

KAV Archival Digitisation & Indexation Project

Stage 1: Digitisation & Indexation of the Newsletters of the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria, 1973 – 2018

Dear Kazzies

I began this project in January 2018 and it consumed every spare minute of my time for the ensuing six months. In fact, once I began, it became an obsession. At times the task was quite tedious and arduous so much so that I doubted myself as to why I took on this project on and wondered if anyone would even end up reading the material. Those times however, were more than made up by the surreal nature of the task, immersing myself into the life, expectations and resilience of a small Greek community trying to make its mark on middle-class Australia, particularly in the 1970s and 1980s. Amusing, satisfying, even at times exhilarating, if anyone were to witness me at work, they would have frequently observed huge smirks on my face or many a raised eyebrow. They would also have heard gasps of astonishment, the chuckle of laughter and whispers of comments as I muttered to myself under my breath.

The KAV Newsletters Archive is a unique resource in appreciating the social history of Australia over the past 50 years. It provides a snapshot of history, as the second and subsequent generations of an immigrant group find its place in a country which at times was not always kind to them. Whether it be a reference tool for professional historians or family historians or simply a good read, I urge our members to open the pages of the KAV Newsletter archives and *go back in time*.

What the job entailed:

1. Scanning almost 220 newsletters dating from 1973 - 2018;
2. Cataloguing the collection;
3. Continual liaising with our Webmaster, Carolyn Schofield to ensure accuracy and consistency with the material already on the website, ensuring the KAV website adopted the archival reference system introduced and expanding the website newsletter archive collection with the addition of at least 150 more newsletters;
4. Indexing each of the 218 newsletters, highlighting the main points of each edition;
5. Through continual trial and error, realising the limitations and boundaries of the indexation process and thus producing explanatory notes to this effect;
6. Continual proof-reading, drafting and re-formatting of the index, firstly by myself and in the final stages seeking the assistance of our Newsletter Editor, Connie Gregory;
7. Researching the 'real' editors (at times their name did not appear on the newsletter), ensuring the editor was acknowledged for each edition;
8. *Indexing the Index* with key topics and an index of names (not exhaustive);
9. Placing the index on the website.

KAV Newsletter Archive Collection – summary of newsletters

Name of newsletter	Years	Number of copies	Editor
The Grapevine	1973 - 1974	3 copies in archives	Stan Piperoglou
The Voice	1976	2 copies in archives	Komninos Zervos
CAV Newsletter	1980 - 1982	7 copies in archives	Herb Kyriakos
The Cassie News	1982 - 1996	104 continuous editions	Jack Bisas
The Cassie News	1997 - 2002	19 continuous editions	Michael Spartels
The Cassie / Kazzie News (name change 2005)	2002 – 2006	12 continuous editions	John S Adgemis & Jasmin Verginis
The Kazzie News	2007 - 2014	33 continuous editions	Evelyn Salvaris
The Kastellorizian	2015	2 continuous editions	Nick Lolatgis / Fortis Josephides
KazziE-Bulletin	2015 – present	36 continuous editions	Connie Gregory

Sample of Indexation


9	JB9	August 1983 President – Jack <u>Bisas</u>	Jack <u>Bisas</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > 1982-1985 Board of Directors, President Jack <u>Bisas</u>; > AGM Report, including donation to <u>Pronia Aged Care Facility (low care)</u>, sponsoring multi-purpose room, plaque to be erected; > <u>Neos Kosmos</u> calling for contributions & sponsorship re <u>Castellorizian Supplement</u> in late September edition; > SA <u>Castellorizian Society</u>, President Jack <u>Economos</u> sends greetings; > Letter from K <u>Lakerdis</u>, Secretary, <u>Kastellorizian Association of Queensland</u>, querying different spelling of K / <u>Castellorizo</u> & different emblems amongst Brotherhood state associations; > <u>Paraskevis Christopher</u> (nee <u>Theodorou</u>) – profile; > <u>Alexander P Georgouras</u> – profile; > <u>Savvas Bollos</u> – profile; > Coming events (flyers): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car rally; • <u>Pharlap</u> film night; • Pokies trip, Albury; > Historical - 1965 youth visit to Adelaide (with chaperones/officials), combining cultural & sporting activities with GOYA SA - football, basketball (men & women), debating; > Historical – 1965 Brotherhood, Ladies & Youth Committees listed; > President's Report presented to 58th AGM including search for more suitable clubrooms; > Discussion paper by John B <u>Salvaris</u> to be used in the writing of the <u>History of Castellorizians in Victoria</u>;
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Points on the Indexation process:

1. Castellorizo or Kastellorizo?
 - a) The spelling used in this index is the one which was used by the editor at the time of publication, which for a majority of the time was consistent with that chosen by the association but not always. Following this, as we refer to ourselves as Cassies / Cazzies / Kassies / Kazzies, this index uses the one that was in practice at the time of publication.
 - b) For interstate and overseas associations, it is spelt in their chosen way at the time of publication.
2. In July 1978, the Castellorizian Brotherhood, Melbourne, (established 1925) and the Castellorizian Ladies' Society (established 1961) amalgamated to form the Castellorizian Association of Victoria. At the 2004 AGM it was resolved to legally change the name to the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria.
3. Individual names have only been indexed when featured in an article. Hence births, baptisms, deaths, memorial services, in memoriam donations, engagements, marriages, twenty-firsts, graduations and careers, get well wishes, interstate visitors, bon voyages, wedding anniversaries, special birthdays and the like, of which there are hundreds if not thousands, have not been indexed. When a new committee has been mentioned, only the name of the president has been indexed.
4. Any articles in the newsletters concerning the wider Greek community have only been indexed if they specifically mention Kastellorizians. For this reason, because of the significant contributions made by Kastellorizians in the AGWS & Fronditha Care (formerly AGSCE) such articles have been indexed.
5. Names. Frequently from one edition to another there has been inconsistent spelling and variations of names, often as a result of transliteration and anglicization. These have been altered to at least be consistent throughout the index, taking the spelling and form most commonly found in wider sources.
6. When indexing either Kastellorizians who have married and assumed a different surname or Non-Kastellorizians, the family link is indexed after their name.

Comments:

1. **The Editors** - The newsletter of this association has long been its lifeblood. Whilst many members may not actively participate in the club's activities, a majority are nevertheless always interested to hear what is happening. (See extract below from 1980s). A labour of love, frequently criticised for the smallest of errors, we should honour all present and previous editors. I have tried to go some way in doing this by including their name in the index for each edition. Their stoicism to keep going must be admired as I witnessed their numerous apologies in subsequent editions – Eg wrong (first name), wrong church, left of the photo not right of the photo, missed the deadline etc. Mind you I never noticed complaints about the spelling of names.

 To the Editor - Cassie News

Just a note to thank you very much and to let you know how much I enjoy reading the Cassie News. Being a second generation Cassie (and very proud of it too) I feel that in a small way I am in touch with my heritage. Its great. Thanks heaps and keep up the good work.

Debbie Pankhurst
daughter of Mary Christies, nee Jackomas.

2. **Spelling of names** - The latter point is very interesting as people today are quite rightly, very fastidious about the spelling of their names. Maybe, in the past the Cassies were so accustomed to the wider community getting our names wrong or anglicising them, often against our own will, that we obviously thought nothing of the KAV Editors (particularly pre-1990) putting their own (and frequently inconsistent) variation of our names. (For some reason my Melbourne family were always referred to as Liveris but we have never used this variation of our surname). Please note that in the indexation process I have spent copious hours, researching and proofreading in trying to be accurate and consistent, as I know times have changed.
3. Unfortunately, our archival records have huge gaps as we never really thought about the need to methodically archive until the 21st Century. The association is in debt to those members wise enough 'not to throw things out.' Hence there are only a handful of pre-1980 newsletters.
4. **Perennial issues (as early as the 1970s) which kept on being raised:**
 - o Youth
 - o Apathy, lack of participation & lack of AGM quorum
 - o Clubrooms – ie Dorcas Street property (*The building was acquired in 1968 and evidence shows that as early as 1973 the building issue arose. Maybe, thank God, our forebears did buy a controversial building, not ideally suited to our needs - at least when the crunch comes, the members return to the fold??*)
5. **Style of newsletter, influence of the Editor and transformation over time.** Jack Bisas was very astute in reading his close-knit but competitive audience. For the most part, his newsletters were one of formalised gossip, focussing on births, deaths, marriages, graduations and career moves. The 2000s saw an attempt by Evelyn Salvaris to make the newsletter a more informative and worldlier magazine, still Kastellorizian in essence but including wider Hellenic material. In between we witness the varying use of the President's message column at the beginning of each newsletter - for the most part a summary of events and key issues of the time, but every now and again, a platform to pontificate the woes of our community. Today we have a short, sharp E-newsletter that suits the busy world our members are part of.
6. Allan Creswell and family historians will have a field day going through the newsletters for births, deaths and marriages. Unfortunately, these were not indexed unless there was an article about the person including additional, non-family material Eg arrival in Australia.
7. **Social History.** I loved the snapshots of social history which the newsletters provided. For example:
 - Bon Voyage wishes to members travelling overseas, when overseas travel was a rarity;
 - Likewise, university graduates and success in the professions; (a reflection of the second / third generation reaping the benefits of the generations before who toiled and worked hard);
 - Women were mentioned by their husband's initial and surname Eg Mrs N Spartels. The men were always listed with full Christian and surnames.
 - In 1974 Anne Salvaris was admitted as the first female member of the Castellorizian Brotherhood.
 - In 1974 an English language constitution was introduced;
 - The event flyers attached to the newsletters were literally cut and paste from other hard copy sources Eg pictures from cards, letters from other printed material. Hard work in those days, with no computers and no graphic designers' tools.
 - In 1991, oblivious to the medical advances and the growing longevity of life, we allowed over 65s to become Honorary Members ie no membership fees;
 - A very short-lived Greek section appendage was introduced in 1993 for about 5 issues. Was that the influence of the conservative faction?
 - The practice of listing in the newsletter *In Memoriam* donations, a custom of a lost generation, now replaced by envelopes at the church door, donors remaining anonymous to the community.
 - The frantic moves to ensure the youth movements remained vibrant. Otherwise how could the parents ensure their children did not marry *xenia*? Gradually this was relaxed to include other Greek Youth organisations Eg NUGAS articles, again this could be interpreted as a veiled attempt to stay within the Greek community.
8. **Sentimental and odd:**
 - 1984 - Jack M Miriklis naming his racehorse *Silkirim* (Miriklis spelt backwards);
 - 1984 - The Hereford heifer which won a prized award at the Royal Melbourne Show was bred by Harry J Miriklis on The *Megisti* Hereford Farm;

- 1988 - A psychic, Ann Dankbaar claimed to have found the Colossus of Rhodes, represented by Paraskevas A Kailis, (Rhodes) former President World Castellorizian Brotherhoods. He was with her when she first made the claim. The Greek Government has excluded her from any further investigation in the area.
- 1986 - Perry N Kailis (NSW) made a request to the Australian Government for two kangaroos to be transferred to the newly established Athens Zoo. He is wondering why there has been a slow response to his request. In his application he quoted past gifts by Cassies to Australian zoos, including in 1931 Steve Koutalis and I Mavis donated a groper and in 1970 Emanuel Georgouras donated a large oil fish and later, a leatherback turtle.
- 1987 - The Mayor of Castellorizo's appeal to home owners to authorise the City Council to repair unoccupied houses and sublet them as compensation, *guaranteeing* ownership will not change and owners will have the right to live in their house for a stipulated period each year.

Finally, doing a project like this gave me a unique opportunity to make contact with many Kazzies. I sincerely thank Komnimos Zervos, Stan Piperoglou, Jacob Fronistas, Jasmin Verginis, George Stabelos and Connie Gregory for their assistance and support in this project.

Florence Livery
KAV Archivist