

1988

THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER

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OF THE

CASTELLORIZIAN SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.  
"REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA POST - PUBLICATION No. VBH3850"

September, 1988

The Castellorizian Newsletter No. 56 gives details of the A.G.M. held on August 21st. The Board of Directors have now decided to call an **Extraordinary Special Meeting** to be held on **2nd October, 1988**. We print Part 1 of a true story the title is "The Years that were Wasted". The story of Able Seaman P.G. Livery and the story is dedicated to the late Mr Con Zervos.

In the 'Melbourne Herald' on Friday August 5th, 1988 in the weekend travel section appeared an article written by novelist Frederic Raphael, the article was headed "The Island they call Catastrophe" The novelist in his forward makes the following statement:

"The story of the Greek Tradegy that destroyed Castellorizo"

We have not got enough space in this months Newsletter to print the article but if you have a copy of the Herald the article is well worth reading, we finish with Frederic Raphaels "Fast Facts on the Island,

Kastellorizon Island."

Population 270 - Climate warm to hot summer 24-28 degs. Winter temps as low as 10 degs. - Time 7 hours behind EEST. - Currency 117.15 drackmas to \$A. - Getting there: Olympic fare from Melb.-Athens \$2058.00. Athens to Kastellorizo via Rhodes by air \$188.00.

**BAPTISM**

On the 25th September, 1988 Con & Kaye Christofas will baptise their son (Scott) Con & Kaye will come from Adelaide for the ceremony. Godfather Chris Alexander.

**BIRTH**

To Christine and Alan McCaulfifle (a boy) at St. Vincents Private Hospital. 2nd child for Christine and Alan and a 2nd grandchild for Maria and Herb Kyriakos, and a 2nd great grandchild for Mrs. Daisey Mangos (welcome baby Herb).

**GET WELL**

Herb Kyriakos - in Alfred Hospital



### **IN MELBOURNE**

To attend the AGM of the Australian Greek Welfare Society Mr. Stanley Piperglou who is now a member of the Institute of Multicultural Affairs based in Canberra.

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Also in Melbourne Mrs. Lily Peters (Hatzi Kyriakos).  
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### **OFF TO LIVE & WORK IN TASMANIA**

Paul and Judy Pavlou - son and daughter-in-law of Jim and Christine Pavlou.

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Back from America to visit her parents Gina Liveris daughter of Pino and Mary Liveris.  
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### **VALE**

In Melbourne on the 6th August, 1988 - age 66 years. Father of Nick, George, Con, Mary -Mr Basil Gekas. Father-in-law of Gina Gekas(Kyriakos) and grandfather of Michael and Katherine Gekas. Funeral at St. Anargirios Church and to Springvale Cemetery on the 10th August, 1988. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

### **12 months MEMORIAL SERVICES**

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A Memorial Service for the late Tony Voyage was held at Evangelismos Church on Sunday 28th August, 1988.

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A Memorial Service to the late George Karageorge was held on 11th September, 1988 at Evangelismos Church.

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A Memorial Service for the late Luke Lucas will be held on Sunday 2nd October, 1988 at Evangelismos Church.

### **THANK YOU**

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Mr Con & Dorothy Mangos would like to through the Castellorizian News thank all their friends and relatives for their kind wishes, cards etc. on the recent birth of their first grandchild Cy: son of Barbara & Kevin Mangos.

Con & Dorothy Mangos have donated \$30.00 to the Castellorizian Club of Victoria.

### **WEDDING**

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Nick Vamvakis to Mary Spiro, Nick is the son of Harry and Freda Vamvakis and grandson of Mrs. Maria Lolatsis (Salakis). Wedding at Victoria Arts Centre, best man Ducky Narsoufi. From Athens for the wedding Mrs. Georgia Mamaki.

### **IN AUSTRALIA**

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In Australia to co-compere "Today" Channel 9 chief American correspondent Mr. John Mangos. John will be in Melbourne to meet his parents Con & Dorothy Mangos and meet his new nephew (Cye).

### **CONCERT**

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Symposium of the International Musicological Society and Festival of Music presented a Concert  
"The Building of A Nation"

on the 2nd September at the Victoria College of Arts.

Music for concert by Elizebath Exintaris, narrated by Gina Grammatikos.  
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## We print PART I

of a true story of one of our members - Able Seaman AA3 P.G. Livery while he was a crew member of H.M.A.S. Canberra in the 1939-45 war.

"The Years that were Wasted" by P. Lee Verrachi.

This true story is dedicated to the late Mr. Con K. Zervos.

In Pino's words: "Con, who only knew me and always referred to me as **Sailor**.

As the article is 10 pages long we will print parts of it in serial form as space becomes available).

**This** is a true story based on the experiences encountered by Able Seaman AA3 P.G. Livery O/N B 3491, while he was a crew member of the HMAS Canberra during the Battle of the Solomon Islands, in the 1939-45 war.

"I joined the Canberra in Sydney sometime in May 1942, while it was having a refit on Garden Island, that was a few days before the Japanese Midget Submarines attacked. At the time I joined the Canberra it was being fully stored and was ready to head for somewhere unknown together with the American Warships; Chicago, Dobbe, Perkins and Australian warships the **Australia** and the **Hobart**, who were also in port. These ships plus others became known later as Task Force 44 under Admiral Ghormby. On the evening or dusk of 31st Canberra was lying at No.1 buoy on Farm Cove when the Jap. Sub. struck.

As I was on shore leave that night, and so were two thirds of the crew, it wasn't till I got back on board, the next morning, that we were told of the HMAS Kuttabul, which was a ferry turned into a naval training ship, was hit by the Jap. midget subs, and the death of about 18 sailors. It was more like a 'cracker' night than a sub raid. That raid didn't effect the **Canberra** at all as the ship was tucked away in Farm Cove. The U.S.S. Chicago was lucky as the torpedo that hit the Kuttabul passed under her. How I do not know? that's what I was told, also one torpedo ran ashore on Garden Island and failed to explode.

The next day, everyone back on board, and being the 1st June 1942, the ship pulled out of Sydney and headed north only to become involved in naval exercises, with more American warships, joining in notably one was the 'Salt Lake City' - a heavy cruiser, American. After many naval manoeuvres - exercises and gunning practice - mock battles with the yanks; all this was happening out from Moreton Bay, while the ships were stationed at Brisbane. Every day continuously the ships would muster and go through their routine. Then on 14th July, 1942 having got a new squadron leader namely Rear Admiral Crutchley and a new Captain, Captain Getting, the ships sailed out of Brisbane and well into the Pacific, there were so many American warships around, one could sense something big was going to happen.

It was not till we were well out to sea, that Captain Getting spoke over the loudspeaker, of the events to come and on 19th July, the **Canberra** together with the others, after more naval manoeuvres and more mockbattles, Australian and American, entered Wellington Harbour N.Z., prior to entering Wellington ships seemed to come together from all sides including aircraft carriers, Saratoga and The Wasp, Enterprise and battle ship North Carolina and a lot of destroyers. We stayed at Wellington till 22nd July, 1942. We had one lot of leave and as we were back later than 12p.m. (a mate and I) we were severely reprimanded - we got lost somewhere in the suburb of Patane.

Anyhow, everything was ready for sea; one by one huge transports were pulling out, laden with marines, and heading for sea. All told I counted ten of them, and we followed them out.



Once out to sea, and seeing the large amount of warships, transports and others around you, you soon realised that something big was due to happen very soon. And immediately the ships' crew was placed under cruising stations, which means four hours on and four hours off from your action station position, and my position at 'action or cruising' was the "cordite" handling room, where you shove bundles of cordite, which stink of gun powder into the elevator, which then sends them up to the gun turret, then in turn are shoved into the breach of the gun after the shell, and when the detonator ignites the cordite it sends the shell on its way.

Now mind you we are situated about 5 stories down, the last compartment, we are a part of the forward ammunition magazine and on top of us is the shell room, the elevator at the same time takes the cordite and the 8" shells up to the gun turret - the shell first then the cordite.

During cruising stations there was only two of us, but at action station we are joined by a leading hand core - four others. That is 7 of us in a room 10'x12'x12' wide, crammed with cordite, and no matter what air conditioning you have, the smell is unbelievable, how the hell I went through it I'll never know.

The difference is at 'action stations' there is no such thing as four hours on and four hours off, you stay at your station, eat, drink and anything else, you just stay there; its bad luck, cause you are locked into your compartment, and if you wanted to go to the toilets you have to open about 10 watertight doors - so you see its just not on, but that corner got a lacing, I can tell you where it drained to is anyone's guess!"

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## **NOTICE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Since no quorum was achieved at the Annual General Meeting on 21st August we hereby give notice that an extra ordinary Annual General Meeting will be held on 2nd October, 1988 at 250 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne at 3.0p.m.

If no Committee is elected at this forth coming Meeting the Directors have no option other than to recommend the dissolution of the Association and all assests and funds will be distributed as per the constitution.

### **AGENDA**

1. Minute silence in memory of loved ones.
2. Minutes of last A.G.M.
3. Presidents report.
4. Treasurers report.
5. Building Sub-committee report.
6. Motion put forward by Mr. George Verginis that the Castellorizian Association of Victoria invite a joint Community body of clubs to amalgamate on a social basis and funds be directed to a community project of mutual interest.
7. Donation by our Association to a Greek Government approved scholarship fund in Athens for Castellorizian Youth.
8. Election of office bearers.