

# The KYTHERIAN

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

**DECEMBER 2008** 

# The KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA presents THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PICNIC

(organised by the Kytherian 4WD and Recreation Club )

will be held on:-

Sunday 7th December, 2008

at

Matraville Sports High School, Cnr Anzac Pde & Franklin St. Matraville.

BBQ Lunch at 12.00pm

Santa arrives at 3.00pm



The Legends vs Allstars Soccer Match will be played at 1.00pm.

(see page 9 for details)

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY DANCE**

THURSDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2009
7 PM

**VENUE: GRAND BARCLAY RECEPTION LOUNGE** 

(588 PRINCES HWY, ROCKDALE)

COST: \$50 (ADULTS)

**\$25 (NON-DANCING CHILDREN UNDER** 

13 YRS)

**DANCING GROUPS WILL BE PERFORM-**

#### **KYTHO CALENDAR**

Fridays 17th Oct. - 19th Dec. Weekly dancing lessons for Term 4 (see back page for details).

Sunday 7th December 2008 Christmas Picnic

(details on front page).

Friday 19th December 2008 Greek dancing Christmas party (see details on page 12 and below).

Thursday 1st January 2009 New Year's Day Dance (details on front page).

Saturday 28th February 2009 Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards. (details in February's newsletter)

Saturday 30th May 2009 Kytherian Ball (see page 4)

#### 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.

# END OF YEAR FRIDAY NIGHT GREEK DANCING CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Come one, come all.....
party after the dancing classes on
Friday, 19th December, 2009.





Drinks and pizzas will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!

#### **Editor's Note**

Well it is that time of year, when you begin the countdown to Christmas and wonder where the past year has gone. Seriously, where has it gone? When did

life become so hectic that time literally does fly?
During my childhood, the days seemed to drag and a year was an absolute eternity. Even when I grew up, a year still seemed such a lengthy period of time. Once Christmas was over, you felt like the next Christmas was a long way off.

These days, nothing could be further from the truth. One minute you are celebrating Easter and the next, you are buying Christmas presents. The year sadly becomes a blur.... one day running into the next.

Despite this, 2008 has really been an eventful year. For me, it could not have been scripted with a better ending. Barack Obama became President Elect just as my family welcomed my American cousins, (who are republicans), back to Australia. This was the ultimate payback for their support of George Bush for the past eight years.

However, as the purpose of their visit was for my cousin (who is a priest) to co officiate my daughter's wedding service, I decided to take the high road, show a little maturity and not discuss politics, (too much). My cousin certainly helped make the wedding an extremely memorable occasion. His speech to the bride and groom at the end of the service was so moving, that it brought a round of applause from the congregation. What made it even more emotional was the fact that my daughter's grandparents, who had fought so many health crises in the past eighteen months, were on hand to witness the first wedding of a grandchild. That in itself made the wedding an unforgettable event. However, as we all know, plans do not always go as expected and we had to contend with poor weather on the day. Luckily the rain stopped and the sun came out long enough for the bride and bridesmaids to get into the cars

Despite this, we thoroughly enjoyed the wedding and during the bridal waltz, were rewarded by an amazing display of fireworks heralding the winner of Australian Idol at the Opera House. We tried to convince our daughter's new in-laws that this is in fact how Kytherians celebrate and that sparing no expense, we organised the fireworks ourselves.....remarkably enough, they did not believe us.

and into the church.

As the festive season approaches, we can now begin to wind down, reconnect with family and friends and appreciate how wonderful this time of year really is. To all of our members, we wish you a Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year, 2009. Good luck to all students who are awaiting the results to their HSC. Just remember...this too shall pass and by next year you will have forgotten what all the stress was about.

In the event that there may not be a "Summer Edition" Newsletter for January, we would like to inform our readers that the Archbishop of Kythera will be visiting our shores in February. Details of his visit will be in February's newsletter.



#### Festive Season, Family Season

This is your big chance. In a few weeks you'll be together with your extended family and you'll have the chance to see the generations mixing with each other. Or will they? Will the young mingle with the young and the elderly relax amongst themselves? And in 20 years, when the "young" are parents themselves and interested in their family history and the "elderly" no longer around to ask? Organise a tape or digital voice recorder (most ipods have an attachment which turns them into dictation machines, and some phones have them built in now) and take an hour or two to record the important memories of growing up in the Kytherian community (regardless of where), as well as their most important memories. At least one member of your family will be eternally grateful for your effort. If you'd like a list of questions to get the ball rolling, just send me a mail and I'll reply with a list. Have a wonderful Christmas.

James Prineas, james@kythera-family.net

#### In Lourandianika

by Maria Whyte (nee Marcellos)

Wonderful people, whom I have never met me, responded to my request for Louradianika on Kythera to be found and photographed. My gratitude for these photographs which I will always treasure is enormous. Memories will never fade now, and Louradianika has been captured not only for myself, but, for all Kytherians, on the Kythera website.

The photographs depict many changes since I last visited in April 1994. Such as a plaque on the blue doors I knew, saying home of Panayioti Lourantos. I must say that the name is not familiar to me. It was at these doors I stood as a 15 year old girl with my beloved grandfather, when he explained to me, with such wisdom, that I do not need to attend a church for God to hear me. My grandfather, a Greek Orthodox priest, told me that as long as I believed, and my faith was strong, God would hear me, even if I was standing in an open field. Such were his beliefs, and these beliefs he passed on to me. These words have helped me over the years, as my health declined, and I did not have a Greek Orthodox Church where I could go and light a candle for my loved ones, and pray for them.

How I remember the lounge-room of my grandparent's home. A simple home filled with love. I had gone to Louradianika with my grandparents to spend several weeks, and the three bedrooms were allocated to other members of the family, and my grandparents. My bed was to be a long wooden sittingbench, covered rugs made on looms, folded and placed on the timber to make it more comfortable for me. How I remember, as a mischievous 15 year old, running and jumping on my bed, forgetting its hardness, but, after landing on my

knees, I never made that mistake again.

Each morning I would awake to my grandfather sitting at the table and chairs, quietly reading his Bible. His gentle voice was so soothing. He would turn each page as he read. This may not sound as anything of interest, but my grandfather was almost blind, and as he turned each page, he "read" each word by heart. He did not falter once.

I would then dress warmly to battle the cold winds. I would put a scarf on my head, and then start my morning walk towards Kato Livadi, where a kind person would leave the special milk my grandmother required for her ailment. The sky still had the dark clouds of the night, and the winds were cold, and as I walked, the clouds would start breaking, and the sky would clear, and the sun shone through. The milk was left in a crumbling building, contained in some form of skin bag. And even though the cold blustery winds blew, I did not for one moment begrudge the need to get my grandmother's milk. Nothing was too much trouble for my beloved grandmother, whom I adored.

The walls of my grandparent's home echoed with the laughter of years gone by. The children who had been born there, the children who played with other children in this tiny village. Brothers, sisters, cousins, playing as children do, and my grandmother, always keeping a watchful eye on the children, would light the wood in the large wall oven, as all the mothers did in their individual homes, to prepare simple but nourishing food for their families. Being such a close-nit community, the children always had a watchful eye kept on them by the many relatives, receiving such love from uncles, aunts and cousins. I can see my grandmother with her sparkling blue eyes, so beautiful, with her blond hair now turned grey. Still beautiful.

As I stood in this now-empty house, many years later when I returned, I could imagine her, as she was, when she was a young woman, a loving wife and mother. Her children grew to adulthood with such high moral values, and these they passed on to their children and their children's children.

Louradianika is perhaps no longer the village I remember, yet I will remember it always as it was. My deepest gratitude again to those who searched out this tiny village, taking so many photographs, and put my village more prominently on the map of Kythera. I also thank God for blessing me by bringing these wonderful people into my life.

To my beloved and much adored family, both living and passed, I dedicate this tribute to Lourandianika. It has been written with love and my deepest respect.

Maria Whyte (nee Marcellos) maria.wwhyte@gmail.com

**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 LADIES AUXILIARY MELBOURNE CUP FASHION LUNCHEON 2008

Our recent Melbourne Cup Fashion Luncheon was an overwhelming success with 100 ladies in attendance. The function was held in the Bellevue Terrace at the Swiss Grand Spa and Resort Hotel, overlooking Bondi Beach.

We were honoured to have with us on the day, **Mrs Theadora Tolios**, the Greek Consul's wife, as well as the first President of the Kytherian Ladies Auxiliary, **Mrs Zaphira Caravousanos**.

Our guests were entertained by a beautiful fashion parade presented by Anthea Crawford Fashions. Following the parade, one of the highlights of the function was the announcement of the four ladies who best captured the Melbourne Cup Spirit.

They included **Mary Katralis**, **Maria Penglis**, **Betty Summers** and **Maria Tsekouras**. There was much excitement with the many array of raffle and luck door prizes to be won too.

Congratulations to the following raffle prize winners:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – **Toula Varipatis**; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – **Mary Moutzouris**; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – **Lillian** Caravousanos; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – **Marie Tsaoucis**; and 5<sup>th</sup> Prize – **Josephine** Giaouris.

Of course, the 'Big Race' captured everyone's attention, with many excited winners. A fun day was had by everyone! Many thanks must go to the committee who worked endlessly throughout the day to make this function such a success! We thank all our guests for their support and look forward to seeing you again at our next function.

**Kyrranne Thomas** 

### Kytherian Debutante Ball 2009

To be held at Star City
Saturday 30th May 2009
Debutante Applications

&

**Enquiries to Esther Calligeros** 

Phone: 9344 0298

Closing Date: 22nd Dec. 2008















#### **HOLIDAY IN PARADISE**

#### BY SUE COLLETT

This year my husband Paul & I had a wonderful opportunity to visit Kythera for our first time. Kythera is the birthplace of my father, Con Psaltis, who died in 1970. My cousin Steve & Anna said that they were going to Kythera & would like us to come & stay with them. They had built a holiday house on the land that once belonged to our Grandparents. Steve's brother Harry, sister Ritsa & her husband Andreas were going to be there also. They had restored the old home next door, where our Grandparents lived & our fathers were born.

Our excitement was building up as the plane was approaching Kythera. When we looked down on the island our first impression was how barren it looked & whatever are we going to do for 2 weeks there. Kythera Airport reminded us a bit like the airport in Tasmania, except there was so much activity. There were people everywhere, who had come to meet friends & relatives. We alone had 3 car loads to greet us, it was truly wonderful. As we drove to Frilingianika the village where my Dad was born, my eyes started to well up as I thought of how happy he would have been to know that we had come. Steve & Anna's house is beautiful & our Grandparents house was restored magnificently, in the traditional colours of white & blue.

Our 2 weeks in Kythera was full on, I think we visited most villages, churches, monasteries & beaches on the island. Thank goodness for our afternoon siesta time. We went site seeing in the mornings, back for lunch & siesta, up for afternoon tea (about 6pm), then out again for more site seeing & dinner about 10.30pm. It was wonderful.

Some of the monasteries we visited were on mountains so high, the views were spectacular. The stories about some of them were really interesting. Such as, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the Germans took over Agia Moni, because they were so high up they were able to see if the Americans or British were coming. Meanwhile the priest had hidden some British Soldiers in a secret hiding place, unknown to the Germans. Also Moni Agia Elessis, was named after a girl who wanted to be a Nun & her father would not let her, when she insisted he beheaded her.

There were so many beautiful churches. The most unusual that we visited was Agia Sophia, which was in a cave, with 800 year old Byzantine paintings of St Sophia & her 3 daughters, faith, hope & love .There were also paintings of other saints, some of them looked as though they were recently painted. These paintings lead to a cave, adorn with stalactites & stalagmites' covering 2000 square metres.

It amazed us how the people built all those stone fences dividing their properties, especially the ones on mountains. The narrow winding roads were a bit scary when cars were coming in the opposite direction. We visited the ruins of the Castle of Hora, with beautiful views of Kapsali below & visited the castle ruins at Mylopotamus. It saddened me to see that the old houses had deteriorated so much that they were falling down & the land let go. Steve explained that the population was now only about 3000, it used to be 30,000, then the young started migrating to different parts of the world. Once the parents died, there was no one to look after the land. It is only now that the children, now older have started to return & restore the old houses, even if they are only used for their yearly holidays. I loved the houses that had Kamaris's (arched rooms), they are so different to Australian homes.

The weather was just glorious, it was wonderful to cool off in the crystal clear waters of beautiful beaches like Diakofti, Paliopoli, Platia Ammos, Kapsali & Avlemonas.

Paul & I had no idea of the Myths, History & the different cultures of this beautiful Island.

There was the Byzanitine Monuments and the Bridge of Katouni, built by the British.

The Goddess Aphrodite was believed to have been born on the coast of Kythera.

The ruins of Palaiochora, the medieval fortified city, abandoned in 1537, after being attacked by the pirate Barbarosa. These are only a few things we discovered about Kythera.

In modern day when the Kytherian Aussies go back for their holidays, towns such as Livadi & Potamos on market day are great places to meet. Kythera has everything, beautiful restaurants & seaside resorts and wonderful people.

My husband Paul had a fantastic time. To me this was a trip of a lifetime, meeting relatives for the first time & people who remembered my Dad, & told me stories about him that I did not know. Being able to visit my Grandparents grave was wonderful but emotional. I will be forever grateful to my cousins for giving us such a wonderful time & showing us Kythera.

I have always been proud of my Greek heritage, but even more so now. I have a friend who has travelled the world & always said that the Greek Islands of Santorini, Mikinos & Paros were her favourite places. Now after seeing photos of Kythera, she said that is where she wants to go next.

Kythera is truly an Island Paradise.



"Our home away from home" in Frilingianika



Avlemonas







Potamos



The Katouni Bridge



Paul & I at the Kastro overlooking Kapsali



Plateia Ammos

## The Archbishop of Kythera, <u>Metropolitan Serapheim</u>

The Archbishop of Kythera, Metropolitan Serapheim will be visiting Australia during the month of February.

He will be Guest-Of-Honour at the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards function on 28th February, 2009.

Details of the itinerary for his trip will be in February's newsletter.



The Grudge Match is Back!!!!

The scheduled post

Fathers Day Legends vs Allstars Soccer Match

was rained out...

however bragging rights will still be on offer for 2008.

The Minor Premiers of 2008 – The Allstars – will match up with

past heroes – The Legends – on December 7 at the

Children's Christmas Party at Matraville High, Chifley.

The match will kick off at 1pm sharp.

See you all there for a fun day!

# Social News

### Births

Congratulations to Ross & Toula Cassimatis of
Burwood on the birth of their third daughter Vanessa
(Vasiliki) Panayiota. Vanessa was born on the 3rd November,
2008 and is the youngest sister of Kayla & Tina. Proud grandparents are Peter &
Metty Cassimatis of Baulkham Hills and Bill & Tina Hatzivasiliou of Croydon.



Να σας ζήσει!

#### Births

Congratulations to Mark & Anna Lahana on the birth of their beautiful daughter Joanna. Joanna was born on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and is named after her late grandfather John. Joanna's grandfathers are the late John Lahana of Woolooware and the late Nicholas Sclavos of Auburn. Proud first-time grandmothers are Mrs. Gloria Lahana and Mrs. Chrisanthy Sclavos.

Να σας ζήσει!

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Matthew Mallos**, son of **Michael & Carol Mallos** of Maroubra. **Matthew** recently graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Masters in Law with a Corporate, Commercial and Taxation specialization.



## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to **Marina-Portia Wharton** (nee Anthony), on her recent celebrations for her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, passing her final radiology specialist exams and farewell party as she and her husband **Scott** depart for Hong Kong to pursue their careers.

We wish them well.

## Birthdays \*21st\*

Congratulations to **Peter John Economos**, son of **John and Catherine** of Strathfield, on his recent 21st birthday. **Peter** turned 21 whilst holidaying on the island of Paros. A cocktail party to celebrate the event was held at The Stamford Plaza Double Bay on his return.

#### Weddings

Congratulations to **Michael Belogiannis & Yana Kepreotis** who were recently married in a beautiful ceremony at the Cathedral of the Annunciation of our Lady Theotokos, Redfern.



The reception followed at 'The WatersEdge', Walsh Bay where lots of "kefi" ensured that a good time was had by all.

**Michael** is the son of **Menio & Effie Belogiannis** of Hurstville and **Yana** is the daughter of **Victor & Kathy Kepreotis** of Bardwell Valley.

Yana's grandparents are John & Maria Vardas of Kingsgrove and Doreen & the Late Leslie Kepreotis of Maroubra.

We wish them every happiness as they start their new life together.







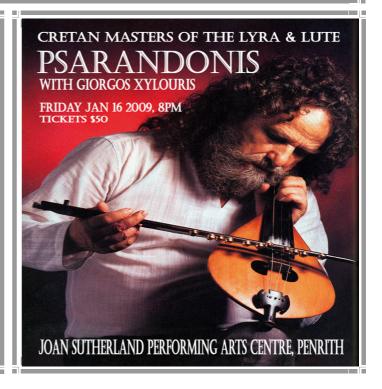
# END OF YEAR FRIDAY NIGHT GREEK DANCING CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Come one, come all.....
party after the dancing classes on
Friday, 19th December, 2009.





Drinks and pizzas will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you there!



# PSARANDONIS FIRST EVER SYDNEY PERFORMANCE FRIDAY JAN 16 2009, 8PM

Psarandonis is the senior member of the formidable Xylouris family, renowned musicians from the Cretan mountain village of Anogeia, and younger brother of the late Nikos Xylouris, an inspiring figure in the Greekresistance to fascism.

Psarandonis' instruments are lyra and voice. He sings the traditional songs of his home with extraordinary freedom and intensity; his lyra playing, astonishingly creative.

Appearing with Psarandonis is the Xylouris family's master of the lute, Giorgos Xylouris, a renowned instrumentalist and singer in his own right - who provides the rhythms we associate immediately with Greek dancing plus virtuoso melodies. Don't miss this concert!

Giorgos Xylottris

Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre 597 High St, Penrith Tickets \$50 Bookings: www.jspac.com.au or 4723 7600 Ο Ψαραντώνης, είναι λυράρης από την ξακουστή οικογένεια των Ξυλούρηδων οικογένεια διάσημων και εξαιρετικά αξιόλογων μουσικών από τα ορεινά Ανώγεια της Κρήτης - και μικρότερος αδελφός του θρυλικού Νίκου Ξυλούρη, που η φωνή του σφράγισε τους αγώνες αντίστασης των Ελλήνων κατά της Δικτατορίας.

Ο Ψαραντώνης είναι εξαιρετικός τραγουδιστής και δεξιοτέχνης της κρητικής Λύρας. Αποδίδει τα παραδοσιακά τραγούδια του τόπου του με ιδιάζουσα ελευθερία και πάθος και στο παίξιμο της κρητικής λύρας, ερμηνεύει τους σκοπούς με εξαιρετική δημιουργικότητα.

Μαζί με τον Ψαραντώνη, εμφανίζεται ο δεξιοτέχνης της οικογένειας στο λαούτο, Ψαρογιώργης, φημισμένος ερμηνευτής στο λαούτο και στο τραγούδι, προσφέροντας μας ρυθμούς που παραπέμπουν άμεσα σε ελληνικούς χορούς εμπλουτισμένους και δεμένους με αριστοτεχνικές μελωδίες.

Μια βραδυά που δεν θέλετε να χάσετε!

Psarandonis & Giorgos Xylouris will also be performing at the All Tomorrow's Parties music festival events (Sydney 17 and 18 January) which have been curated by Australian music legends Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds. See www.atpfestival.com for further details.



#### **Kytherian Wins the "NAROOMA CUP"**

After an extended hiatus, a Kytherian has again won the prestigious "Narooma Cup". **Peter "Bluff" Aroney** put in a sterling effort despite some cool temperatures, disguised wayward shots (that were more like attempted assassination of his fellow golfers), and finished ahead of a very dedicated group of social golfers, to again win the cup.

Every year, for more than 12 years now, the same group of 12 go down to Narooma and challenge each other for the pinnacle of Golf's trophies, the Narooma Cup.

**Bluff** managed to finish ahead of players such as, **Navotna/Kliesters** (never a more honest player),

**Bulldog** (the less said the better),

Fluff (if only he still had his Gortex shirt),

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>

**Nurse** (ex Curse)

**Head** (once the best dressed, let himself down this year)

**Skirtz** (courageous effort with a broken hand after the first assassination attempt)

Big V

**PTZ** (the assassin wannabe)

Chindo

**Bluey** 

After receiving his trophy, **Peter** went on to explain his win and reasons how he overcame adversity to finally harden his will, enough to earn the right to hold the cup aloft.

Here's hoping that it will only be a very short time, before a Kytherian once again holds the cup with pride

**Peter** said "believe me, this trophy is going to stick in my hand" – that's what we are afraid of!



#### 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 <u>plateia@ozemail.com.au</u> 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** <u>Ph</u>: 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

#### VISIT US ONLINE!

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 17th OCTOBER - 19th DECEMBER (TERM 4)

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

Infants

7.00pm-

7.45pm

Primary

7.45pm-

8.30pm

Junior High School Senior Group

8.30pm-9.15pm 9.15pm-10.15pm