).



Note: - our Annual General Meeting for 2004 will be held on Sunday the 28th of November at 2.30pm

Congratulations

Many happy returns

Chrisanthe Christopher (nee Diamantis) who celebrated her 90th birthday

Get well: -

Marika Bisas, Chris Calmer, Paul Kyriakou

Bon Voyage

To our seasoned annual trekkers to Kastellorizo Maria Cominos, Paul and Peggy Zervos and to my youngest Son Philip J Adgemis who has gone to Kassie for his first overseas travel experience? George C Lucas and George Katris who will be travelling with his Fiancée Jodie for the remainder of the year

Welcome Back

Anna Adgemis, Jim Zombos

Donation by: - Chris Calmer in Memory of Con Zombos, Anthony Zombos, Christina Verginis (nee Zombos) Evangelia Calmer (nee Zombos)

Thanks to Jack Bisas for his generous donation of the additional water jugs, cutlery, salt & pepper shakers and drinking glasses we required prior to St Konstantine and Helen's day function

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ADGEMIS COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION

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FAX 03 9885 7155

Apology: -

Obituary of Matthew Karpouzis that appeared in the previous newsletter pictured him with his wife, however, the photo was actually that of himself and his sister (the late) Mary Karanikis. Below is the correct photo of Matthew Karpouzis and his wife Nellie.



LOANS HOME INVESTMENT BUSINESS



John Karis

- Rapid debt reduction
- Wealth creation
- Planning for the future or
- First home buyer



Anthony Adgemis celebrated his 40th birthday (na egadodisis)

The Future of the Castellorizian Association of Victoria

The future of the club rests with the members; the committee can only do so much to make sure that we carry on what our forefathers have established since the time they arrived in Australia. I write this article with great concern, as secretary I will not be standing for another term and I am quite certain that there is other committee members who will not be. Since we came into office 2 years ago we have tried to organise functions, a little different from what previous committees have done e.g. **Afternoon Tea** with a guest speaker – Dr Nick Lolatgis on IVF, a **Food Wine & Music Appreciation Night** at Madam Sousou and a **Greek Night** and have even brought back the **Pleasant Sunday Mornings**, once a month. The committee has had to do a lot of networking to get members to attend, and still we can only get between 50 - 60. Why is this? Your children are the future of Kastellorizo; they should know their heritage/culture. My daughter has been writing the articles, which you all enjoy in the Cazzie newsletter on what is happening over there. For the club to survive we need our members help, we need people to come onto the committee and are prepared to work and organise, so as to give direction for it to succeed. Previous Presidents in Jack Bisas and Michael Spartels and their committees tried endlessly to get members to return, they took on the job of refurbishment and upgrading our members facilities and needs. We are aware of the parking problems in South Melbourne, maybe its time for a change – should we lease another venue outside the GPO; would we then be assured that our members would come along and support us; or should we fold up. I recommend that you all attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 28th November to decide the future of your club, the Castellorizian Association of Victoria. For if you don't others from the committee will surely also retire and our club will be in disarray. Is this what you want?

By Maria Katris



Christenings

On Sunday 25 April, **Madisson Hamilton** daughter of Eammon and Flora (nee Adgemis) was christened at St Constantine & Helen's Greek Orthodox Church in South Yarra, followed by a combined christening and birthday party at Red Scooter in East St Kilda. Godmothers were - Evelyn Powell (nee Adgemis), Des Boland (nee Adgemis), Ellie Gray, and Laura Nolan. Godfather - George Filopoulos (son of Despina Adgemis) came from Athens with his grandparents George and Maria Adgemis for this event.

On Sunday 16 May, **Peter J Adgemis** son of John P and Michelle was christened at the Greek Orthodox Parish in Templestowe followed by a party at Stavros Tavern in Albert Park. Godparents were John and Despina Tarlarmis. Peter is the grandson of Peter and Koula Adgemis.

Graduations

On 22 April **Marina Panagacos**, daughter of Yvonne & George, granddaughter of Maria Kominos graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in Banking & Finance and Battler of Law.

On 22 April 2004, **Mark Mastores**, son of Peter and Christine, grandson of Evelyn Karis, graduated from Monash University with a Bachelor of Business (Banking & Finance). On the 24th April Mark commenced his 12-month travel adventure around the world, and will be working in Athens for the 2004 Olympic Games during August and September.

21st Birthday

Congratulations to **Ross Georgoulas** who recently celebrated his 21st Birthday with family and friends. From interstate for the occasion were Con and Tassie Mangos, Kerry Mangos, George Mangos and son Jonathan. Everyone partied until late and had a great time. One of the highlights of the night was the power point presentation on the big screen of his childhood presented by his big brother Phillip. Ross would like to once again thank everyone for their kind wishes and gifts on this special occasion. Ross is the second son of Nick and Maria Georgoulas and grandson of Spiro and Nina Mangos.

Seniors Update

Mother's Day Lunch - May

On Wednesday 12th May 2004, at the Sofitel Hotel Melbourne, 40 members of The seniors had a sumptuous lunch to celebrate Mother's Day. From soup, to entrees, to delectable main courses and desserts, we all had a wonderful time and left with very full stomachs. Thank you to Mr. Nick Patiniotis for organising this luncheon. For the information of all members, we meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the clubrooms and would love to see some other members if they are able to join us. Come along and catch up with old and new friends. We start around 11am. See you there.

Seniors - June monthly get-together

On Wednesday 2nd June, we were able to indulge in the Cassie tradition of Katoumari made by Vera Constance, with the help of her nieces who are learning the art - Irene Mingos and Christine Dimer. Everyone enjoyed having some of this delicious sweet and we hope to again try something traditional from another member - any offers????

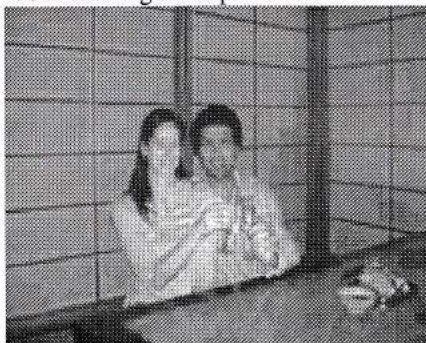
Vale

Also on that day, George and Sophia Alexiou provided lunch, in memory of Sophias' sister who passed away in Greece. Our thanks and sympathy go to Sophia, George and family.

Seniors articles by Christine Dimer

Engagement

On Saturday 12 June **George Katris** announced his engagement to Jodie Fox. George is the son of Maria and grandson of Con and Chrissie Adgemis; Jodie is the daughter of John and Jenny Fox. George and Jodie depart on a world trip for 7 months at the end of June and will be in Kastellorizo to attend his sister Louise's marriage to Yiorgo Karrayanis on the 24 October then onto London, Prague, Poland and finally to spend Christmas and the New Year in Brazil with relatives. Congratulations to you both have a great trip.



Euro 2004 - Soccer

On 30 June **George Lucas** an ardent soccer fanatic, headed off to Portugal to see Greece play their semi-final match against Czech Republic and then the final against Portugal. He witnessed Greece's fairytale 1-0 victory over Portugal in the Euro 2004-soccer tournament. Neil Mitchell interviewed George live on radio from Lisbon soccer stadium on 3AW. George also visited Kastellorizo; he is the son of Con and Despina Lucas.



Betty Adgemis, George Lucas and Louise Katris enjoy a day in Kaz (Turkey)



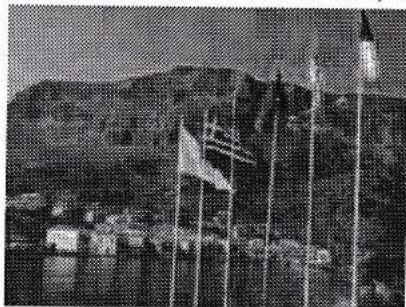
Canberra & Melbourne ites enjoying a night at the Ozzie Bar on Kastellorizo.



Photo below shows soccer fans watching a match played in Kazzie - the Aussies v Greeks. The Aussies were from Melbourne, Sydney and Perth and got thumped 15-4.

News from Kastellorizo from our roving reporter Louise Katris

Summer has arrived in Kastellorizo, all the

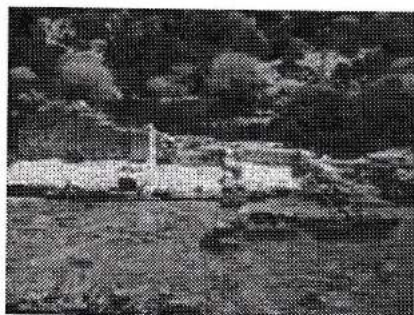


restaurants have opened, boats have been painted, the fishermen are finally whistling as they are selling fish before they are even catching it and there is life on our island.



"Kyrenia II, the Ship of Hope" sailed into the Kastellorizo harbour on the 21st April on a journey from Cyprus to the Olympic City of Athens. The original Kyrenia ship on display at the Castle of Kyrenia was first Discovered in 1965 by a sea sponge diver off the bottom of the coast of Chrysokava, which is a half a mile from the Kyrenia harbour, a Hellenistic shipwreck that sailed through the lifetime of Alexander the Great. The ship was lifted from the seabed between 1967-1973, with more than 60% of its original intact; it is believed to be the best-preserved shipwreck. The ship was constructed with pine timber and the carrier of Rhodesian wine and believed to be more than 80 years old before she was attacked by pirates and sank.

In 1985 an exact replica of the Kyrenia was built, the "Kyrenia Liberty" was the name given, representing the desire of all the Kyrenians to return to their beloved city of Kyrenia.



Papoutsis Travel and Daily Cruises with Barbara boat organised a fantastic day trip



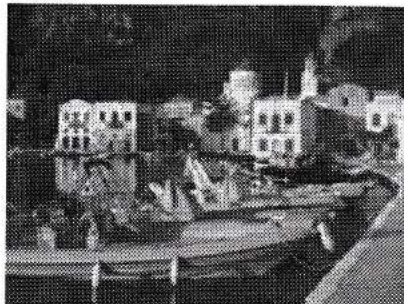
to Kekova the Sunken City in Turkey, we started out early in the morning and our first stop was to Myra, the home of St Nicholas, where we visited the tomb of St Nicholas (Santa Claus). December 6th is a major celebration in Myra where Arch Patriarch Bartholomew and Greeks from Islands such as Kastellorizo, Rhodes, Kos, Symi and Samos make there way to Myra for the name day of St Nicholas.

We then headed to Kekova where an earthquake is said to be the reason why this city has been under water for the past 3,000 years, as you cruise along the coastline you can see remains of houses such as walls and foundations. It was a fantastic and enjoyable day and if you are in Kastellorizo then its worth a trip, all you need to do is find George Karagiannis Captain of Barbara boat and let him organise it for you. Other trips that have just been organised are to Livisi, an old abandon Greek town in Turkey where locals were slaughtered after they exiled the Greek Orthodox Church.

21st May - St Konstantine and Eleni again proved to be a huge day for Kastellorizo where a Catamaran came in for the day, bringing Kastellorizians and day-trippers. The school children were



dressed in the original Kastellorizian outfit.



Forty motorised blow up dinghies powered into the harbour for a 3 day

stay, the boats came from all over Greece and was organised by the club in Crete, and travelling from Crete and Athens, to Rhodes they met up with others from neighbouring Dodecanese islands. From Rhodes to Kastellorizo it took them 2.5 hours. However bad winds and weather forecast cut there trip in Kastellorizo short and at least 30 of them left the next day, those that stayed were docked for 5 days due to bad conditions.

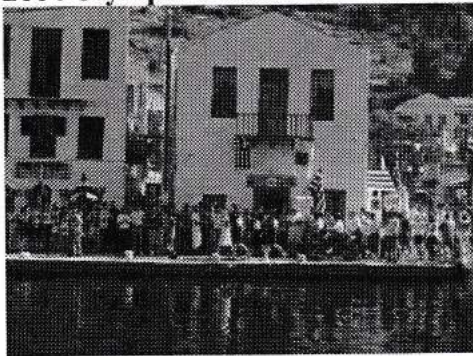
June 2004 marked the 100 years of the Kastellorizo Primary School, it was celebrated with the pre school putting on a musical show and then by the Primary children competing in the mini Olympics. Dr Hatzgiananki donated the restoration of the lady statues under the school name which, stood for many years in ruins. Betty Theodore of Sydney spoke on behalf of all Australians who went to school in Kastellorizo and then moved to Australia.



Well that's all from me for the month of May/June 2004, looking forward to the next issue to give you the run down on the Cyprus Cruise Ships that are coming into the harbour and the torch coming to the island. Also those that received the email that McDonalds was due to open on Kastellorizo and believed it, must know by now that it was an April Fools joke and the credit must go to Kosta Pavlidis from the KazBar, however the joke is now on him as there is a "KFC opening here soon" sign on his front door, and he has no idea who put it there!

Remember if you need any advice on accommodation, tours, ferries or flight details please contact me at dailycruises@hotmail.com

2004 Olympic Torch



Tuesday 13th July 2004 was a very proud day for Kastellorizian's, it marked the day where the Olympic Flame set foot on our tiny little island. Olive branches were splashed across the road where the Flame was to travel. Greek and Athens 2004 flags were hanging off balconies and displayed along the masts of tourists boats, St George and Barbara. The locals were excited and the Australian tourists who made this the reason to travel to the island were out cheering and dressed in the Olympic merchandise supporting the Aussie contingency running with the torch.

The flame arrived by helicopter at 4.30p.m., the first torch bearer was ex Perth Girl Roslyn Geronikolas. Roslyn met the flame at the airport and began the run down from the airport to the square where it was then relayed along the way through Peter Satouris of Sydney and to the two Kastellorizian's Niko and Chiko Maiffei.



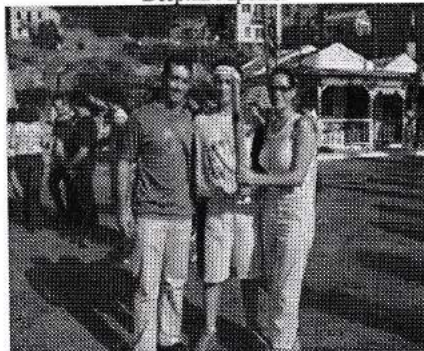
Roslyn Geronikolas, Peter Satouris, Niko and Chiko Maiffei

The flame was then lit down at the Limani, plenty of speeches and photos taken with the torchbearers, the local kids and teenagers were dressed in the traditional Kastellorizian outfits where they performed the traditional Kassie dances.

Dancers

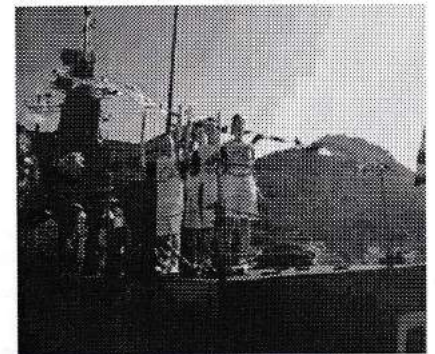


Despina Papoutsi

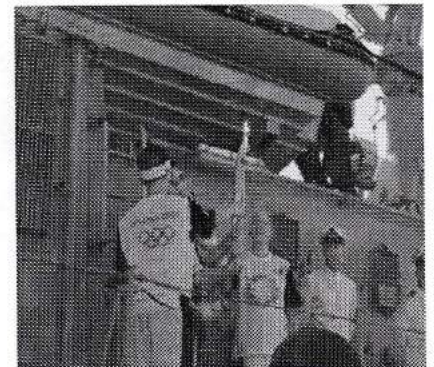


Louise Katris & Yiorgo Karayannis with one of the torch bearers

The flame was then taken on board the Navy Ship and put in the Lantern where it was whisked away back to the airport and helicopter to Rhodes.



Kastellorizo then continued with a BBQ, fireworks and dancing to the band's music until all hours of the evening.



It was a very touching and proud moment for all of us involved, the Greek Anthem was in the background and Kastellorizo for 1½ hours stood proud and united as one.

Congratulations

Luke Pallaras last year achieved an enter of 99.90. The same score as his brother Michael the previous year. In his final year at Camberwell Grammar School Luke was School Prefect, Captain of Debating and Editor of the Grammarians, the school annual publication.

In recognition of the diversity of his intellectual interests and abilities he was awarded the school's memorial prize for Scholarship, Leadership, Games and the Arts. He also received the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Luke has chosen to study Law/Engineering at the University of Melbourne.

Luke is the youngest son of Bill and Felicity Pallaras. Grandson of Michael (Dec) and Zoi (Dec) Pallaras, and Nina and Nicholas (Dec) Lucas.

Greeks in sport

Greeks are currently the flavour of the world so, it the best time to promote our past and present sporting heroes. The Cassies in Victoria have numerous sporting champions who have grown up in our midst send me all the information you can so we may have it all documented on our WEB page and we can have it included with the **Hellenic Australian Sports Foundation (Athlos)**. Athlos who are in the launch/development process of recognising Greeks in sport require all this information as well. We have achievers in various sports Football, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Diving, Taekwando and many more. Don't let these achievers to be lost, they have to be documented as soon as possible. Send your records to us to have copied into the pages of history. This Hellenic Australian Sports Foundation should be assisted where possible, as it is an enormous task they have taken upon themselves. To document and record current and past "sporting greats" who in some cases have been forgotten and/or are to shy to come forward to self promote. We who have some recollection and memory of them should make contact with "ATHLOS" with the information, I feel the Hellenic Australian Sports Foundation would welcome all the assistance we could muster. Contact details are: - georgeg@linuxcorp.com.au Athlos also are staging a Gala Dinner as per the brochure on this page, should you wish to make up a table contact me

JOHN S ADGEMIS on 0408547660. Information to hand is that **Andrew Demetriou** Chief Executive Officer of the AFL will be a guest speaker. How many family members do you have that have reached the pinnacle of their sporting careers and the memories are on a shelf in some room collecting dust when they should be acknowledged and promoted to other Greek youth as examples for them to go forth and strive for excellence. There exists a wealth of information that should be shared. Go for it!



Greek gods: Metakos and Greek sporting stars get in to celebrate their heritage. Front row (left to right) Angelo Liakas, George Georgios, Chris Poulos, Anthony Krassoulides, Miroslav Vasi, Vasil Vartanov, Nick Theodosios and Alex Martov. Back row: Ron and Lisa Richards. Picture: CRALF HUGHES

The best of Greece on show

Now the Greeks are set to announce their new U.S. team at a conference March 18-19 in Savannah. And there will be a couple of surprises. Former Olympic freestyleer Lou Richards and his brother Ron are in contention for the team as their brother is U.S. Olympic coach. Current director and former Olympian Chris Fredeen has formed the Active Foundation, which aims to help Greek sports people reach the top.

Headings can be made by e-mail to info@usa.usoc.org.

I used to be in team meetings and all that before the games, and come and steal all their parts and food and everything."

—REUTERS. BY AP/WIDEWORLD. BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS. BY THE AP/WIDEWORLD. BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Don't forget the "Pleasant Sunday" morning on the 29th of August 2004 with Guest Speaker Former AFL footballer Peter Kanis the morning commences at 10.30am be there or miss out!

Alert!!!!!!

Yes this is an alert for a new editor for the Cassie newsletter.

I am finding it difficult to put the newsletter together as regularly as it should be; time constraints with business do not afford me the luxury. I will still contribute the Presidents Column, it is important that this newsletter is released bi-monthly for the members and all the information is collated and sorted in a controlled format. So if you can get together think that you could fill the void email me johnnadamis@alphalink.com.au or
Phone 0408 547 660



ATHLOS
GALA DINNER

*"Recognising the Australian Rules
Greek Team of the Century"*

to be held at:

Grand Hyatt Melbourne
123 Collins Street, Melbourne

on:

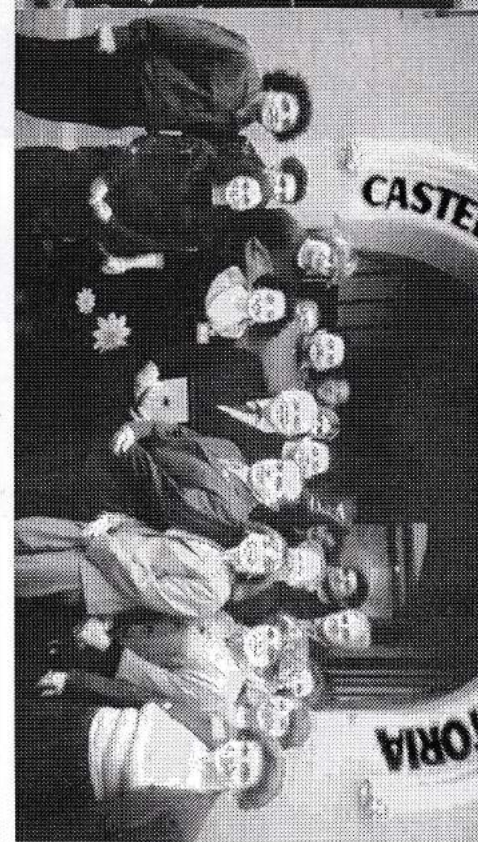
Thursday, 2nd September 2004

\$ 150 per head

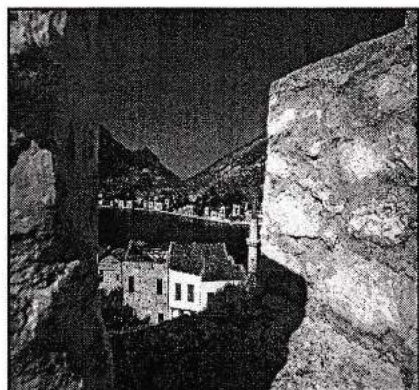
Every table of 10 purchased receives a Lobster Cave Restaurant Lunch/Dinner Vouchers Package to the value of \$500 (Conditions Apply)

AFL PLAYERS, SPORTS STARS &
CELEBRITIES IN ATTENDANCE

For bookings contact Piera on 03 9427 7411
or Filli on 0425 740 319

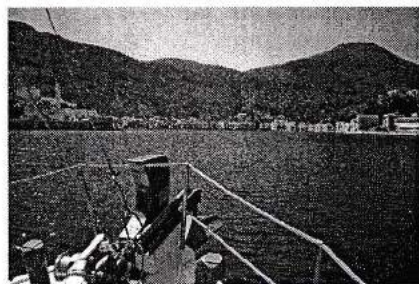


The Boat Home – article that appeared in the Age A3 section on 6/7/04



Victoria Kyriakopoulos reveals how a small Greek island is coping as families of Australian Greeks return to reclaim their memories and property.

All pictures taken by: Michele Mossop



As the caique sails into the port of Kastellorizo, Australian Sylvia Parras points out derelict houses along the picturesque harbour.

"That's the house my mother grew up in, that house went to my mum's older sister," the hotelier tells her grandchildren, who are on their first trip to Greece's remotest island, the setting for the Oscar-winning 1991 movie *Mediterraneo*.

The ruins of the castle after which the island is named are barely visible on the cliffs as the boat sails past the old mosque that is now a bar and the surviving brightly coloured, neoclassical houses that line the tiny horseshoe-shaped port. Kastellorizo has one of the prettiest and most unspoilt harbours in Greece, but will never be a big holiday destination. There are no real beaches, only a handful of small hotels and rooms for

rent, little infrastructure, and its water has to be brought over from Rhodes. Its population of about 250 is boosted by soldiers and public servants, and even at its tourist peak there are barely 1000 people on the island. The island's isolation has been both its enemy and saviour — and Australians appear to be creating a new chapter in the island's history.

The previous night, Parras and her sister Eva Savva had held a big house-warming bash in their new holiday home, setting the waterfront cafes abuzz with gossip about the party, and the rising price of real estate. Fourteen of the family, who together run the Cock and Bull pub and other Sydney bars, spent last summer in the triple-storey, 150-year-old home they bought in 2000. House-warmings are not traditional on Kastellorizo, but Aussie customs and obsessions can't help but seep into the local culture given the annual influx of Greek Australian "Kazzies". Once so dangerously underpopulated that the Government offered free tickets to get Greeks to holiday there, the rocky outcrop rising just off the southern coast of Turkey is now morphing into a Greek Australian village. For the past decade, an increasing number of Kazzies have waded through endless paperwork, often facing lengthy and bitter legal battles over illegal land grabs and squatters — and the odd family feud — to reclaim family properties, while others have bought land or renovated ruins. According to some estimates, more than half the property on Kastellorizo is now owned by Australians.

"It has effectively become an outpost of Australia in the Eastern Mediterranean, where you are more likely to hear an Australian accent than Greek," says Sydney lawyer and the island's unofficial archivist Nick Pappas, who bought the house his father was born in five years ago and acquired a second property from his mother's side. Kastellorizo was the setting for the film *Mediterraneo*.

The 30,000-strong Kastellorizo community in Australia includes some of the most prominent and successful

Greek Australians — among them Darwin's Paspaley pearling family, Perth's fishing and pearling Kailis family, Sydney's Peter Satouris, Adelaide's Senator Nick Bolkus, TV identity John Mangos and actor Thaaos Penghlis. The Greeks, more than any other migrant group, have always had a continuing relationship with their homeland, with many eventually retiring in Greece. But what is remarkable about the wave of Australians claiming property on Kastellorizo is that these are largely the Australian-born children and grandchildren of those who left — many of whom never returned because they were too preoccupied with establishing themselves and raising families. Most don't have any family left on the island. But the myth and magic of Kastellorizo has always loomed large in the Kazzie psyche. "There are better islands, but had we bought a house on Santorini it would not mean as much," says Eva Savva, who was 45 when she first went to Kastellorizo. "It's special when you go to the school and you know your mum was there. Mum and dad never came back. In those days it used to take a month on the Patris (ship) and from North Queensland it was a big deal to come to Greece."

Taking a trip to the island was, for many, a once in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. Once they got to Greece, there was still another long ferry trip to Rhodes, and another 14 hours on a slow, irregular boat from there. For a long time there was also nothing to return to, other than the remnants of the island's tragic history. The prosperous commercial port town had more than 14,000 residents until the early 1900s when it lost its privileges under the young Turks. It was successively occupied by the Italians, French and British, who evacuated the island during World War II. More than half the island's 2000 homes were destroyed by a fuel tank explosion after the British abandoned it in 1944. The final blow came when a boat returning the refugees to the desolate island sunk outside Port Said, and 33 people drowned.

"My father never came back here. He used to say 'Why would I go back, the only things I have got from that island are bad memories'," says former Perth banker Denise Matsos, whose father returned after the evacuation to find his father's bones in their looted house. But Matsos found herself more and more drawn to the island, and in 1993 quit her job and married a local. They now spend half their time in Perth and the Greek summer running a general store on the island.

With modern, high-speed ferries and a slick new 35-seater aircraft now bringing daily arrivals of Australians during the summer, the Aussie presence on Kastellorizo is immediately obvious, not least from the accents that echo around the harbour in increasing decibels. There is an unofficial "Australia Square" and the Sydney restaurant. Sydneysider Colin Paull and his mother spend up to eight months running the Kaz Bar, a restored family property on the harbour.

Former Melbourne advertising rep Louise Katris has a job at a hotel and is enjoying her new life with her fiancé Yiorgos, a local. "I miss my family but I don't miss Melbourne, and I don't miss work," she says. "But the hardest thing is not being anonymous here. You lose your privacy." The romance began in 2003 when she came with her mother to deal with a family property. "We got our house back after being rented for 30 or 40 years, rent free as long as they looked after it. Luckily my grandfather drew up a lease to say the house was his but others have lost their houses that didn't."



The regular return of the Australians may have been critical to the island's economy and rebirth, but it has also met with mixed feelings — and the transition from visitor to landholder has created new tensions, often because of the disparity between the Australian wealth and the poverty locals endured for years. "We have been living among the ruins for so many years," says local Paraskos Magiafis. "Now they are fixing their houses and we hope that will continue. We feel very obligated to them. They clean up the area, lights go in, the snakes and the rubbish go."

But long-term mayor Pavlos Paniyiris, who officially welcomes their presence, significantly understates their contribution and level of property ownership. He concedes the return has caused some problems and estimates up to 70 per cent of the land remains unclaimed. "Apathy led things to where they are because for more than 50 years they abandoned the island," Paniyiris says. "Now they have understood the value of the island and everyone has started getting interested in the land of their parents. It's positive because of the investment and because we get to know our fellow patriots who live in Australia." With no official land register, the only proof of ownership was in dowry contracts — land on Kastellorizo was passed through the women in the family — or witnesses and photographs. Language barriers, dodgy lawyers and an often hostile administration were enough to put many people off. "You have this tension between the locals, many of whom squatted in people's homes and were evicted when the Australians starting coming back in the '90s and claiming their land," explains Pappas, who has been instrumental in helping people reclaim land, tracking down copies of five volumes of dowry contracts. "Many are going through the process of pretending that time on Kastellorizo started in 1950 and they are absolutely horrified when someone turns up with a document or a photo of a house from 1906. It's like native title, you are always going to get another claim." Once they successfully claim

the properties, building often becomes the next headache — and a wildly expensive exercise as labour and materials must be imported. Sydney builder George Theodore has become a part-time resident project manager on the island, restoring homes and sparing people the dramas of dealing with local authorities, red tape and tradesmen.

Many Kazzies are planning or dreaming of spending much of their retirement there. "If my dad was in Melbourne he would be sitting in front of the idiot box," says Melbourne lawyer Nick Zervos, whose father Paul owns the famous "Blue House" of the prostitute who starred in *Mediterraneo*. "In Melbourne, he's an old man, here he's a guy who mixes with people for coffee and has his little routine, drinks his ouzo, shouts someone a drink. It's much more social." Paul Zervos began visiting regularly in the late '80s after he sold his Port Melbourne hotel, and in 1993, bought the house his mother was born in from his niece. He now spends every summer on the island with his wife Peggy.

Adelaide Senator Nick Bolkus, whose parents migrated to Australia as children, says it took him a long time to get to Kastellorizo. "I was 43 years old and fell in love with the place," he says. But like many, his experience has been bitter-sweet. The ruins of his family home were knocked down by the local council. Bolkus went to court to claim the property and won, but it is still not registered to him. "Mum and dad never left the island in an emotional sense, but they didn't have the resources to go back early on, and by the time they did they were too old to travel. "My parents wanted for us to reclaim and try to do something with the land. It's a bit of a dream."