

THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA

P.O. Box 112 South Melbourne 3205

THE CASTELLORIZIAN NEWSLETTER

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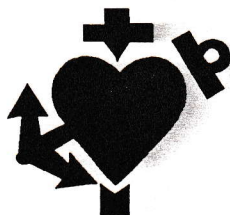
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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CASTELLORIZIAN ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA.
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Newsletter No. 71 September 1990

Castellorizian Newsletter No. 71 gives details of our Annual General Meeting to be held at our Club Rooms on November 4th, 1990.

We remind Members that it is an election year. With the courtesy of the Editor Mr George B. Bisas of New Generation 'Neos Kosmos Newspaper' we print an interview with the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Mr Steve Condous.

The final report on the 3rd Castellorizian Youth Conference by the Convener George B. Bisas.

Also a biography of the late Mrs Chrsanthi Lucas.

DIRECTORS REPORT

After many months of discussion with our architects Allom Lovell and A/S Pty Ltd the first complete feasibility study on our property at 250 Dorcas Street has now been completed. The study covers 45 pages and gives a number of options open to members. The study will be tabled at our 1990 A.G.M. together with the recommendation of your Board of Directors.

Bus Trip to the Pokies at Cobram-Barooga Golf Club

Thanks to Eva Lucas for her organisation of this very enjoyable trip for 40 members who were on the bus, but there were not too many winners on the pokies apart from Eva Lucas??

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of our Society will be held at our Club rooms on Sunday November 4th, 1990 commencing at 2.30pm. We remind members that this is an election year and the discussion and decision on the feasibility study will also take place. **Please mark it in your diaries.**

Society for the Care of the Elderly

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the Greek Community Centre Hall 10 Oakes Avenue Clayton on Sunday September 9th, 1990 at 2.30pm to 3.0pm.

A surprise Fancy Dress Birthday Party was given by Mr Kevin C Mangos to celebrate the 30th birthday of his wife Barbara, an enjoyable night was had by family and friends.

Happy Birthday Barbara.

Home after an Extended Trip Overseas

Anna Adgemis, Steve & Christina Bisas, Con & Dorothy Mangos, Jack & Maria N. Miriklis, Tony & Roza Stabelos, Dr George Stabelos, Dr Michael & Lemonia Piperoglou with family, Peter & Koula Adgemis, Dr Peter Mangos.

On their way home Peter & Koula Adgemis visited Brazil.

INTERSTATE NEWS

As well as our interview with Mr Steve Condous we congratulate Mr Peter Manettas of Sydney who was recently honoured in the Queen's Birthday Honours List when he was made a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia. Well done Peter!!

From Darwin

Mr Nick Dontas Speaker of the Northern Parliament laid the foundation stone for the new House of Parliament in Darwin.

Final Report 3rd Castellorizian Youth Conference

On the Queens Birthday long weekend the Castellorizian Association of Victoria played host to the 3rd Annual Castellorizian Youth Conference.

Bearing in mind the need to make the conference as interesting and diversified as possible, the organising Committee prepared what was widely believe to be an

innovative and exciting program of events. Delegates from interstate and local participants were able to choose from activities as varied as a Greek Tavern Night, sports afternoon and breakfast at the Windsor Hotel.

If success was measured by the level of enjoyment, the weekend surpassed all expectations. A lot of fun, new friendships and memories were gained over the three days. However, to say the involvement of local Castellorizian Youth was disappointing would be a gross understatement. It was pathetic! The Youth Conference was organised by a small band of enthusiastic Melbournians who firmly believe in the need to maintain some degree of Castellorizian identity in a fast changing world.

It was probably our misheld belief that this concern was genuine amongst young people of Castellorizian descent. The complete lack of support for the conference dismisses this view.

Enjoyment was high amongst those who participated. Efforts were tireless - many thanks to:

Kathy Bisas, Leah Pavlou, Anthony Adgemis, George Verginis, Eva Lucas, George Stabelos, Evan Kalaitzis, John B. Salvaris.

The President & Committee of the Castellorizian Association of Victoria, QUIT Victoria, Ansett Airlines, Neos Kosmos Newspaper, Priscilla Salvaris and the Metro Nightclub, Australian Football League.

On behalf of the organising Committee George B. Bisas.

VALE

In Melbourne on 21st July, 1990 Mrs Chrisanthi Lucas mother of (Con & Despina) (Steve & Betty) Bill, and (Evelyn & Chris).

Funeral at St Raphael's Church Bentleigh and to New Cheltenham Cemetery on 24th July, 1990.

The Society extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

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The following have donated to our Society in Memory of the late Mrs E Lucas.

Mrs Christulla Kanis \$20

Mr & Mrs Peter Christofas \$10

Mr Theo Conos \$20

Mr & Mrs Michael Spartels \$20

Mr Steve Paltos \$10

Mr Jim S. Paltos \$10

Mr & Mrs N Zographou \$10

Mrs Evangelia Mangos \$20

Mr & Mrs Harry Vamvakis \$10

Mr & Mrs Aleck Bisas \$10

Mr & Mrs Sam Alexander \$10

Mrs Chrissie Zervos \$10

Mr & Mrs Con J. Mangos \$20

Mr Steve Zervos (Rhodes) \$15

Mr Stamati Pappas \$15

Mr & Mrs Tom Adgemis \$10

Mr & Mrs Michael Kyriakos \$20

Mrs Maria Lolagis \$10

Mr & Mrs Jim Pavlou \$10

Mr & Mrs A M Miriklis \$15

Mrs Anna Adgemis \$20

Mr & Mrs Steve Bisas \$15

Mr & Mrs Con Mangos S.A. \$20

The following have donated to the Society for the Care of the Elderly in Memory of the late Mrs E Lucas Mr & Mrs Steve Adgemis \$15.

In Memory of the late Mrs E Lucas Mrs Hondros and Tess Hondros have donated \$30 to the restoration of Churches in Castellorizo.

In Memory of the late Mrs Papanastasiou Sydney Mr & Mrs Steve Bisas have donated \$15 and Mrs Anna Adgemis \$20

In Memory of the late Mrs Vayiani Bisas, Mr Stamati Pappas has donated \$15

Home after a Stay in Hospital

Mr Con J Mangos

Our honorary Welfare Officer Christine Dimer visited Mrs Dianne Spartels after her recent accident.

Still in Hospital

at Sacred Heart Mrs Evangelia Mangos.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On Thursday March 8th, International Women's Day, Australian Greek Welfare Society organised a celebration for women. It was called PORTRAITS OF GREEK WOMEN and five women presented their perceptions and experiences of life in Australia.

The women chosen were coming from different backgrounds and they were representing different groups of Greek women in Australia, that is first or second generation, educated or not, within a wide range of ages, starting from 16 to 65 years of age. Those women were:

Nina Zographou, Voula Katsianis, Theodota Kokonis, Maria Bellos, Theodora Patsias.

As the women speakers were relating their stories, the women attending the event were able to identify with experiences from their own lives and were eventually provided with an affirmation of their own self-worth, which was the aim of the function.

Also the structure of the function was designed in such a way that made women feel equal to one another and their lives important and successful in their own way for that particular day hierarchies were abandoned and all women celebrated together.

More than two hundred women from all over Melbourne joined the celebration. It was felt that the demonstrated enthusiasm of the women towards the event indicated the need for such recreational activities in their lives.

THE GREEK LORD MAYOR

Australian-Greek success stories in the political sphere are few and far between. When we talk of Australian-Greek politicians the names that cross people's lips are Nick Bolkus, Peter Morris, George Georges and Andrew Theophanous. In the last three years the name of Steve Condous has joined these names as another example of Australian-Greeks making a contribution to political life.

There is no doubt Steve Condous is a political success story. He is currently the longest serving member of the Adelaide City Council with 23 years service and entered his fourth year as Lord Mayor on 23 April. He was the first Greek to be elected to the Adelaide City Council and only the second Greek ever to be elected Lord Mayor of any of the Australian capital cities.

However very little is known about Steve Condous. In an attempt to discover something about the man I interviewed him in the glorious Mayor's office in the Town Hall. In the space of one hour our discussion covered a broad range of topics. In this the first of a two part feature, we will focus on Steve's background, what it was like for an Australian Greek growing up in the Australia of the 40's and 50's and how those influenced his outlook on life.

Steve Condous (Kontouzoglou) was born in Adelaide in December 1935. His Kastellorizian parents lived in a row of cottages in Liverpool Street (off Hindley Street) which were primarily inhabited by Greeks. While his father worked at his brother's cafe in Hindley Street, Steve went to Sturt Street Primary School. His parents then moved to South Road at Mile End and bought their own cafe in Rundle Street. This saw him go to Thebarton Primary School and then Adelaide High School where he completed his Matriculation. Steve was heading for a career as a pharmacist. However he was required to abandon pharmacy after two years of studies at Adelaide University because of the death of his father. Being the eldest son, he assumed the role of head of the family. This saw him take charge of the family business and support the family by successfully owning a series of fine food stores and licensed bottle shops. Currently Steve has food distributing companies which supplies supermarkets with local and interstate food products.

However this is no fairytale story. The 40's and 50's were difficult times for people of non-English speaking backgrounds growing up in Australia. The off-springs of the first wave of Greek migrants had it tough. They bore the brunt of tough economic times and racism and lived with the fact that their families came with nothing and worked their butts off to allow their kids a better life. They set the example of how to succeed which many of us accept as given. This is borne out by Steve's recollections.

Your father used to have a dining room or restaurant in the city.

My uncle Antony started off with a little restaurant at 75 Hindley Street called the Central Cafe. Because my uncle's son's were growing up they decided to diverse a bit. He ran the business with his two sons and my father and uncle went and bought another business, the Regent Cafe, which was at 95 Rundle Street.

They were humble people that worked hard. About 80 hours or more a week. They didn't get great recognition because there wasn't money in restaurants in those days. They used to serve a three course meal for 1/9 pence.

What was it like being a child of Greek background growing up in Australia?

We faced an enormous amount of animosity and an enormous amount of resentment by the Australian community as migrants. In those days there wasn't anything like wogs. We were all dagos in those days, whether you were Italian or Greek or any other nationality. You're a dago. You got spat at school. You got called names. You used to finish up having a fight every day. There wasn't much sympathy for migrants in those days. They saw them as something Australia could do without.

Did it make you any tougher?

No I don't think it made me any tougher. It made me better understand what the world is all about. There was no reason to get tough. I think it is understanding, the ability to understand why people react that way. It's been a great lesson to me because a lot of my efforts at the moment are going into trying to encourage Asian migrants to Australia. I can see that they are going through exactly the same process I went through 45 years ago I say to them as I say to myself. 'Don't worry about that. It's only an education program. Australia will mature. We'll have a sense of understanding. In 10 years' time your son may be marrying their daughter and integrate the whole thing and nobody will think anything about it. At the moment they resent you in the same way they resented Greeks and Italians and any other nationality!

What is it about your generation of Greeks which has seen most, if not all of them, become successful?

I think the reason for that is that we went through pretty tough times. I can remember as a kid, my father worked very hard. I know that dad took on an extra job as a cleaner cleaning a block of toilets. He told me simply to be able to get enough things together for Mum to be able to go to hospital to have me. Things like getting her slippers, nightgowns and dressing gowns and all those things which they didn't have. He wanted to send her to hospital with new things. I only had one pair of shows and a pair of shoes and a pair of sand-shoes and my Sunday best. I would wear my cheap shoes to school and come home straight away and either get into my sand-shoes or go barefooted in the streets.

There was a period where we couldn't enjoy things like motor cars and some of the luxuries - beautiful big houses in great areas or anything like that.

So when we started to earn money we saw it as an opportunity to be able to upgrade our life style and we had a determination to want to succeed. I think that is why we have succeeded because it was something we had to achieve. Not because we wanted to show the world anything or keep up with the Jones's. We just simply wanted to be able to afford the things we had been deprived of as children.

Being of Kastellorizian background, did that imbue you with a greater drive to succeed?

I don't think having a Kazzie background made much difference. I'm proud to be Kazzie. I think we had certain things built into us. We had built into us the value of money by our parents, the value of saving, the value of being conservative and not getting yourself into debt. My father taught me the silly old Kazzie way that if you haven't got 50 or 60% deposit you don't go and buy anything. The great lesson out of that is that you do know that you can go to bed at night and sleep without any worries. That's got to be a great lesson because you don't have to put yourself under any stress. You live a life of joy because there is no pressure on.

(The above article was reproduced from AGORA 2 June 90 Vol 3 No.2, the excellent Greek Australia publication that comes out of Adelaide. Further enquiries can be directed to the Editor, Agora 2, 4 Hyland Avenue, Darlington, 5047.)

Kominos C Zervos

On sixty minutes Sunday August 17 and also featured in the Good Weekend Age Magazine August 25, 1990. Both featured an interesting idea call -

"Paper Back Riders"

The idea was to take literary culture, sixteen noted authors aboard a borrowed train to isolated fans and less bookish outback characters.

The scheduled trip of 11 days out of Brisbane along the western line to flood devastated Charleville, stopping for literary readings and poet readings at the towns along the way such as Chirchilla, Wailumbilla, and Muckadilla. Amongst the noted authors were such well known writers as Tom Keneally, Bruce Dawe, Ross Clarke, Hugh Lunn and joining them an explosive performance poet Kominos Zervos.

**We print a Biography of the late Mrs C Lucas
this was written by Chrisanthi Con Lucas
My Grandmother**

My Grandmother, Chrisanthi Lucas was born on the 16-11-1911, on a magical little island called "KASTELLORIZO". Kastellorizo is an island of 9 square miles and situated in the most south-eastern part of Greece. It has a long history (almost 1000 years) from the days of the Crusades when the Anglo Saxons travelled to the Holylands. Throughout the years the English, Germans and the Italian have inhabited and

colonised the island. The island is a very picturesque and the architecture reflects the multi-national occupation. In the early part of this century the island and its satellite towns boasted a population of 14,000.

My Grandmother's father was a sea captain, who owned a fleet of four sailing vessels. He traded in the sea ports of the Mediterranean at Alexandria (Egypt), Cyprus and Turkey during the summer months. He was away for long periods of time, and when he returned he would always bring special presents for his family and friends, any many many stories which he would relate around the fireplace in winter. My grandmother had an older sister her name was Rose, and a younger brother Nicholas. My Grandmother went to school on the island until eighth grade. Unfortunately the girls were not encouraged to pursue an education. They led a sheltered life and spent most of their time in the home learning to crochet, embroider and cook.

My Grandmother reflects on her adolescent years and she remembers with a glow, the warmth and love which existed in this very simple way of life. Although her parents were strict, there was a high respect between the children and them. She was unable to question any decisions made for her, but she always knew that they had her in their best interest, and she consequently obeyed them. Her only outings were either to visit close relatives or attend church on Sundays, to take communion. She did not go shopping or mix with young friends, except at school.

When she reached a marriagable age, proposals were arranged by her parents, and they chose the most suitable gentleman for her. They did know the families well, and were in the best position to choose the groom. In some cases if any particular young bachelor fancied a girl, he would serenade her by night, in front of her house, or from a small boat on the bay if her house had a water frontage.

Compatibility was more important than notions of 'Love'. 'Love' came after the marriage when the couple got to know each other, and experienced life.

My Grandmother's parents thus chose George Lucas to be my Grandmother's husband. His family was also involved in trading, and they were acquaintances of my Grandmother's parents. He was the eldest of the Lucas family, aged 30 years, and was a captain of his own ship called 'KASTELLORIZO'. My Grandmother was 23 years old when she got married on 3-2-1937.

My Grandmother and Grandfather spent seven happy years in Kastellorizo, where she had given birth to three sons. There was no hospital on the island each birth was at her home in the presence of a mid-wife and doctor.

Prior to the second world war, in approximately 1939, my Grandfather emigrated to Australia, where his brothers Michael and Phillip had earlier established themselves in Sydney and Melbourne. He had visited Australia in 1917, when he was a bachelor, and he had loved Melbourne so much, that he decided that his family would have more chances of a better education, and prosperity than if they remained in Kastellorizo. My Grandmother and her sons remained with her family on the island. My Grandfather's plans were unexpectedly changed on 27/2/1941, when Kastellorizo was attacked by Italy.

The island was under Italian occupation until 17-10-1943. They suffered great torture and hunger, The English invaded the island, and ordered the people to

evacuate... they were given 24 hours to pack their belongings into the one bag.

The refugees of Kastellorizo were then sent to Cyprus or Palestine and Egypt. My Grandmother, and her three sons and parents, were sent to Cyprus where they stayed for three months. Here they lived in military barracks, under the British occupation. They spent three satisfactory months here as they were allowed 'freedom', to do what they wished. This was because the British were allies and were there to help them.

My Grandmother was fortunate that her brother, had left Kastellorizo a year before, to live in Addis - Abbeba, the capital of Ethiopia in Africa. He was successful in cotton, textile manufacture and he arranged a passage for my Grandmother, her parents, and her children from Cyprus to Egypt. They travelled by boat to Port Said, and then by train to Addis - Abbeba. After a long tiring journey, they arrived at Addis - Abbeba, and were greeted by my Grandmother's brother.

Meanwhile, my Grandfather was in Australia, enlisted in the Australian army and fought overseas. My Grandmother was unaware of his whereabouts as correspondence between countries, was limited during the war.

My Grandmother lived for five years in Addis-Abbeba with her family. Her brother was quite wealthy, and he became responsible for my Grandmother, and her family.

Life in Addis - Abbeba during the early forties, was very good if you were white and European. The Europeans enjoyed a very good social life, and money was plentiful. My Grandmother had several black maids, a butler, and a gardener. My Grandmother's life was blooming however, her heart was still in Australia.

The children went to primary school, in Addis -Abbeba, and learnt English, Greek and even the local language. There was quite a large Greek population in Ethiopia, and life went on. Meanwhile much of the world was fighting the second world war, which was gradually coming to an end.

Eventually, after the war, my Grandmother discovered that my Grandfather was alive, and communication recommenced between them. My Grandmother spent memorable years in Addis - Abbeba, as her family stayed together and held onto the many traditions of, their homeland 'Kastellorizo'. My Grandmother realised now that there was no chance of them ever returning to the island, however she accepted this and was glad that her family were alive and well.

Arrangements were finally made for their departure from Africa. In April 1948 my Grandmother and her three sons caught the train to Diploti. My Grandmother's brother had arranged a passage on a ship, called 'The Kyrini' to cross over the Indian Ocean to Perth. This journey was to take one month, and my Grandmother had the use of the Engineer's cabin on board the ship.

Relatives met them in Perth, and after a few days she caught the aeroplane from Perth to Melbourne. This journey took 10 hours. My Grandmother enjoyed both journeys to Melbourne however, this was also due to her excitement in seeing her husband once again.

She was at last reunited with her husband, and now that she looks back, it was the happiest day of her life.

My grandfather had rented a two-storey terrace house, in Drummond Street, Carlton. This home could not be compared with the one they had in Addis - Abbeba,

however my Grandmother gave no interest in any of this as she was only glad that now they would be a family. To add to my Grandmother's happiness in 1949 she gave birth to a new child, a baby girl.

Life was hard for her at first, because she was unable to speak English, and she had no help with the children, and no home help to which she had been accustomed. The other problems she faced were that the Australian traditions were different from Greece. There was only one Greek Church in East Melbourne, and the Greek population was small.

There were also happy times because she was with her husband, and independent of her family. She was able to make her own decisions, and despite the low income her husband made, they were able to make ends meet.

Gradually, they left Carlton and bought a house in Albert Park opposite the beach. She remembers the many picnics, church activities and parties that were held, in this house at 249 Dorcas Street, Albert Park.

Twelve years later, my Grandfather died. This was a traumatic experience for my Grandmother, as she was left alone. Her children were aged between 12 years to 28 years. Her sons were working, and they all pooled their earnings together to run the household. She kept her family together and eventually her children married and left home.

She now lives alone, in her independent style near her children, and is in good health. She manages her shopping, her cooking and cleaning, and is always ready to prepare a meal for anybody who calls in. Her greatest pleasure is when her grandchildren visit her and she tells them stories of her one beloved country.

Editors Note:- Mrs C Lucas died in Melbourne on
21 July, 1990.