



The KYTHERIAN

SUMMER EDITION

JANUARY 2007

The Newsletter of the Kytherian Association of Australia

PO Box A203, South Sydney NSW 1235
www.kytherianassociation.com.au



Happy New Year
and a healthy and
prosperous 2007 for all
our members. Welcome
once again to the special
summer edition of *The
Kytherian* (including the
Summer Crossword) for
your holiday reading and
entertainment.

George Vardas

Aroney Awards Function

We are inviting Students of Kytherian
descent to submit their Year 2007 HSC
Results and UAI scores to the
Kytherian Association of Australia for the

Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards

which are presented on behalf of the
Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust
at the Awards Dinner, to be held on

Saturday 10th March, 2007
at 7.00pm at Twin Reception Centre
560 Botany Street Alexandria
\$45 Adults \$25 Children

Results (copy of UAI result and Higher
School Certificate marks)
to reach the below address by
14th February, 2007:

**Nicholas Anthony Aroney
Encouragement Awards**
c/- The Kytherian Association of Australia
PO Box A203
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Any enquiries should be addressed to
Victor Kepreotis on 0408 216 108
and for bookings please call
Kathy Samios on 9349 1849.

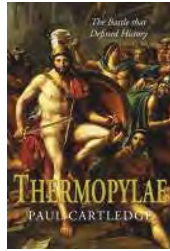
KYTHERIAN MEMBERSHIP TEST 2007

The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, recently announced that his government will introduce a citizenship test for migrants wishing to become citizens. The prime minister's plan is to require citizenship applicants to answer 30 multiple-choice.

questions about Australian history and culture, system of government and mateship.

We at the Summer Edition of the Kytherian Newsletter believe that this does not go far enough. Every Australian should be subjected to a test of their knowledge of Australian values.Continued page 10

Editorial



I am a sucker for the move "The 300 Spartans". It was on pay TV the other night and I watched it for the umpteenth time. I assume the Ancient Spartans did not speak like the actor Richard Egan (in the role of Leonidas) but there is something special about the laconic way in which he told the Persians "*molon labe*" (come and take them) in response to their demand for the Spartans to surrender their arms. Also, the marching music of the Spartans written by Manos Hadjidakis is brilliant.

Now you might ask **what has this got to do with Kythera?** Here goes...

I have just been reading the latest book by the eminent English classicist, Paul Cartledge, "Thermopylae". It is an enthralling read. It is quite clear that the battle at Thermopylae, although lost by the Greeks, served to delay the Persian advance in Greece and both inspired and emboldened the Athenians and other Greeks to

eventually overwhelm Xerxes' naval and land

forces in the battles to come at Salamis and Plataea. Cartledge refers to Thermopylae as the battle that changed the world. Others regard it as the battle which saved the west. If the Persian hordes had succeeded the golden age of Classical Greece may have never dawned and who knows what western culture would be serving up today.

What was Kythera's contribution in all of this? At page 143 of his book, Cartledge (who by the way is a strong supporter of the return of the Parthenon Marbles – but that's another story) points out that the Spartans were the best equipped and trained soldiers. They wore a bronze cuirass (or breastplate) as part of their armour. Cartledge continues: "Underneath the breastplate from shoulders to mid-thigh ran his sleeveless wool tunic, dyed red from milky fluid extracted from murex molluscs native to the Laconian shores off and near the island of Cythera".

So there you have it. The Spartans fought the Persians with clothes dyed in red from Kytherian molluscs. Western civilisation as we know it was saved (albeit in part) by the colour red from Kythera.

Kytho Calender 2007

Friday 2 February - Friday 30 MarchGreek Dancing.

Saturday 10 March.....Nicholas Anthony Aroney
Encouragement Awards Dance.

Friday 30 March – Sunday 1 April.....Wine Festival - Berry.

Sunday 8 April.....Easter Sunday (Pascha)

Sunday 13 May.....Agios Theodoros ton Kytherion Liturgy.

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.



GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2007

START FRIDAY 2ND FEBRUARY

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

Infants
Primary

7.00pm-7.45pm
7.45pm-8.30pm



Wine Festival 31 March

Spend a relaxing Weekend away in the beautiful South Coast town of Berry. Enjoy delicious wines and a Glendi night filled with Greek Music and Dance

The Kytherian Association is offering a great value 2 night package cost which includes:

⌘	dormitory style accommodation (2 nights)	<u>Adults</u>\$150.00
⌘	all meals Friday dinner to Sunday Lunch	<u>Children 5-17..</u> \$110.00
⌘	outdoor facilities (pool , tennis, cricket)	
⌘	instructor organised recreational activities	<u>Children 2-4.....</u> \$36.00
⌘	entry to the Wine Festival	<u>Tots Under 2.....</u> Free

ON 30TH MARCH TO 1ST APRIL 2007



People not staying at the centre are welcome to attend the evening of the Wine Festival:

**Entry \$15.00 Adults,
\$5 Children under 15.**

Bring your own food, drinks will be available for purchase.

Book early ! —Limited Numbers !

Theo Poulos 9150 9069 or 0409 449 927

George Poulos 9388 8320 or
www.kytherianassociation.com.au

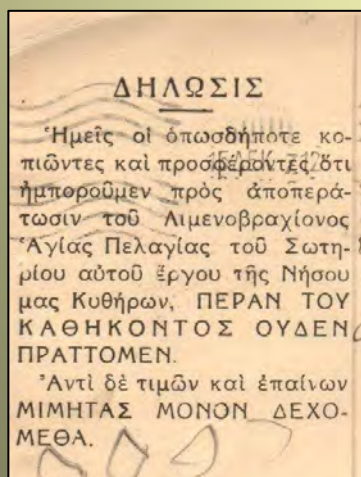
Berry Sports and Recreation Centre
660 Coolangatta Road, BERRY. Tel 4464 1406

POSTCARDS FROM KYTHERA

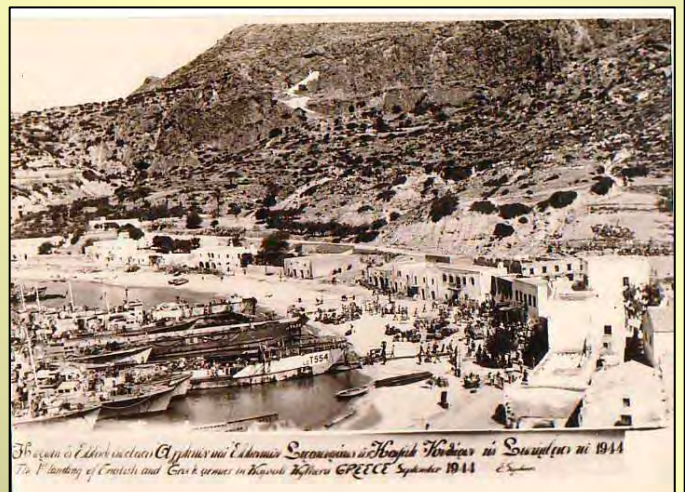
by George Cassim

I love collecting. One of my passions in recent years - apart from Irene - is collecting postcards from Kythera. After coins, banknotes and stamps, postcards are the most popular collectable hobbies in the world. Picture postcards have been officially around since 1893 when the first picture postcards were sold at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. They were very popular at the turn of the century world-wide and were also embraced in Greece. Postcard images capture a moment in time of a society both as souvenirs and as collectors' items. They are objects that add to our Kytherian past.

One such example is the postcards that depicted the early years of ships arriving off Kythera at Aghia Pelagia. For many years before the construction of the famous *mollo*, islanders returning to the island by ship had to disembark by rowboat (as depicted in the top picture of the 1932 postcard reproduced below). The building of the mollo was regarded as an important milestone in the island's history, as the postcard below (and the inscription on the reverse side) shows. It was an immense display of pride and achievement for the island to have completed the project.



Other postcards depicting early arrivals at Aghia Pelagia, probably taken in the 1940s, also capture the spirit of the time. They are picture postcards by the famous Kytherian photographer, Emanuel Sofios.



POSTCARDS FROM KYTHERA

The famous kastro at Chora and its relationship to the beautiful and picturesque bays of Kapsali has always captured the photographic imagination of Kytherians. The following three postcards feature photos taken by three famous photographers, Gatsiadis, Sofios and Fatseas. They clearly show the condition of the kastro and its fortifications in the years gone by whilst the middle postcard clearly emphasises the prominence of Chora and the kastro on the Kytherian landscape.



ΚΥΘΗΡΑ: 'Ενετικών Φρουρίων. Χώρας. KYTHERA: Venetian Citadel of the town.



ΚΥΘΗΡΑ - Χώρα - the Capital of Kythera GREECE



I have managed to obtain a postcard written in late-May or early June 1941 – around the time of the Battle of Crete – which was sent from Kythera and which features the famous icon of Aghia Myrtidiotissa. It was possibly one of the last postcards to leave the island prior to the German occupation. It was sent from Logothetianika by a local named George who addressed the card to his cousins, one of whom was Hryssi. The postcard writer comments that there is calm on the island at the present time.

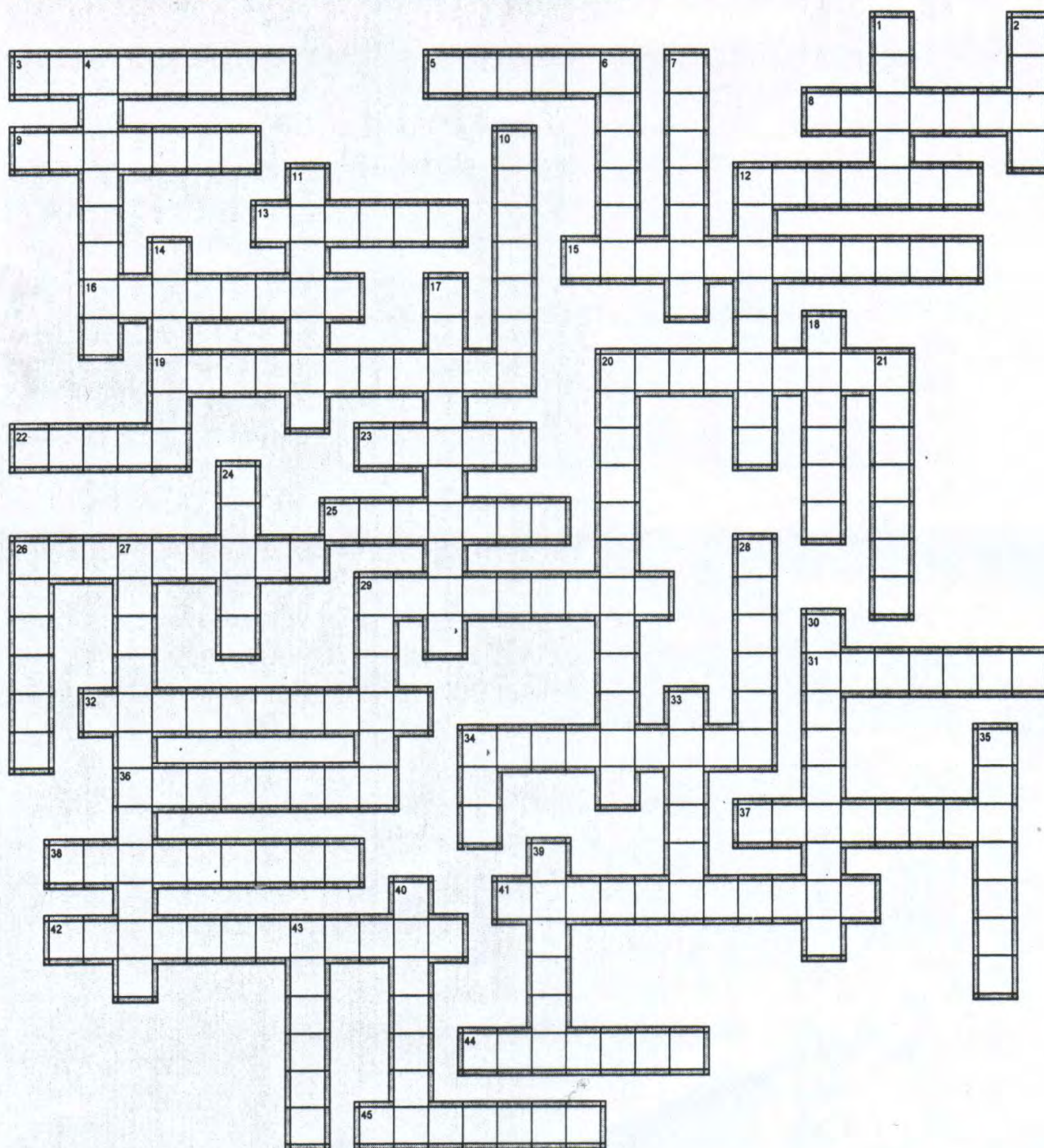


32 Μαΐου 1941

These postcards in one sense reproduce a snapshot of a Kytherian society and history which we forever cherish. At the same time, the personal handwriting on the postcard brings home to the collector a personal message of the card as well as the image on the postcard. This is what makes postcard collecting so enjoyable.



Created by George Vardas with EclipseCrossword — www.eclipsecrossword.com



Answers will be in the next issue of The Kytherian

Down

Clues

Across

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The number of goals scored by the Kytherian Soccer team to win the 2006 grand final. | 3. Highest ranking British official in Cerigo during British Protectorate was known as or went by this title. |
| 2. English satirist and artist who visited Kythera and the other Ionian Islands in 1863. | 6. Pireaus Prefect and Philkytherian |
| 4. Crooked foot and village. | 8. The first building you encounter at Paliohora is Aghia ? |
| 5. Many Greeks were expelled from here in 1922. | 9. Landmark cafe in Katoomba renown for its chocolates. |
| 7. This beach is not as well known but lies south east of Calamos. | 12. These hot dry winds are often experienced in August on Kythera. |
| 10. The waterfall at Mylopotamos is a murderess in Greek. | 13. Advanced civilisation that colonised Kythera. |
| 11. Never on this day (in Greek). | 15. This famous Cretan archaeologist confirmed that Aghios Georgios on the mountain was once a Minoan peak palace. |
| 12. Beautiful beach on southern part of island but only accessed by tortuous road. | 16. Well known Kytherian jeweller. |
| 14. It's a long way down the steps to this beach | 19. The world's earliest known computer was found near here. |
| 17. Now deceased former honorary Greek consul in Brisbane. | 20. New mayor of Kythera |
| 18. This winery in Nowra was the setting for launch of the book 'Greek cafes of Nowra' . | 22. This popular Greek Cypriot bank is supporter of Kytherian Association. |
| 20. New spirit of the Kytherian Diaspora | 24. The cape of sailors' hair. |
| 21. Famous Kytherian photographer who recently passed away was best known for his photo of the Kastro at Hora and Kapsali | 25. Greek Prime Minister who uttered the immortal word "oxi". |
| 24. Famous museum in the US recently forced to return artefacts to Greece. | 26. The English built quarantine station in Kapsali is also known as this. |
| 26. Under this treaty the Ionian Islands were ceded to Greece in 1864. | 29. Ancient Greek travel writer and commentator who wrote an early guide to Greece. |
| 27. Famous Greek film director who directed "Voyage to Kythera" | 31. Family-owned ceramics factory and outlet in Livadi and Hora. |
| 28. Ancient Kythera was associated with the colour ... | 32. Ex-King Constantine is a member of this Royal House. |
| 29. The famous Byzantine church at the village of Araioi is Aghios? | 34. An early cult on Kythera worshipped this god. |
| 30. According to Peter Vanges, this man was really the first Kytherian here. | 36. Member of Australian Paliochora-Kythera Archaeological Survey who recently gave lecture on <i>Kythera: A Mediterranean Island Through Time</i> . |
| 33. Village which suffered most extensive damage during 2006 earthquake. | 37. The fight against this disease was the charitable cause supported at the Kytherian Ball 2006. |
| 34. Initials of a popular football team in Greece which originally hails from Constantinople | 38. President of the Kytherian Brotherhood of Canberra |
| 35. Lord Elgin's right hand man and artist. | 41. Greek Minister for Culture |
| 39. Neolithic cave discovered at Diakofti. | 42. Leading Greek female singer with volcanic hit song. |
| 40. Country town which provides the setting for "Katsehamos and the Great Idea". | 44. Well known Australian Kytherian couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Kythera in August 2006. |
| 43. The ferry M/F Myrtidiotissa was formerly known as the "Express ?" as it sailed with the wind. | 45. This hotel in Aroniadika takes its name from a famous arch there. |

Happy Feet

The **KYMG** finished off 2006 with yet another successful function held on 28 December 2006 at Hoyts Cinemas, Eastgardens.

Over 100 children, parents and grandparents were toe-tapping during the "Happy Feet" movie, directed by the well-known Kytherian, **George Miller**.



Report on the Kytherian Young Mothers Group MOVIE DAY

We were all seated together in the cinemas and found the movie day enjoyable.

Lucky Door 1st prize was won by:
James Sarikas - Happy Feet
Soundtrack CD

2nd & 3rd Prizes were won by:
Nicholas Psaltis and Ross Cordato
- each received the [Happy Feet:
The Essential Guide](#) Book

*We would also like to thank
everyone who attended our
functions throughout the 2006-
year and hope to see you again
in 2007*

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-*



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

The "correct" answers to the Kytherian Membership Test are:

1 (c); 2(a) although 2(b) will also be accepted; 3(b);
4(d); 5(a); 6(d); 7(a); 8(d); 9(c); 10(c); 11 (d); 12(c);
13(d); 14(d); 15(a); 16(b);
17(c); 18(b); 19(c); 20(d).

The answers as stated above are final and no
correspondence will be entered into.

What your result means:

16-20 You are an accomplished Kytherian after
the Editor's own heart!
11-15 You're getting there
6-10 You are in need of Kytherian
"re-education"
1-5 Are you a Cazzie in disguise?

Annual Karavitiko Symposium Luncheon

You are invited to come along and enjoy a superb four course meal
to celebrate Άγιος Χαραλαμπος Day

Παμε στο Καραβιτικο!

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2007

Venue: Venus Reception Centre
(next to Kogarah Greek Orthodox Church)
20 Belgrave Street, KOGARAH
www.venusreception.com.au

Time: 11.30 am - 4.30 pm

Cost: \$50.00 adults, \$30.00 Children (under 12)

Early Bird Special: \$45.00 Adults , \$25.00 Children

Special Guest:
HARRY EVANGELOS TZORTZOPOULOS
(Karavas)



Bookings

Theo Poulos 9150 9069 or 0409 449 927
George Poulos 9388 8320
Peter Poulos 0409 666 238

...continued from page 1

To show that we are in total agreement with the proposed new citizenship test, the Kytherian Association is introducing its own **Kytherian Membership Test** which every member of the Association will be required to complete if they are to remain in the Kytherian fold.

The test consists of 20 multiple choice questions which have been carefully selected to cover a broad range of Kytherian issues and values. Please complete the test by circling the letter corresponding with what you believe to be the correct answer. Good luck... you'll need it!

Kytherian Membership Test

1. Who was recently elected as the new Mayor of Kythera?

- (a) Theodoros Kolokotronis;
- (b) Yiannis Michas;
- (c) Theodoros Koukoulis;
- (d) Costas Karamanlis.

2. What is the debate about exo dimou and meso dimou?

- (a) A state of mind;
- (b) A legitimate geographical, historical and cultural delineation between the sophisticated south of the island and the impoverished north;
- (c) The inspiration for the Mason Dixon line in the United States;
- (d) Alive and well.

3. If you pass through Dokana, what is the first major town you encounter as you travel in a northerly direction?

- (a) Friliganika;
- (b) Aroniadika;
- (c) Pitsinianika;
- (d) Kapsali.

4. Who was the English satirist and artist who visited the island in 1863 and produced a famous sketch of Kapsali with the Kastro of Hora in the background?

- (a) Robert Louis Stevenson;
- (b) Charles Dickens;
- (c) Lord Byron;
- (d) Edward Lear.

5. Who was the Ottoman pirate who sacked the town of Paliochora in 1537?

- (a) Hayr-al-Din Barbarossa;
- (b) Attila the Hun;

- (c) Conan the Barbarian;
- (d) Kamal Attaturk.

6. Which is the odd place out?

- (a) Livadi;
- (b) Milopotamos;
- (c) Katouni;
- (d) Rest of Kythera.

7. Who was the first Kytherian to get involved with the Elgin Marbles?

- (a) Emmanuel Calucci;
- (b) Manuel Comino;
- (c) Pericles;
- (d) Phidias.

8. What is the Kytherian Ladies Auxiliary?

- (a) A valuable subcommittee that assists the Kytherian Association of Australia;
- (b) A committee of hard-working women of Australian-Kytherian background dedicated to raising funds for charity;
- (c) A group of ladies who are concerned about what the editor of this Summer Edition newsletter may write about the Ladies Auxiliary;
- (d) All of the above.

9. What does KYMG stand for?

- (a) Kytherians Yearning for More Greek;
- (b) Kytherian Youth and Mates Gathering;
- (c) Kytherian Young Mothers Group;
- (d) Nothing - it's just a typographical error when referring to the accounting firm KPMG.

10. The Kytherian Association of Australia was formed in Sydney in which year?

- (a) 1788;
- (b) 1821;
- (c) 1922;
- (d) 1940.

11. Which island is not part of the Ionian Islands group?

- (a) Kythera;
- (b) Paxos;
- (c) Corfu;
- (d) Castellorizo

12. What milestone did the Kythera-family website recently celebrate?

- (a) 2 millionth post from George Poulos;
- (b) First photograph submitted by George Vardas which does not depict a bridge on Kythera;
- (c) 10,000th entry;
- (d) 5,000,000 hits.

13. What is the minimum age for a debutante at the Kytherian Annual Ball?

- (a) 18;
- (b) 16;
- (c) 14;
- (d) Depends on who is making her debut.

14. Why is the village of Milopotamos so named?

- (a) It is the Greek word for hippopotamos;
- (b) Apples from the town of Potamos are sold there;
- (c) It is popular for its milo frappe;
- (d) Because of the water mills in the valley below the town.

15. Which is the most popular Kytherian beach?

- (a) Melidoni;
- (b) Kaladi;
- (c) Coogee;
- (d) Fyri Ammos.

16. What is the Antikythera Mechanism?

- (a) An instrument for keeping Kytherians away;
- (b) An ancient computer;
- (c) The explanation for Pythagoras' Theorem;
- (d) A GPS device for finding the island of Antikythera.

17. At the Sunday markets at Potamos every summer which group of people are you most likely to encounter?

- (a) Locals from the village of Potamos;
- (b) Albanians;
- (c) Residents from all over the island;
- (d) Australian-Kytherians on holiday who carry on as though they own the place.

18. What is the Karavitiko Symposium?

- (a) A drinking party held in Karava, Kythera;
- (b) A conference of Karavites held in Sydney in February each year;
- (c) A chance for people from Karava to congratulate each other;
- (d) The George Poulos Forum.

19. Which ship sank off Avlemonas in 1802 whilst carrying a shipment of the Elgin Marbles?

- (a) The Bounty;
- (b) The Endeavour;
- (c) The Mentor;
- (d) The James Craig.

20. What is the centre of the known universe?

- (a) The Earth;
- (b) The Sun;
- (c) A black hole in space;
- (d) The bridge at Katouni.

The "correct" answers are on page 8.



KYTHERIAN BOATING REGATTA AT OATLEY BAY 26 DECEMBER 2006

Boxing Day was the setting for the descent of Kytherian boat owners to the serene waters of Oatley Bay for the annual Kytherian Boating Regatta. Over 75 Kytherians and friends took up vantage points in the picnic areas overlooking the bay to watch John Tzannes, Emmanuel Calligeros and John Faros power their boats through the bay, taking turns to give sea biscuit and board rides to youngsters. Commodore John Tzannes of the Kytherian Royal Motor Yacht Club was ecstatic about the event and the turn-up. According to John, it was great to see so many Kytherians make a return to their seafaring roots and have such a great affinity for the water. Also on hand to witness the spectacle were Father Ted Poteres, his wife Tulla and children Nicholas and Toni, who had just arrived from Chicago for a three week holiday down under.

Scenes from the river:



Captains Calligeros, Faros and Tzannes



Kytherian observers at the ready

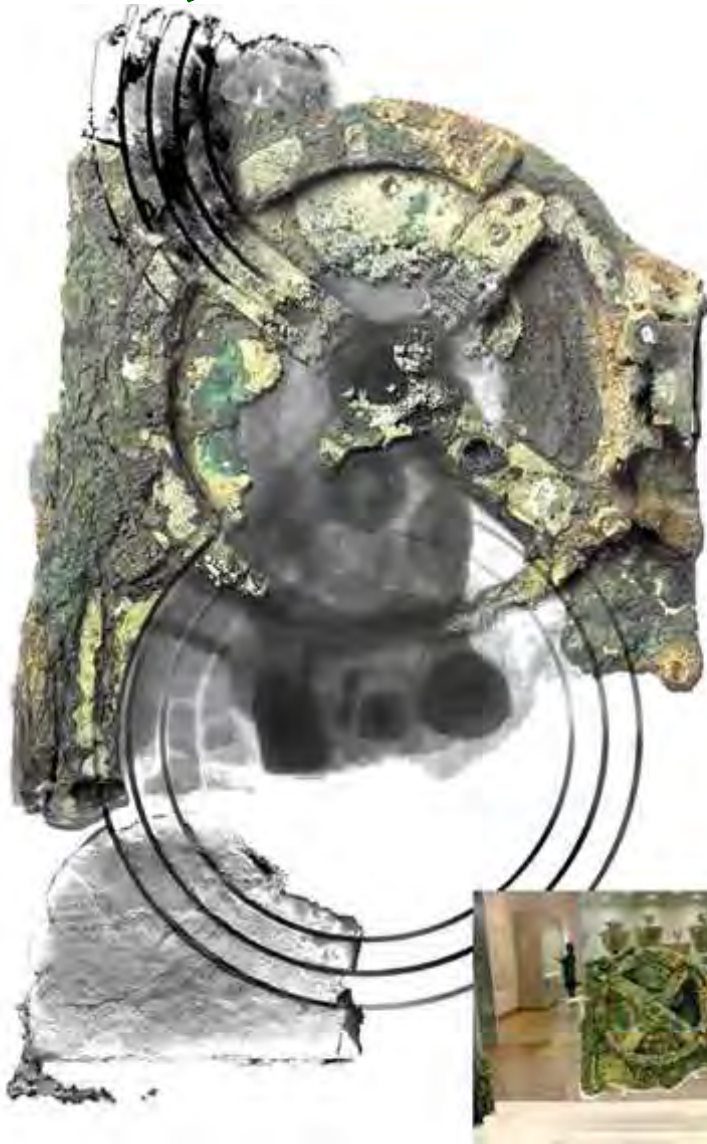


Kytherian shark alert? No, just picnic goers at Oatley Bay



Charles Tzannes with John Tzannes at the helm

The Antikythera Mechanism: The world's first computer



The often dangerous waters around Kythera and Antikythera have yielded numerous treasures over the centuries. In 1802 the *Mentor* carrying one of Lord Elgin's first shipments of Parthenon sculptures sank off Avlemonas in rough weather but the sculptures were eventually recovered. Almost 100 years later, another victim of stormy weather was found that has come to intrigue and fascinate scientists and archaeologists: the Antikythera Mechanism.

In 1902 the Kytherian archaeologist Valerios Stais was inspecting various artefacts that had been recovered by sponge divers from an old Roman cargo shipwreck lying in 50 metres of water just off Antikythera. The ship was believed to have sunk in around 65BC as it carried plunder from Rhodes to Rome. Stais noticed a heavily corroded but shattered gear wheel which aroused his curiosity.

Altogether 82 surviving fragments of what appeared to be a complex geared device were found. In late November 2006 scientists attended a conference in Athens to discuss the latest research and it is now generally agreed that the device was a complex and very accurate astronomical computer that could predict the positions of the sun, moon and planets, and even forecast lunar eclipses. The Antikythera device is the oldest-known mechanical computing device that used gear wheels and is by far the most sophisticated object from the ancient world.

Using the latest technology, a team including British, Greek and U.S. scientists used

specially developed X-ray scanning and imaging technology to analyse the corroded bronze, revealing hidden machinery and a form of written user's manual. They concluded that it dates to 150 to 100 BC, and had 37 gears, including a differential gear. Previously it was thought that the differential gear was invented in the 16th century. The complexity and small size of the gears is similar to the technology of 18th century clockwork. As the project leader, Mike Edmunds, professor of astronomy at Cardiff University, described the device as "staggeringly sophisticated" and commented: "If the ancient Greeks made this, what else could they do?"

It is thought that the Antikythera mechanism was probably made on the island of Rhodes, which had a long tradition in astronomy and applied mechanics, and is possibly based on a mathematical model of the moon's motion by the astronomer Hipparchus of Rome more than two centuries ago. "It was a pocket calculator of the time," said John Seiradakis, a professor of astronomy at the University of Thessaloniki who served on the international team.

The 82 remaining fragments of the mechanism contain a total of 30 gears. The largest piece contains 27 of the gears and is on display at the National Archaeological Museum at Athens. A truly remarkable device.

George Vardas

Social News

Births

Congratulations to **Andrew & Margaret Simos** of Haberfield on the birth of their third child, a son **Zachary Ryan**, a new brother for **Connor and Mia**. Zachary is the eighth grandchild for **Con & Maria Simos** of Homebush and the eleventh grandchild for **Kevin & Maya Ryan** of Guildford.

Congratulations to **Marcello & Elina Russo** on the birth of the daughter **Chiara Lorraine**. Also congratulations go to **John & Belinda Castrisios** on the birth of their daughter **Sofia**. Proud grandparents in both cases are **Theo & Sophie Castrisios** of South Coogee.

Christenings

Maria and Peter Revelos of Northmead christened their second daughter **Theodora (Daniella)** at Agios Nektarios Chursh at Burwood. Godparents were **Fiona and Con Diakos** of Burwood. A party was held at the Chrysanthum Function Centre at Belmore to celebrate the event. Proud grandparents are **Tony and Dorrie Comino** of Baulkham Hills and **Mrs Athanasia Revelos** of St Marys.

Con and Nia Mavavis' daughter **Evanna** was recently christened at Agios Spyridon. Godparents were **Ross and Toula Casimatis**. The happy grandparents are **Joan and Peter Mavavis** of Maroubra and **Sylvia and Alex Totsis** of Penrith. A party was held at the Moore Park Golf Club afterwards.

Birthdays

Peter Andrew, son of **Angelo and Maria Andrew** of Connells Point, recently celebrated his 16 th birthday with a party held at their home. Relatives and friends had a great time.

Birthday and Engagement

Yana Kepreotis, daughter of **Victor and Kathy Kepreotis**, recently celebrated her 21st birthday with a party thrown by her family in her honour at their Bardwell Valley home. December proved to be an exciting month for Yana as she also celebrated her engagement to **Michael Belogiannis**, son of **Menio and Effie Belogiannis**. A reception was held on 30 December 2006 at the Grand Barclay Reception Centre at which friends and relatives wished the young couple all the best for the future. Father Ted Poteres, Kathy's first cousin from the United States, was in attendance with his family and exchanged the couple's rings and blessed them on this special occasion. *Kala stefana.*

Wedding

The wedding took place at Agios Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at Canberra of **George Stellios**, youngest son of **Anthony and Katina Stellios**, to **Paula Koskinidis**. The koubaro was **Harry Tzakis**. The reception was held at the iconic National Museum of Australia on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin.

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for **Zoe Comino**, daughter of **Tina Comino** of Oatley and **Greg Comino** of Blakehurst. Zoe, like her brother **Emanuel**, was elected as the Student Representative Council President of Oatley West Public School (equivalent to the position of School Captain) for 2007.

Congratulations also go to **Peter and Christina Pavlakis**, son and daughter of **Jim and Despina Pavlakis** of Blakehurst, who achieved first place out of 11 couples in the Youth (under 19 years) age group for Latin American Dancing at the Tattersall's Australian Danceport Championships held on 9 December 2006 in Melbourne. Danceport is Australia's premier competitive ballroom dancing event. For 2007 Peter and Christina will be competing in the Adult section of Latin American Dancing. We wish them the best of luck in the future.



THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM AND THE RETURN OF THE PARTHENON SCULPTURES

Regular readers of the Kytherian newsletter are aware of my passion for the return of the Elgin collection of Parthenon Sculptures currently housed in the British Museum in London.

This issue has been debated for decades and the campaign for return has been through its highs and lows over that time. The Olympics in 2004 in Athens were regarded as an opportune moment for the British to commit to the marbles' return as a gesture of goodwill. Nothing happened. Successive Greek governments have claimed that they want the marbles returned but more often than not their actions did not match the rhetoric,

All that is about to change. The construction of the New Acropolis Museum, after a number of international design competitions, is now a reality. When you emerge from the stunning Acropolis Metro station in downtown Athens, where copies of parts of the frieze and pedimental sculptures from the British Museum are on display as a reminder of where they rightfully belong, a stunning new building now occupies the base of the Acropolis.

I cannot emphasise how important the imminent completion of the new museum is in the context of the whole campaign. In March 1991 the then Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, B F Cook, wrote to the museum's director:

"The next phase of the campaign for repatriation is likely to begin any time after the actual start of construction of the new Acropolis Museum. The problem has not gone away, it is merely in hibernation; and when it wakes up, our successors will find that it is fiercer than before."

For many years the British believed that the Greeks would never pull it off. But as they showed with the 2004 Olympics – and the marvellous infrastructure projects which were completed for the games – the Greeks are capable of building a stunning and modern museum which one day will hopefully house all the surviving sculptures that originally adorned the

Parthenon. The enormity of the task can be seen from the photos (1) taken in September 2003 and (2) December 2006.

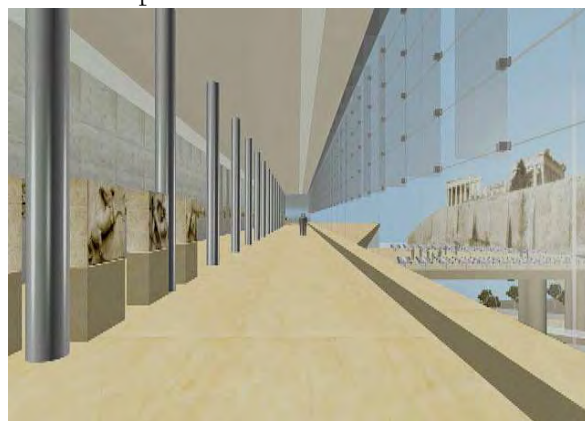
In the space of just over three years the New Acropolis Museum has risen from the ground and is nearly finished. The official opening will take place in late 2007. What is now visible on the third (top) level of the building is a rectangularly-shaped atrium which will be devoted to the Parthenon Marbles. According to the museum's chief architect, Bernard

Tschumi, transparent walls of glass and a glass roof will enhance the concept of the museum being bathed in natural light.

Glass shutters and skylights have been used to create an explosion of light as well as to reflect the changing sky-scape. This is visible in the second photo.

The British Museum is very afraid of the answer to the question: Where are the Parthenon (Elgin) Marbles best displayed? Ask yourself this question and then consider the artist's impression (below) of how the Parthenon hall will present the sculptures within proximity of, and in sight of, the Parthenon itself.

The campaign for return of the sculptures is about to enter a new and exciting period and it is hoped that the sculptures in the British Museum will one day be displayed with their Athens counterparts in the new museum. The New Acropolis Museum will be a museum of the 21st century, not just in a temporal sense, but as the unifying element and indisputable reference point for the Parthenon sculptures and other treasures of antiquity. The sculptures will at last be allowed to speak for themselves.



George Vardas

Mother Kallistheni and the Holy Monastery of Panagia Gorgoeepikoos – a strong Kytherian tradition continues



Nestled away in Mitropoleos Square in Athens, on the edge of Plaka and next to the modern cathedral of Athens, is a tiny but exquisite byzantine church built in the 12th century known as the Church of Panagia Gorgoeepikoos dedicated to the Madonna and Agios Eleftherios.

A more modern day version of this church can now be

found in Australia and with a decidedly strong Kytherian connection.

The **Holy Monastery of Panagia Gorgoeepikoos** (which literally translates to "*the all hearing*") is a Greek Orthodox monastic community for women located in Lovely Banks, Geelong, Victoria. The monastery, which was formerly a Catholic convent, is located on a 20 acre block and was established by **Mother Kallistheni, formerly Karin Sterling (nee Zantes)** who is also its abbess. Much of the initial seed capital for the Monastery derived from the Zantes family of Goulburn - in particular Mother Kallistheni's father Angelo Zantes, and Mother Kallistheni herself.

Mother Kallistheni is also the great-granddaughter of the revered "Papa Vangelli" Krithary, for four decades the priest of Ayios Haralambos Church at Karavas, and teacher at the local school of Karavas.



Papa Vangelli Krithary and presvitera (taken in

Most Karavites (and Kytherians from surrounding villages) aged between 60 to 100 living in Australia would have been christened by Papa Vagelli - including both of my parents.

Papa Vangelli and his wife, Stamatia, had 8 children:

Peter (Warialda)
Harry (Doctor, Greece)
Theothoros
Georgitsa
Maria
Kanella
Kalomira

Louisa (married Protopsaltis - affectionately known by many as "Theia Louisa" - even by non-relatives - and a patron for many decades of the Karaviko Symposium).

Kalomira married Sarandos Zantiotis from the "Vouno" (Panagia Thespina). Their *Parachoukli* is "Sarandakos". Sarandos & Kalomira had 4 children:

George, Angelo, (Jeweller, Goulburn, NSW) who married Nina Souris, from Armidale, Jim, Maria (married John Nikoforides (Forides, Canberra.))

Angelo and Nina had two children:

Sheridan (Sarandos)
Karin (now Mother Kallistheni)

So we have witnessed the completion of a religious cycle as the rich traditions started in Karavas are maintained today.

Mother Kallistheni has drawn up plans for a new Church on the site which will incorporate many Kytherian elements as further testimony to the island's strong religious ties. The Kytherian Association of Australia wishes her all the best in her sterling efforts to foster the spirit of Christianity.



The Monastery
of Panagia
Gorgoeepikoos

The Monastery is situated approximately one hour, by