

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
CASTELLORIZIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.

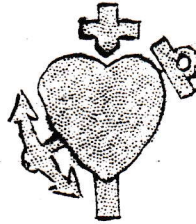
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EDITOR: JACK BISAS

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.
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Our Newsletter Number 16 this month features the story of Nicholas Michael Spartels, Details of our get-together at Mitchelton Winery and our night at "Dirty Dick's". There is also details of a feasibility study, currently being carried out by your Committee.

SPARTELS STORY: An interesting highlight of the story is that the late Nicholas Spartels was selected to represent Australia as Trainer/Manager of the Boxing Team sent to Auckland New Zealand in February 1950 to compete in the Commonwealth Games. We are also indebted to Mr Spiro (Tom) Raftopoulos for his assistance in the preparation of the History.

NUMBER 13 HOTHAM STREET: Your Committee at its last Board Meeting decided to try and purchase the house at Number 13 Hotham Street. (The house which adjoins our present property). We authorised the expenditure of \$35,000 which we thought was a reasonable price for the particular property. At the auction, which was held on 3 March, the house was passed in at \$43,000 - the reserve price being \$46,000. This property was sold to the present owners in 1981 for \$24,500. The house has not yet been sold.

FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Board of Directors have agreed to enter into a feasibility study with a number of Greek organisations with a view to setting up Melbourne's first Hellenic Centre. The Centre, which will be built on a site yet to be selected, will be a three-storey building with facilities for licensed areas, function and reception facilities (sporting areas for squash, tennis courts, swimming pool, sauna and gym), a library and elderly meeting rooms, together with child care facilities will also be provided.

The planned concept is innovative and interesting and will allow all partaking bodies to retain their own identity by providing their own separate club room, yet enabling us all to use the joint facilities which will be available. The Greek Community of Victoria unfortunately has fallen behind other communities in not providing a centre of this description. When further details of drawings and plans, etc, are available, a special general meeting will be called to discuss the project.

MITCHELTON WINERY . . .

On 18th March a get-together was held at the Mitchelton Winery by your Club. A very pleasant day was spent by 42 members who enjoyed the beautiful day and tours of the cellars. Once again we ask "WHAT DO MEMBERS WANT?"

D I R T Y D I C K ' S - 15th APRIL . . .

The function to be held at "Dirty Dick's" on Thursday 5th April has been sold out. No further tickets are available to a night which promises to be a most entertaining one. As "Dirty Dick's" is a very popular venue the number of tickets allotted to us were very quickly sold.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens' Week commenced in Victoria on Sunday 18th March. As well as special entertainment Senior Citizens will get -

- Free Public Transport on Sunday 18th March to Sunday 25th March
- Free Admission to Hoyts Village and Greater Union theatres from Monday 19th - 25th March
- Free Medical Checks at the Shephard Foundation for Aged Pensioners
- ** (Senior Citizens are those 55 and over who have retired from the work force) -

Our Society sponsors an elderly citizens club who meet regularly every Wednesday at our Dorcas Street Club Rooms.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE . . .

To celebrate Senior Citizens Week the Governor of Victoria, Sir Brian Murray, and Lady Murray held a garden party at Government House on 16th March. Invited to attend were Mrs Evangelia Koutsoukis of Glen Iris and Mrs Vayani Bisas of Nunawading.

TWIN CITY CELEBRATION -

To celebrate the twinning of the cities of Melbourne and Thessaloniki a number of functions were held in Melbourne during the week commencing Monday 19th March. In Melbourne to celebrate were the Major of Thessaloniki - Mr Theocharis Manavis and his party. To celebrate the 25th March and the Melbourne Thessaloniki event the acting consul for Greece - Mr I Giorgiardiis gave a cocktail party at the Regent Hotel. A Folk-Loric concert which was held at the concert hall on Tuesday 20th March 1984 was also held. The organising committee "The Melbourne Thessaloniki Friendship City Relationship Citizens Committee" has in its membership Cr Nick Zervos representing the City of Melbourne. I represented our Society at these functions.

FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE . . .

As part of his work experience Michael Conos has been in training with the Flying Doctor Service. The Service, which operates out of Darwin, covers the Wyndham, Catherine, Halls Creek area of North West Australia. Michael, who is completing his medical degree at Melbourne University, is the son of Theo Conos of Melbourne and will go on to Tasmania to the Franklin River to take part in a rafting trip, or as it is more commonly known, "Doing the Franklin".

B I R T H S . . .

- To Sylvia and Terry Bisas on 16th March 1984 a boy (Jack Terence), a second son for Sylvia and Terry and a second grandchild for Jack and Daphne Mirikiis and Christulla Bisas. A third great-grandchild for Mrs Vayani Bisas, Jack Terence was born at St Georges Hospital.

- Born on 22nd February at Francis Perry Hospital, a son (Jonathan Michael Constantinos) to John and Jo-Anne Adgemis. Fifth grandchild for Con and Chrissie Adgemis and 2nd grandchild for Mr and Mrs J Pachioliis.

E N G A G E M E N T - A party to celebrate the engagement of Mark Josephidis to Thespo Theoti was held at the home of Mark's parents, Forde and Roza Josephidis, on 17th March. From Cyprus for the engagement were Thespo's parents Mr and Mrs L Theoti. Officiating at the engagement was Father Ierotheos Kourtessis. Mark is the grandson of Mrs Maria Karpoozis.

HISTORY - COMMITTEE OF CASTELLORIZIAN BROTHERHOOD 1974

PRESIDENT - Nick Adgemis	V/PRESIDENT - Con Zombos
HON SEC - Paul Zervos	TREASURER - Michael Mirikiis
COMMITTEE - Steve Coufos, Bob Janis, Nick Kailis, Economos Adgemis and Nick Salvaris.	

LADIES COMMITTEE 1964 -

PRESIDENT - Tessa Hondros	V/PRESIDENT - C Couttoupes
TREASURER - Melody Hetrelezis	SECRETARY - Teena Loulatgis
COMMITTEE - Mrs Maria Bisas, Mrs H Kyriakos, Miss V Pallasas, Miss D Adgemis, Miss M Adgemis, Miss C Karis, and Miss Irene Lolatgis.	

SYMPATHY -

The Board Members and Members of the Castellorizian Society extend their deepest sympathy to Phillipa Adgemis and Jim Konstinidis at their recent sad loss. In Melbourne from Sydney and visiting her sister was Mrs. Thespe Lucas.

GET WELL

James Bisas after his recent car accident
John S Adgemis home after a stay in Xavier Cabrini Hospital
George Malaxos after his recent accident
Zamfo Malaxos after his recent accident
Con Constance - get well

IN MELBOURNE VISITING

- In Melbourne visiting his brother and sister-in-law Anthony and Katina Voyage, Savvas Boyatsis from Rhodes Greece. Savvas has been in Sydney visiting brother Mark Voyage and in Brisbane visiting his sister-in-law. He will stay in Melbourne with Tony and Katina Voyage for seven days before flying back to Greece.

NEWS ITEM . . .

Dr John M Salvaris (from Huntingdale ward) resigned on Thursday night from Oakleigh Council. Dr John had refused to align himself with either faction late last year, after being identified with the anti-Perryman forces which temporarily removed John Perryman from Caucus Chairmanship on 4th July 1983.
(From Progress Press Wednesday 14th March by Frank Palmos.)

NEWS ITEM FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA -

Professor Byron Kakulas of the Royal Perth Hospital has been invited to take part in a three-day symposium in Houston Texas in October of this year.

The symposium on neuro-muscular diseases is being sponsored by the Vivian L Smith foundation. Western Australia Professor Byron Kakulas perhaps best known in Australia for his work on muscular dystrophy will be a speaker. Participants will be there by invitation only and will include participants from USA, Poland, England, Yugoslavia, Sweden, East and West Germany, France, Scotland, Switzerland and Australia.

Professor Kakulas said restorative neurology had most application in chronic diseases with physical disability such as paraplegia. Others who could potentially be helped would have had strokes, Parkinsons disease, Huntingtons chorea, could be blind or deaf or have had a head or spinal injury. Professor Byron Kakulas is the son of the late Arthur and Filia Kakulas and is married to Valerie, the daughter of the late Father Patsoylannis, his wife being the late Roza (nee Kalafata), godson of Mrs Vayani Bisas of Melbourne.

FUTURE FUNCTIONS FOR THIS YEAR . . . FUTURE FUNCTIONS FOR THIS YEAR . . .

5th April	A night at "Dirty Dick's" (BOOKED OUT)
27th May	St Constantines Helens Day
17th June	Bouzcukia Night
29th July	Albury Trip (Poker Machines)

(A PROFILE ON NICKOLAS H SPATELS IS FOLLOWED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

NICKOLAS M SPARTELS

1900 - 1950

NICKOLAS MICHAEL SPARTELS was born on the 11th January 1900 on the Island of Kastellorizo. He was one of four children born to Michael and Evangelia Spartels (nee Kanis). Michael was the son of Haralambos and Maria Spartels. Evangelia was one of seven children born to John and Maria Kanis (nee Hadjitheodosiou). The other names of the children were Marina, Glykeria, Komninos, Theodoros, George, and Con.

Nickolas Spartels arrived in Australia at the age of 15 years with his parents, elder brothers Haralambos and John, and younger sister Maria. He lived in Western and South Australia before settling in Melbourne in 1920. Whilst living and working in South Australia his great love for boxing was born and which was to dominate him for the rest of his life. He had six professional fights, winning each one convincingly. However, during his last fight he broke his nose and was forced to retire prematurely. In Adelaide he became well-known to many young Greeks mostly from Kastellorizo, Ithaca and Kythera, all seeking work. One such person was Spiro (Tom) Raftopoulos. They both left Adelaide with others and went to Port Pirie where they found work at the smelters for ten shillings and threepence (10/3d) per day. From there they went to Broken Hill where they worked at the Johnstons Lead Mine. This was a very strenuous job. After two years of various jobs (it was a case of what you could find in those days) he arrived in Melbourne. He joined the Victorian Police Force for two years during the police strike in the early 1920's. This gave him also the opportunity to pursue his love for boxing and with other members of the force would train at the Police Gymnasium. On the 21st August 1929 he married Evangelia Zanailli at the "Evangelismo" with best man being his closest friend Theo Marmaras. They had three daughters and one son. Maria (Mrs Kevin Komninos) Peggy-Doukissa (Mrs Paul Zervos) Rita-Eleftheria (Mrs Stathis Sakellariopoulos) and Michael married Dianne-Despina (nee Adjemis-Sydney). During the depression in the 1930's, Nick Spartels started one of the very few kafania at the time in the old Myer House close to the corner of Swanston and Lonsdale Streets. It soon became the meeting place for most of the Greeks then living in Melbourne.

But still his great love for boxing would not leave him. The kafania was not enough. He had to find something that he could also indulge in the one thing he wanted most of all. Boxing. His dream was to have his own gymnasium and to be able to train young lads (preferably the under-privileged) to give to them the gifted knowledge that he had within him. He found it by taking over a Turkish Baths (today known as Sauna) business. Here he established his "Spartels Gymnasium" and went on to achieve what he had always wanted to do. He became involved in charitable institutions, orphanages, homes for young boys, etc, and was always there to give them the support and help they needed. In fact quite a few of these boys today are prominent professional and business men. He eventually became a well-known sporting identity as one of Australia's outstanding boxing trainers and above all a highly and respected gentleman both in the Australian and Greek communities. In fact he was the link between the Australian Society and the Greek Community. Apart from also being an active member of the Greek Community of Melbourne and Victoria he involved himself with many athletic associations and became well-known within the sporting circle as the "Beau Brummel" of the boxing world, always dressed in his white attire. He represented Australia as the trainer-manager of the boxing team sent to Auckland New Zealand in February 1950 to compete in the Commonwealth Games.

In the 1920's he was a member of the Kastellorizian Brotherhood and under his guidance it became one of the most thriving organisations in that era. Under his presidency he worked endlessly and tirelessly with other members of the Brotherhood for a relief program to collect money so that it could be sent to Palestine where 1500 Kastellorizians were living as refugees under appalling conditions. And he did it. The Kastellorizian Brotherhood was later to show its appreciation to one of its unforgettable members. At the time of his death Nick Spartels was vice-president of the Brotherhood, which had decided that the flag was to be flown at half-mast for three days from their building (then in Lonsdale Street). The Brotherhood would be closed during the duration of the funeral. The Committee of the Brotherhood would undergo no commitments for four weeks, and cancellation of the yearly picnic.

On the night of 3rd March 1950 one of Australia's up and coming boxers Spencer Driver, under the training guidance of Nick Spartels, was to put on one of his biggest and greatest fights. Under great pressure from his doctor not to attend, Nick, for his love and dedication to boxing, did not listen to his words. Whilst Spencer Driver was winning the fight at the West Melbourne Stadium (now known as Festival Hall) Nick Spartels collapsed and died of a heart attack . . . Australia had lost one of its best boxing trainers. Spencer Driver hung up his boxing gloves for the last time. He was never to fight again.

The funeral of Nick Spartels was one of the largest held for a Greek in Melbourne. Represented were the then Consul for Greece, members of both the Greek and Australian Press, well-known sporting identities and prominent members of all communities, brotherhoods and institutions known to him at the time. Nickolas Spartels died at 50 years of age and did not live long enough to see his grandchildren to whom he would have been very proud of, but they in turn all have the greatest respect for the grandfather they never knew.

Of what became of the other members of the Spartels Family, is as follows:

Michael Haralambos Spartels died in Melbourne aged 82 in 1943.

His wife Evangelia Spartels died in Melbourne aged 73 in 1944.

Haralambos died in Greece in 1983 after living there for 24 years.

One of his children, George Spartels, is the well-known actor.

John married Diamanto Spanoudakis and had three children - Michael, George, and Evangelia (dec). After Diamantos' death he married Nancy. John Spartels died in Melbourne in 1970.

Maria married George Paonlis (now dec). They had two children - Max (dec) who married Lucy Miriklis, and Rosa (Mrs Read) Anagnostou.

Maria died in Melbourne in 1947 aged 36 years.

Mr Spiro (Tom) Raftopoulos was born in Kition Ithaca 85 years ago. We wish to thank Mr Raftopoulos for his contribution towards this article. Mr Raftopoulos expressed that the following be also printed in our Newsletter and I quote "I am very proud and honoured to have known Nick Spartels. Not only was he a true friend amongst the Greeks and Australians but with everybody. He was loyal, trustworthy and the best friend anyone could wish for".

NICKOLAS M. SPARTELS
1900 - 1950

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