



The KYTHERIAN

The Newsletter of the Kytherian Association of Australia
PO Box A203, Sydney South NSW 1235
www.kytherianassociation.com.au

JUNE 2008

2008 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**For
KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION of
AUSTRALIA
&
KYTHERIAN BROTHERHOOD of
AUSTRALIA**

**Wednesday 18th June 2008 at Kensington
Bowling Club,
Cnr Barker Street & Doncaster Avenue
Kingsford at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.**

Please note:

**To comply with the Corporations Act 2001, S 249(1),
we are required to have PROXY VOTING. So if you
cannot attend the AGM or an adjourned AGM, then
you can authorize a person to vote in your place.
This Proxy form must be received by at least 48 hours
prior to the AGM or adjourned AGM by mail or fax
(02 92612271) at our registered office:**

***Economos Pty Ltd.*
PO Box Q285 QVB Post Office
SYDNEY NSW 1230**

**Any enquiries: Victor Kepreotis - 0408 216 108
Kathy Samios - 0410 491 849**

KYTHO CALENDAR

FRIDAYS 2ND MAY - 4TH JULY

Weekly dancing lessons for Term 2
(see back page for details).

WEDNESDAY 11TH JUNE 2008

Close of Nominations for Committee

WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2008

Annual General Meeting
(details on front page).

THURSDAY 10TH JULY 2008

Ladies' Auxiliary Movie & Lunch
(see page 8 for details)

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2008

Liturgy for AGIA ELESA at Greek
Orthodox Church—KOGARAH.

Editor's Note



May is the month when we stage our biggest fund raising event, the Kytherian Ball. Once again it has proved to be a resounding success.

We had the pleasure of meeting the Guest of Honour, our very own adventurer, James Castrission.

For any of our readers who may be unaware of his recent achievement, James and his childhood friend Justin Jones, became the first Australians to cross the Tasman Sea to New Zealand in a double kayak.

Their journey in treacherous conditions took sixty-two days, during which time they found themselves in a number of life threatening situations. It is certainly a testament to their courage, determination and stamina that they succeeded in fulfilling their dream.

To be honest, James totally surprised me. I expected someone who could, understandably, have been a little arrogant about his incredible accomplishment.

Nothing could have been further from the truth...he proved to be a very likeable and humble young man who captivated us with some recollections of his recent adventure.

I asked him how his family (and in particular his mother) coped with their anxiety regarding his safety during those two months and was most impressed by his genuine concern that his family had indeed endured such a stressful time.

James gave us a graphic description of the isolation he and Justin felt, in the middle of the ocean, with no immediate help should they have needed it. It enabled us to gain an insight into the physical and mental strength of two daring young men.

These are obvious qualities that one requires to take that massive leap from an armchair expert (like me who loves to read everything about Mt Everest and yet has never had the slightest desire to climb it) to an adventurer who is willing to risk life and limb in pursuit of challenges to human endurance.

Hopefully, James will find time to put pen to paper and write about this incredible journey, thus allowing us to share all of his amazing experiences. Here is one fan who will definitely be lining up to purchase that book!

MUMS & BUBS

"Mums and Bubs" outings are held on the last Friday of each month, for babies and children up to 5 years. For more information please call Erenie on 0410 318 053.

In light of the success of our recent Ball, a number of photos appear on pages 6, 7, 18 and 19.

Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



Multilingual

search

Go

Windfarms on Kythera

A petition has been set up to encourage the local government on Kythera to follow democratic procedure before they decide upon whether to allow a wind-farm to be set up on Kythera. There is an online version of it which can be accessed and signed via the internet, but those off-line can also send a letter or fax with their opinion to the director of the Kythera Cultural Association, John Stathatos, in Strapothi on Kythera. He will then present the collected signature to the municipal council.

If you don't know about it yet, the council on the island is "negotiating" with a company to set up around 60 wind-generators on Kythera. Even if you like the idea of renewable energy (I do!), there are still environmental aspects to consider: migratory bird numbers may be decimated by "rotor-kill", the "skyline" of the island will change enormously, and rotating blades can make a lot of noise. Online you can find the petition here:

<http://www.petitiononline.com/kythera/petition.html>

The text there is as follows:

*"We the undersigned are opposed to the construction of industrial wind-farms on Kythera by any legal entities whatsoever, whether public or private, **before a thorough and independent environmental study of the impact upon the island's ecology, economy and future development has been produced and published**, and before the population of the island have, in accordance with the European Union's clear directives, had the opportunity to comment and vote upon the issue."*

For those of you off-line you can send your signed letter of support – using the text above or another of your choice – to the following address or fax number. From there we will present it to the local council.

Fax: 0011-49.30.69 59 66 12

Post: John Stathatos, Kythera Cultural Association
Hora, Kythera, 80100, Greece.

Please let all those who might be interested know about the petition and encourage them to sign it. If you are online but people you know who wish to sign it who don't have an email address – you need one to sign the online petition – you can use this solution: put their names in front of @kythera.info. e.g. NikosCassimatis@kythera.info. That email address is automatically valid and I will receive the confirmation email personally. I hope that many of you will help the islanders in this way.

James Prineas, james@kythera-family.net

Crack Go The Red Eggs

If the Easter swell of visitors, both Athenians and international is any measure of travellers Kythera-bound this Summer, those 'Rooms for Rent' springing up all over the island like wild artichokes will fill. A glorious sun put on its best for locals and visitors alike on May Day 2008, wrapping up the Kythera Easter celebrations with tender affection.

The solemn mood of Easter week leading up to Megali Paraskevi (Good Friday) and peaking with the midnight mass of Anastasi (Easter Saturday) was accentuated by the bleak weather. Weighted with symbolism and reflecting the sobriety of the Crucifixion, Kythera's most famous icon Panayia Mirtithiotissa (of the Myrtle) journeys the island beginning in Chora and visiting as far north as Karava throughout the two weeks of prayer.

For the Kytherian faithful Easter time is an extremely moving experience. The priceless Panayia icon leaves Mirtithia, under heavy police escort and is carried on a throne-like wooden structure held-up by four people. Initially it goes to Chora where it remains till Easter Saturday – visually it is all very Jesus Christ Superstar crossed with Zorba the Greek.

Easter week is also the pinnacle of the long 40 day fast. And it doesn't get bigger Church-wise than the Giving of Light on Saturday night to mark The Resurrection. All over Greece, home-made bangers go off endlessly during the service. This year in Agia Pelagia the Giving of Light was followed by a 20 minute firework display. But come Easter Sunday out come the fattened lambs on the spit and it is a meatfest. This year an overcast Easter Sunday was washed out by rain and the tradition of roast lambs and picnicking on the beach was relegated to kitchens. (Personally it was a great time as a string of Australian-Greek girlfriends Margaret, Teena and Helen re-united in Kythera after 13 years.)

The most moving image I witnessed was today, as the icon was being jointly carried by Karavites (people from Karavas) and Pelagiotes (people from Pelagia) with the blue of the sea as background. The quiet strength of the Faithful as they waited to pay respect and worship the icon at the humble church of Agia Pelagia was palatable and then when all the procession had ended the icon was hiked onto the backs of four young strong men for the hike up the winding road from Pelagia to Potamos. The carriers constantly change as the strain is huge but the sense of community is tangible, if we can only convey that unity into maintaining Kythera industrial zoning free, meaning windmill free, maybe we would hear the myrtle.

by Anna Cominos, acominos@hotmail.com

You can read the entire article and many more by Anna in the Blog section of Kythera-Family.net.

You are the authors! Kythera-Family.net - the online cultural archive for Kythera - aims to preserve and reflect the rich heritage of a wonderful island. Members of the community are actively invited to submit their family collection of Kytherian stories, photographs, recipes, oral histories, and home remedies etc. to the site. Uploading directly to the site is easy and free. Thus we can help make available valuable and interesting material for current and future generations, and inspire young Kytherians to learn more about their fascinating heritage.

Kytherian Ball 2008

Our annual Debutante Ball is the major fundraising event on our social calendar. This year's Ball was held at Star City on 31st May, 2008 and once again, it was a wonderful evening. Family and friends celebrated with the beautiful debutantes and their handsome escorts as they were presented to society.

There was an element of elegance and ceremony, fabulous food, entertainment and plenty of "kefi". Our Special Guest of Honour, **Mr James Castrission**, who recently kayaked across the Tasman Sea to New Zealand, had everyone listening with great interest as he described his recent adventure. **His Eminence, Archbishop Stylianos** was again represented by **Father Constantine Varipatis** and **Presvitera**, while the Greek Government was represented by the newly appointed Consul General of Greece, **Mr Vassilios Tolios** and his lovely wife, **Theodora**. We were once again fortunate enough to have the wonderfully talented **Ms Helen Zerefos** enchant us with her beautiful singing. Congratulations were offered throughout the evening to the lovely **Matron of Honour, Mrs Fotini Psaltis**, who along with other members of the Ball Committee and all the debutantes, their partners, flower girls and pageboys endured many hours of preparation for this special night.

Congratulations also to the young ladies and their escorts, who looked sensational and along with the Matron of Honour, entertained us with wonderful dances that were choreographed and taught by our expert dancing teacher, **Joanne Tsakiridis** and her assistant **Penelope Samios**. Well done also to the flower girls and pageboys who presented themselves perfectly while still managing to look so cute.

The Association also thanks those who attended the Ball and those who supported our raffle by either donating prizes or buying tickets. Through your collective efforts, \$5,000 was donated by the Kytherian Association of Australia to the **ESTIA Foundation** that provides respite care for families of loved ones with special needs and a further cheque of \$5,000 was given to Father Constantine Varipatis for the **Saint Andrew's Theological College**. The Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary through their president, **Mrs. Kyrranne Thomas** presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the **Windgap Foundation**- a school that caters for children with special needs.

On behalf of the *Kytherian Association of Australia*, our gratitude goes to the following for their generosity; **the Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary, Peter & Christa Satouris of Peter's of Kensington, Bridgeclimb, Cass Bros, Peter & Chrissa Vlandis, Cos and Toni Psaltis of Centennial Hotel, Tina Feros of Hairbiz, Kyriacos & Katerina Mavrolefteros of Maroubra Optometrists, Shire Fitness, Tulipanna Florist, and Star City Casino**. Congratulations to all the winners of the raffle prizes and our appreciation goes to all the advertisers in this year's excellent Ball Programme for your continuing support.

Victor Kepreotis
President

RAFFLE PRIZES

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 st Prize | TRAVEL VOUCHER FROM MAJESTIC TRAVEL valued at \$2000. Won by 09190 Melissa Marcells |
| 2 nd Prize | SOUTH SEA PEARL AND DIAMOND PENDANT SET IN 18 CARAT GOLD. Won by 07422 Kathy Samios |
| 3 rd Prize | LLADRO FIGURINE donated by Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary
Won by 09852 Lianne Hakim |
| 4 th Prize | FABERGE ATELIER CRYSTAL COLLECTION VASE
donated by Peter's of Kensington . Won by 09043 Effie Comino |
| 5 th Prize | \$500 GIFT VOUCHER donated by Cass Bros – kitchen,
bathroom and plumbing supplies . Won by 11353 Anthea Frelingos |
| 6 th Prize | BASKET OF HAIR PRODUCTS including GHD
PROFESSIONAL HAIR STYLING IRON donated by Tina Feros from Hairbiz . Won by 10533 Nick Alfieris |
| 7 th Prize | BRIDGECLIMB FOR TWO . Won by 08550 Tony Basil |
| 8 th Prize | \$300 DINNER VOUCHER donated by Centennial Hotel .
Won by 10394 George & Stephanie Mormanis |
| 9 th Prize | \$300 FITNESS VOUCHER donated by Shire Fitness. Won by
06720 Marea Antoniou |
| 10 th Prize | BASKET OF WINES donated by Peter & Chrissa Vlandis .
Won by 08526 Peter Satouris |
| 11 th Prize | \$250 OPTOMETRIST VOUCHER donated by Maroubra
Optometrists . Won by 10829 Arthur Gerakiteys |
| 12 th Prize | \$200 FLORIST VOUCHER donated by Tulipanna . Won by
1350 Nicholas Psaltis |

Extra prize – Pandora silver bracelet . Won by 11073 Maria Vlandis

Lucky door Prizes

- 1) Overnight accommodation at star city . Won by 0101 Greg Karedis
- 2) Star City Theatre tickets . Won by 0040 Peter Polyronis
- 3) Magnum 304 . Won by Alexander Bambagiotis
- 4) Kerry-Anne Kennerly signed Andy Warhol inspired print . Won by 0080
Michael Michaelidis
- 5) Six bottles of wine – wild oak. Won by 0060 George Alfieris



Debutante Party & Matron of Honour—Mrs Fotini Psaltis



JAMES CASTRISSON
Guest of Honour



HELEN ZEREFOS



CONSUL GENERAL of GREECE
Mr Vassilios Tolios with
Mrs Theodora Tolios



Mrs Kyrranne Thomas
President of the Kytherian Ladies Auxiliary
& Mr Peter Thomas



MARISSA CASSIMATIS
JASON CASSIMATIS



ASPASIA ZAKOS
PETER FARMAKIS



Zara Penklis & George Georgas



George Alfieris & Elaine Andrew



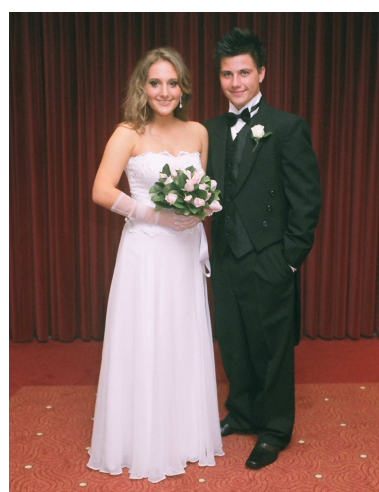
Melanie Flaskas & Daniel Kepreotes



Marielle & Pierce Caponas



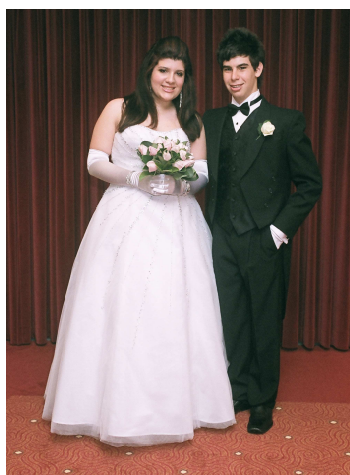
Andrew Karedis & Mattie Frelingos



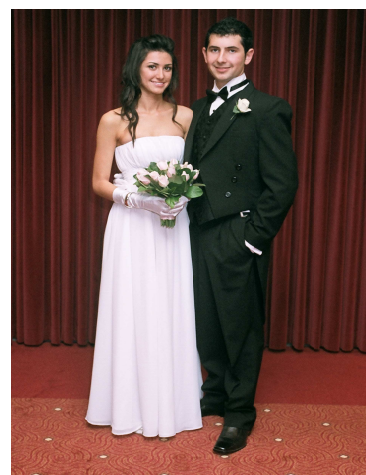
Nicola Zarimis & James Johnson



Kimberley Flaskas & Adam Kepreotes



Anna Malanos & Theodore Coroneo



Bella Cass & Christopher Fallas



THE KYTHERIAN LADIES' AUXILIARY

**INVITES YOU TO A
SCREENING OF THE MOVIE**

“MAMA MIA”



THURSDAY, 10 JULY 2008

THE RITZ CINEMA, THE SPOT, RANDWICK

AT 9.45AM

**TO BE FOLLOWED BY LUNCH
AT**

**A VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED
(IN JULY'S NEWSLETTER)**

COST: \$40

Meryl Streep leads an all-star cast (including Colin Firth and Pierce Brosnan) in the feature-film adaptation (set in Greece) of the beloved musical that has been seen by more than 30 million people in 160 cities and 8 languages around the world. Bringing the timeless lyrics and melodies of iconic super group ABBA to movie audiences.

BOOKINGS:

**MARY MOUTZOURIS
MATINA SAMIOS**

**- 9310 0420
- 9665 7225**

ELENI LEONTSINI AND THE APPROPRIATION OF ARISTOTLE IN THE LIBERAL-COMMUNITARIAN DEBATE



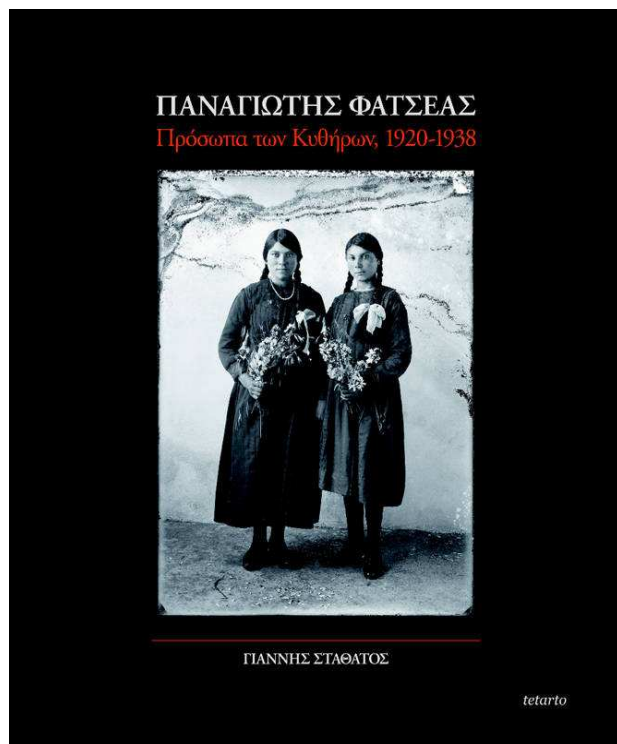
Eleni Leontsini with her newly-published book

Alain De Botton in his populist work "The Consolations of Philosophy" writes that of all the thinkers of antiquity the Greek philosopher Aristotle was perhaps the most comprehensive with his many published works ranging over the landscape of knowledge. Aristotle's writings have been invoked in numerous philosophical debates over the centuries. Now, a new book has been published that questions whether Aristotle's political theories can be used to support either side in the well-known debate between the so-called communitarian philosophers and those who support forms of liberal individualism. In other words, when it is argued that there has been too much emphasis on individual liberty in the liberal tradition and too little emphasis on community, does Aristotle lend support to either camp?

Dr Eleni Leontsini, the charming and learned daughter of Professors George and Athanasia Leontsinis, obtained her Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Glasgow and the subject of her Ph.D. thesis has just been published in Athens under the title "The Appropriation of Aristotle in the Liberal-Communitarian Debate" (S. Saripolos Library, Athens, 2007). The work, which is in English, is a scholarly review of the literature surrounding the liberal-communitarian debate. Eleni analyses the appropriation of Aristotle's writings in this debate and, in particular, considers six key concepts: community, teleology, happiness, justice, friendship and liberty. For any university students studying Aristotelian philosophy, or for anyone simply interested in the ongoing debate between liberal and communitarian thinkers, this book is a valuable addition to the wealth of knowledge regarding Aristotle and philosophical discourse in general.

George Vardas

PANAYIOTIS FATSEAS: KYTHERIAN FACES, 1920-1938



Back at the turn of the last century the sociologist, George Simmel, wrote that "in the features of the face the soul finds its clearest expression". Whether that is true or not, portrait photography is best admired in the way in which the face and its expression are captured. I had the good fortune whilst recently in Athens to visit the Benaki Museum Pireas annex to view an exhibition of mostly portrait photographs by the famous Kytherian photographer, Panayiotis Fatseas. That exhibition, entitled "The Faces of Kythera", was testimony to the power and imagination of Fatseas' lens and provided a brilliant snapshot of life on Kythera in the 1920s and 1930s.

As a reviewer recently wrote in the newspaper *Kathimerini*, during the first decades of the 20th century, many families on the island that wanted to have photographic portraits taken would most likely have gone to the studio of Panayiotis Fatseas in Livadi. Fatseas, who was born in 1888, was a self-taught photographer. According to the *Kathimerini* reviewer, it is most probable that Fatseas was the first inhabitant on Kythera to own a photographic camera.

He had purchased it in New York where he emigrated to at the age of 23 and lived for two years, working as a waiter. He returned to Greece in 1912 in order to fight in the Balkan wars. The huge demand for portraits made him turn to photography and he quickly established himself as a photographer who was able to capture the island's inhabitants in natural poses, without frozen postures or void expressions. After his untimely death in 1938 two of Fatseas' sons took up the trade and ran their father's photographic studio for another four decades as well as opening a summer cinema.

The history behind this exhibition is equally compelling. Back in 2002 the complete archives of Panayiotis Fatseas, comprising of approximately 2,200 glass negative plates, were donated to the Kythera Photographic Archive, founded and administered by the Kythera Cultural Association under the aegis of John Stathatos, himself a photographer and writer on photography. Stathatos immediately realised the importance of this collection and the need to try to restore as many of the glass slides as possible since many had deteriorated from exposure to the elements. But such a task required considerable financial and technical resources. In stepped the notable Kytherian benefactors, Angelo and John Notaras, who also appreciated the cultural and historical significance of Fatseas' photographic works. The Notaras brothers gave considerable financial assistance to the Kythera Cultural Association to acquire the highest quality archive cabinets, archive systems, archive paper, computer software, large commercial scanner and commercial printer to undertake the restoration of the collection.

As I walked through the exhibition at the Benaki, a modern building in the Gazi section of Athens, I was moved by the monochromatic enchantment of Fatseas' photography, the majority of which comprised studio portrait shots of everyday villagers with their distinctive relaxed poses and natural expressions. The scene sometimes changes to a villager's front yard or in a house but in almost every case their eyes stare at you, longingly and penetratingly. The names are also familiar: Cassimatis, Megaloconomos, Travassaros, Petrocheilos, Vardas, Charatzas, Kalligeros, Glytsos, Tzannes, Kavalinis, Fatseas, Panaretos and so on, although there are also many photographs where the subjects cannot be identified. There are also scenes of picnics, religious festivals, weddings and other typical moments of everyday life on the island before the Second World War. The entire Fatseas archive is actually found at www.fatseas.net/ and you should take a look.

As Stathatos, the curator of the exhibition, has noted, one of the unique aspects in the photography of Fatseas is its lack of rigidity and the vividness in the expressions of the sitters. Fatseas had a rare capacity for bringing out the distinctive personality of each person and this was certainly evident from the photos on display. The exhibition was also accompanied by a lavishly illustrated monograph of the same title published in Greek although it is planned for an English-language edition to be published later this year.

The exhibition itself finished in Athens on 23 March 2008 but the major part of the exhibition will subsequently be on show at the *Kythiraikos Syndesmos*, Chora, Kythera during the summer months. If you happen to be in Kythera you must see it.

John Stathatos and his colleagues, as well as Angelo and John Notaras, are to be heartily congratulated for ensuring the survival of a most valuable element in Kythera's rich cultural and historical tradition.

George Vardas and George Poulos

Social News

Births



Arthur & Nicole Castrissios of Wollongong are pleased to announce the arrival of their second child, **Malea Krysten**, born 22 April 2008 (7lbs 9ozs) at Figtree Hospital and a sister for **Ana Eleni**. Proud grandparents are **Minas & Chrysi Castrissios** of Wollongong (formerly of Grafton) and **Nick & Helen Mangos** of Wollongong. Mother and daughter are both well and at home.

Congratulations to **Charles & Kay Vlachos** on the birth of their daughter **Bronte**, sister of **Gisselle** (3 years old). Proud grandparents are **Con & Erene Vlachos** of Pagewood and **Serge & Milcheline Yardin** of Central Coast.

NA SAS ZISOUN!

Christenings



Arthur & Vicki Frilingos of South Hurstville recently christened their twins **George** and **Tia** at the Resurrection of Christ, Panagia Myrtidiotissa & St Elessa Greek Orthodox Church at Kogarah. Big sister, **Anastasia** and grandparents, **George & Gina Frilingos** of Kogarah Bay and **Theo & Anastasia Dedes** of Kingsgrove were on hand to celebrate the occasion. **George's** Godparents are **Sophie & George Rekoumis** and **Tia's** Godmother is **Kathy Petoumenos**. A reception was held at Georges River 16ft Sailing Club at Dolls Point, where good food and lots of kefi ensured that everyone had a great time.

Evelina (Konstantina - Evdokia) Karedis, daughter of **Gregory & Maria Karedis** from Bexley and sister of **Andrew** and **Johnny**, was born on 7th April, 2008. Proud grandparents are **John & Dina Karedis** from Kingsford and **Andreas & Evdokia Kikas** from Rosebery. NA SAS ZISI!

'Evelina' (Konstantina-Evdokia) Karedis



A daughter for Maria & Gregory
Born on 7th April 2008
Weight 3042 gm Length 50 cm
Prince Of Wales Private Hospital

GFPbabies

Birthdays 21st



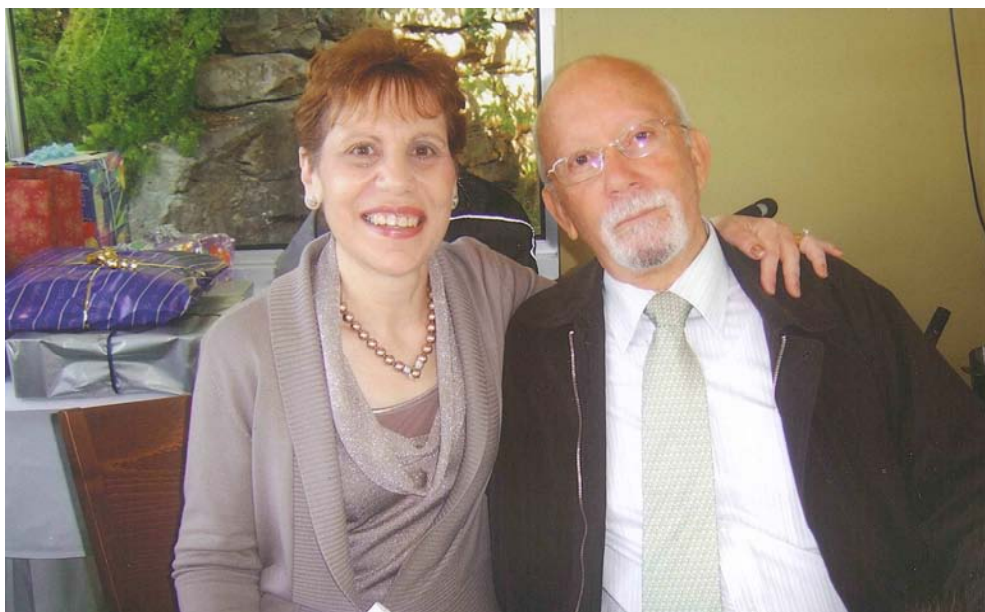
Congratulations to **Katina Loughman** of Concord, NSW, who celebrated her 21st birthday at Strathfield Golf Club with many of her family and friends. **Katina** is the grand-daughter of the **Late George & Katina Zantiotis** of Willoughby and daughter of **Jenny & Noel Loughman**.

Melissa Giaouris, youngest daughter of **George and Paula** of Carlton, recently celebrated her 21st birthday with a wonderful party at their home. Family, friends, and those who travelled from Brisbane, had a lovely time. There was lots of "kefi" and dancing till the early hours of the morning. We wish **Melissa** "NA TA EKATOSTISIS".



Birthdays 70th

Congratulations to **Steve Psaltis** of Sylvania who recently celebrated his 70th birthday. A lovely reception at Bay Blu Seafood Restaurant, Blakehurst was organised by his wife, **Anna** and family - **Peter, Helen, AnnaMaria & Natasha Psaltis** and **Melissa, Joe, Jake & Kristen Socrates**. **Steve** was joined by many relatives and friends on this special occasion and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. **NA TA EKATOSTISIS !**



GRADUATIONS

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Dr Helen Conomos** who graduated on 23rd May with a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Sydney. **Terry, Maria** and **Athena Conomos** are extremely proud of her achievements and wish her every success in her future endeavours.



Congratulations to **Sacha Kepreotis**, son of **Victor & Kathy Kepreotis** of Bardwell Valley on graduating from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Science Degree. **Sacha** is the grandson of **Doreen & the Late Leslie Kepreotis** of Maroubra and **John & Maria Vardas** of Kingsgrove.



GRADUATIONS

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Angelique Poulos** and **Violeta Souris** on their recent graduations from the University of Technology, Sydney. They both graduated in the same ceremony for the Faculty of Business on 22nd April, 2008. **Angelique**, daughter of **George & Lorraine Poulos** and granddaughter of **Con & Angela Poulos**, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Leisure Management. **Violeta**, daughter of **Taso & Effie Souris** and granddaughter of **Violet Sanderman**, graduated in Bachelor of Management in Leisure with Credit.





Family celebration: From left, Bill McInnis, Peter Poulos, Maria Poulos, Maria-Claude Poulos, Harry Poulos, Danielle Poulos, Vaughan Smith, Lilian Poulos, Celeste Flowers, Christine McInnis, Theo Poulos, Peter Flowers, Tony Poulos, Nathan Poulos, and Theo Poulos. Photo: Peter Adams.

Poulos family feted for service to community

Katoomba couple Theo and Lilian Poulos were feted for their service to the Blue Mountains at a celebration to mark their 66th wedding anniversary on Friday night. Blue Mountains Mayor Jim Angel presented Theo Poulos with an Emeritus Award for Service to the Community and to the Blue Mountains. Cllr Angel spoke of the high regard held for the Poulos family throughout the Mountains. "This is a very special family," he said. In local government we recognise prominent citizens for their leadership and community work. "This is the first such award presented in the Blue Mountains and it is because Theo and Lilian have built such a wonderful reputation for their ethics and commitment to their community." MC John Hockney recounted the couple's story to the capacity crowd of friends and family who gathered at Maggie and Al's Restaurant at the Alpine Motor Inn.

Lilian and Theo were the children of Egyptian and Greek families living in Cairo, Egypt. They grew up in the same street but only met as adults in 1938. They married and honeymooned in Giza, overlooking the pyramids.

In 1942, Theo was an officer in the Greek Army stationed in Lebanon. Travel restrictions meant Lilian could not see her husband, who was due to be posted to Libya. Determined to visit him, Lilian cut her hair, dressed in a soldier's uniform and travelled incognito by train from Cairo to Beirut for one final visit. The couple emigrated to Australia in 1952 and settled in Katoomba. They ran a cake shop there, a milk run and then established Theo Poulos Real Estate. It is now a third-generation family business.

"Theo and Lilian Poulos worked hard and gradually built their reputation," Mr Hockney said. "They asked for respect from others and always gave as much back." Don McGregor, President of the Katoomba branch of the Australian Labor Party, which hosted the event, said Theo and Lilian had been branch members for 40 years. "I am very grateful to the Poulos family for giving us an opportunity to celebrate the success of migrants from Greece and Egypt," Mr McGregor said. "They have contributed so much to our culture." Bob Debus, Federal Member for Macquarie, described the celebration as an extraordinary gathering of people who have been central to commercial and civic life in the Blue Mountains.

"Theo saw that having a political commitment was part of being active in a democracy. "It was part of his life," he said. Mr Debus read letters from former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam and the Consul-General of the Republic of Greece. He acknowledged the substantial contribution made by Theo and Lilian.

This article appeared in the Blue Mountains Gazette, Wednesday 14th May (page 9).

A wonderful life

By Elizabeth Bryan

For the last 50 years Maria Simos has called Homebush home, raising three children, managing a Milk Bar with her husband Con and witnessing the effects of change.

"Con and I moved to Homebush in 1958 as he had found the perfect shop for us at 5 Rochester St," said Maria.

They still live above 'Con's Milk Bar' and have many memories.

"Con was popular with young and old. Female customers used to say to me 'I only want Con to serve me because he makes me feel good,'" said Maria.

Often they would not bother to lock up.

Where everyone knows your name

"It was just so homely and welcoming, everyone knew each other, and it was safe."

The original shop had two small wooden doors and two large windows.

Maria's former School Principal from Dulwich Hill High and her dress making teacher from McCables Academy in the city were just two of the regulars at 'Con's Milk Bar.'

So were the hundreds of neighbourhood children, who ordered their lunches before school canteens existed.

"We used to make our own fresh fruit juices, pineapple crush and tropical orange punch, serving them to the school children in special three-penny glasses," said Maria.

"Our milkshakes are still remembered and were made from home made flavors and icy milk."

In 1960 Con and Maria renovated the Milk Bar, filling the shop with modern appliances including a coffee machine; refrigerated bar and a glass showcase for children's sweets. Shelves were installed to accommodate the newly introduced sliced bread.

What impressed their younger customers was the colorful confectionery.

This article was recently written in the local paper .

Both these articles reflect that many Kytherians are held in high regard by their communities. They came to Australia, worked hard to build a life for their families, while also being able to assimilate with their adopted country.



Con and Maria Simos at their Milk Bar in the early 1970's

"Cadbury's, Nestles, Marella Jubes, Life Savers and Arnotts biscuits in large tins. Our Easter Eggs were a dream display and our kids loved it."

The three Simos children also enjoyed gifts from friends within the community.

"Our landlord Mr. and Mrs. King and other local people would always bring Christmas presents for them," said Maria

early 1970's when many residents in the street were convinced to give up their back yard land to the council for car parking.

"These days when I can't get out of my driveway, I wonder if it was all worth it," said Maria.

20 years on

In 1978 after twenty years at "Con's Milk Bar," working seven days a week and enjoying their happy family life, Con and Maria sold the shop.

"For years afterwards it remained a Milk Bar and my son-in-law Jim and daughter Irene transformed the shop into a brand new Ricoza Café, which has had a tremendous impact on the area," said Maria.

Maria has also witnessed the effects of the first traffic lights at the corner of Homebush Rd and Beresford Road, the widening of footpaths in Rochester St and the railway station upgrade.

"Such change would have been hard to comprehend 50 years ago and I wonder what fate has to offer Homebush in the next 50 years," said Maria.

"I know I will be smiling from above."

A simple life

"Back then, life was simple in Homebush. Children grew up carefree, playing on the footpath and across the school ground on their bikes."

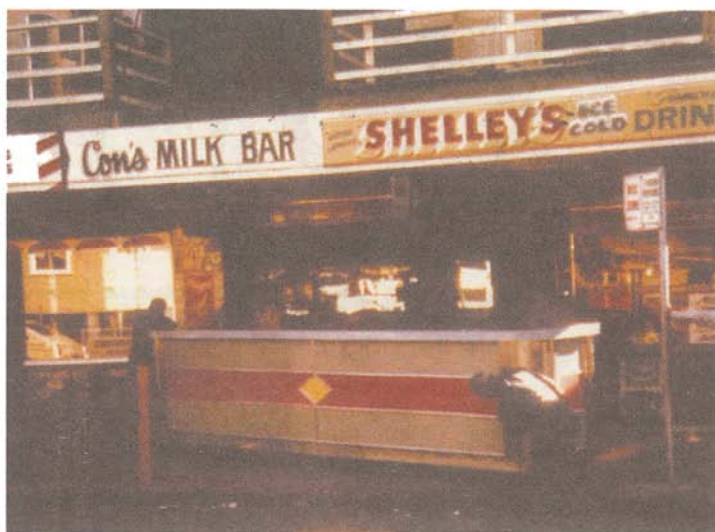
They were also entertained by the new Hoyts theatre on Parramatta Road which brought the latest movies to the area.

But the highlight of twenty years at 'Con's Milk Bar' for Maria was when the then Prime Minister of Australia, Billy McMahon, visited the shop before voting.

"It was wonderful, he even gave me a kiss on the cheek," said Maria.

In 1974 'Con's Milk Bar' moved to 7 Rochester St, staying for four years.

One change that was difficult was in the



Con's Milk Bar moves next door in 1974.



And a great time was had by all.....

**Books & CD's for sale -
can be purchased from the
*Kytherian Association of Australia:***

- *History of Kythera* by Peter Vanges **\$30**
- *The Greeks in Queensland-A History from 1859 to 1945* by Denis A Conomos (RRP \$49.95)
- *Ta Tessera Spitia* by Jim Saltis **\$20**
[Jim Saltis 47 Market Street Randwick 2031]
email saltisjim@optusnet.com.au
phone (02) 9399 9767
- *Katsehamos and the Great Idea*
by Peter Prineas **\$35** available Plateia Press
32 Calder Road, Darlington NSW 2008
email plateia@ozemail.com.au
phone (02) 9319 1513 Mobile: 0429 322 857
- *Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill. Greek Cafes in Twentieth-Century Australia*
by Toni Risson 130 Woodend Road,
Woodend QLD 4305.
- email: s131107@uq.edu.au -\$49.95 plus
postage & handling. Phone 3281 1525.
- *By George*, Harris George. Life stories by
Harris Tzortzopoulos, parents born Karavas,
Kythera. Naval Officer later prominent solicitor
in Maryland, USA.
Available George Poulos \$35
- *A Touch of Greece. The Greek Café Owners of
Junction St., Nowra* by Robyn Florance.
Phone: 4429 3564 (BH)
Email: rflorance@shoalnet.au
\$17.50 including handling & postage.
- *Journey to Kythera* CD-ROM for Apple Mac
ActionPoints@hotmail.com or 0417 590 194



**CULTURAL ARCHIVE
WEBSITE FOR KYTHERA**

Kythera-Family.net

<http://www.kythera-family.net>

Donations can be sent directly to:

The Treasurer

***Kytherian Association of Australia*
PO Box A203
Sydney South NSW 1235**

Cheques should be made out to:

***Kytherian Association of Australia -
Kythera Family Website Account***

More information about sponsorship can
also be obtained by contacting:

George C Poulos

Ph: 02 9388 8320

Email: transoz@bigpond.net.au

Angelo Notaras

Ph: 02 9810 0194

Please forward any items you wish to be
included in our Newsletter to

The EDITOR

PO Box A203

SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

or

kaanewsletter@optusnet.com.au

Please Note:

Those submitting articles to this Newsletter
are advised that these articles may appear
on the *Kythera-Family.net* website.

**The deadline for articles is the 23rd of
each month.**



Kytherian Association of Australia

www.kytherianassociation.com.au

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

Keep up-to-date with all the latest KAA news & information
as well as details of our upcoming events.

Logon now & tell us what you think:
feedback@kytherianassociation.com.au

Enquiries: Peter Samios

GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2008

FRIDAYS 2ND MAY - 4TH JULY
(TERM 2)

Matraville High School Cnr Anzac Pde & Franklin
Sts, Matraville.

Infants 7.00pm-
7.45pm

Primary 7.45pm-
8.30pm

Junior High School 8.30pm-9.15pm
Senior Group 9.15pm-10.15pm

