## **President’s Report. 2018 AGM**

## Last October there was a Special General Meeting to discuss the Lovell Chen Report regarding our building. The President and majority of the committee resigned, and another Special General Meeting was called on 18 November to elect a new committee.

## The duly elected committee comprised:

## **President** Nik Spartels **Vice President** Peter Coates **Secretary** Justin Mastores **Treasurer** Christine Mastores-Davidson

## **Committee Members:** Phillippa Adgemis John Anastasiou Lena Coates Thena George Maria Georgoulas Kathleen (Mangos) Grosso Vivienne Kostoglou George Stabelos

## Since then, two positions became vacant with the retirement of

## Vivienne Kostoglou and Thena Georege.

## Replacements welcomed to the committee were:

## John Bogiatzis, and Marcia Xenitelis.

A new committee was elected and four young people also came forward to assist the Club. Stasi Adgemis, Fortis Josephides and Lee Konstantinidis volunteered to be involved in youth matters. Emma Gavalas, a Kastellorizian abroad visited our Club a couple of years ago, and is now our European correspondent.

Connie Gregory also supported the new committee and decided to stay on as our Bulletin Editor until a new Editor was found. She is still waiting for someone to come forward. During the year we welcomed back Florence Livery as principal Archivist. She has done a brilliant job. l urge you to read her report.

Suddenly at the November Special General Meeting, I was the President and with my new committee in front of me to carry out the wishes of the membership to proceed with urgent repairs to our building – repairs that were estimated to be in the order of $270K+ in the Lovell Chen Report presented at the Special General Meeting of 22nd October last year.

## So, a few notes on our building.

## At my committee’s first meeting, many decisions were made. Naturally the question of carrying out urgent building repairs took top billing and a building sub-committee was established.

## Advantage was taken of the seasonal Christmas holiday break, with low traffic volume, to get things moving quickly and tackle urgent repairs. The Lovell Chen quote of $270K for urgent repairs, which I myself questioned at the Special General Meeting, in the end cost us less than $15K. There were a few factors involved in keeping the costs down, for instance John Anastasiou sourced, and paid for, the hire of the brilliant Athena Scissors Lift which avoided hiring expensive scaffolding, which the original estimate put at close to $200,000. John generously bore the $1000 it cost to hire the scissor lift.

All urgent works have been completed and extra 100ml copper downpipes were installed at the front of the building immediately. All gutters were cleaned and reinstated, and in addition 16mm overflow holes were drilled at intervals of approximately two metres in all the guttering to the main building. All gutters are now functional.  New tapware was also installed in both the male and female rest rooms, and fire safety equipment was checked and upgraded. Additional works completed include: Bluestone blocks secured; Brickwork Painted; Graffitti removed from walls; and second cistern replaced.  
   
I oversaw the project together with John Anastasiou, and we pitched in with the tradies.   Michael Aroney, who was down here from Sydney on holidays, was also hands-on. A huge thank you to John and Michael. Thanks also to John’s son Tom who came along to help out. And of course thanks to the building sub-committee and the committee for approving these works.

## We repainted the exterior in Hotham Street. We also found that the lighting in the clubrooms needed upgrading for efficiency as well as safety reasons. A further amount of $3,000 was spent on lighting.

Regularly detailed in our e-bulletin is the process we are following for the re-zoning of the front building. When re-zoning was carried out in our precinct, a problem occurred wherein the front building was zoned as residential while our clubrooms remained as commercial. For the purposes of renting out, the front building needs to be re-zoned as commercial.

The Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, and councillors, like our local member Martin Foley, are all on board to help us with this process.

The sub-committee, led by John Anastasiou, whilst working on the Constitution looked not only at upgrading our Rules in line with matters affecting our membership but also at changing our status to a not-for-profit organisation. Such status will allow us to register as such with the result of huge savings in taxation and land tax.

Events

This committee’s first social function was in February at a well-supported luncheon at Philhellene Restaurant in Moonee Ponds. The Annual Sts Constantine and Helen luncheon, and presentation of VCE Awards and Young Kazzie Achiever Award was held at our club rooms in May.

I would like to thank George Stabelos for the work he is doing with the BYO Licence for our Club and resolving our insurance issues, and also for his kind words in his reports of our functions and how the club is going.

Thank you also to our Vice President, Peter Coates, on his support and making my job much easier, and thank you also to Peter for the work he is doing with the scholarship program with Victoria University.

We again supported the Kastellorizian Exchange Student Program run by the Friends of Kastellorizo, both financially and through a football outing for the students when they were in Melbourne. Christine McAuliffe hosted the students’ Melbourne visit.

The Events Sub-Committee put on a brilliant event at the clubrooms in early October to honour our Kazzie of the Year Basil Zempilas, who attended with his parents. Basil Zempilas’ Award generated an enormous amount of publicity in the media, not just for Basil and the Award itself, but also for our Club and for Kastellorizo.

The Seniors continue to meet at the clubrooms, as well as arranging outings. We have vigorously supported the Seniors by attending their regular events, whenever possible, and will continue to do so. Our younger Kazzies are working towards events of interest to young Kazzies. It is also pleasing to note that a few children and young people are interested in being involved in learning Greek Christmas Carols – Kalanta – maybe there could be a Carol or two at our Christmas function.

Our Christmas Event:

Please come along to the family day function at Phoenix Park on 25th November. We are hoping that people will stay on for a picnic.

There is still time for Financial members to register their children for a gift from Santa Claus. Please read the notice in the October/November KazzieE-Bulletin. There are also some notices printed out on the table.

I sincerely thank every member of the committee for their support of the Club, and I also thank our members for their support. Without a healthy membership, the club is nothing. Please consider encouraging your relatives, your children, and all those Kazzies who are not members to come out in support of the Kazzie Club.

At the beginning of today’s meeting we held a minute’s silence for those Kazzies who are no longer with us. Now my thoughts turn to some of our older Kazzies who are not well or who are in aged care. Their close relatives I know visit regularly.

I would like to encourage you all to take the time to visit aged friends and relatives who are in Nursing Homes, especially as Christmas approaches.

I know that people like Christine Dimer and George Verginis do take the trouble to visit the sick and the elderly in the wider Kazzie community. It does mean so much to the recipients.

If we are successful in our not-for-profit registration, the Club could do more to support our youth, and our sick and our elderly, in ways suggested by members and relatives.

I really do appreciate all the support you have given me in running the club so far, but it is not only me, it is all these angels sitting either side of me. At a time when this club was doomed, these people stood up and went the extra mile in order to get this club back onto its feet. My fellow committee members have been an absolute inspiration to myself and the Kastellorizian community.

**Nik Spartels**

**President, KAV**

11 November, 2018