



# The KYTHERIAN

The Newsletter of the Kytherian Association of Australia  
PO Box A203, Sydney South NSW 1235  
[www.kytherianassociation.com.au](http://www.kytherianassociation.com.au)

DECEMBER 2007

## The KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

presents

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PICNIC

The annual Christmas picnic,  
organised by the



*Kytherian 4WD and Recreation Club,*  
will be held on :-

Sunday 2nd December, 2007

at

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

BBQ Lunch at 12.00pm

Santa arrives

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

**TUESDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2008**

**7 PM**

**VENUE: GRAND BARCLAY RECEPTION LOUNGE  
(588 PRINCES HWY, ROCKDALE)**

**COST: \$50 (ADULTS)  
\$25 (NON-DANCING CHILDREN UNDER**

**13 YRS)**

**ALL DANCING GROUPS WILL BE PER-  
FORMING.**

## KYTHO CALENDAR

**FRIDAYS 19/10—21/12/2007**

Weekly dancing lessons for Term 4  
(see page 19 for 2008 dates)

**SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER**

Children's Christmas Picnic

(see front page)

**SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER**

Helen Zerefos sings 7pm & 9.30pm  
at Souths Juniors, Kingsford.

**TUESDAY 1ST JANUARY 2008**

New Year's Dance (see front page)

**FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2008**

Greek Dancing Lessons resume  
Matraville Sports High School.

**SATURDAY 14TH MARCH**

Nicholas Anthony Aroney

Encouragement Awards.

Twin Reception Centre, Alexandria

(details in February's newsletter)

## 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.

## *Kytherian Debutante Ball*

*To be held at Star City on  
Saturday 31st May 2008.*

*Debutante applications*



*Enquiries to Esther Calligeros*

*Phone: 9344 0298.*

*Closing Date:*

*22nd December, 2007*

## Editor's Note



I love Christmas! However, I hate what we have done to it. It has become so commercialised that it is all too easy to lose sight of its religious significance.

As much as I love all the hype that accompanies the festive season, it disturbs me to see the shopping centres' decorations go up in October, only to have them removed at the end of business on Christmas Eve. Must one assume that the festive season ends before Christmas Day?! Meanwhile, what do you say to the kids when they see the decorations in the shops... there are only 60 more sleeps until Santa comes?

In other countries, the festive season lasts through to mid or late January but here in Australia, we find ourselves at the Boxing Day sales being inundated with Valentine Day cards and in the event of an early Easter, chocolate Easter eggs.

Our most sacred days have been hijacked and our indifference has allowed it. Why are we Christians so complacent in defending our faith?

People of other religions are far more protective of their beliefs. They are not as obsessed with being politically correct at the expense of their religious convictions.

Take for example the Nativity Scene...there seems to be an ever growing presence of Santa Clauses in the shopping centres and yet one has to search for that elusive and ever shrinking manger scene.

Turn on Cable TV during Christmas or Easter and you may be fortunate enough to find a few religious movies on a selection of about eight movie channels. Turn it on during Halloween (which, after all is an absurd American custom, encouraging children to dress in weird costumes, knock on strangers' doors and accept lollies from them) and you will see two or three days of back-to-back horror movies.

Why do we insist on fostering the ridiculous or commercially viable traditions while neglecting to nurture those that should be important to us?

Whatever happened to the good old days? I wish we could go back to simpler times, when we had less but appreciated more. I guess what I want is to be able to experience the joy of Christmas as I did when I was a child. I want to hear all those beautiful Christmas Carols about Jesus and really be able to enjoy the festive season in a pure and spiritual way.

I will now step off my soap box and wish everyone a truly **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**

I am taking a break next month and leaving the "Summer Edition" newsletter in the capable hands of George Vardas.

# Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



Multilingual

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## Great Expectations by Crissouli

It was just a little cardboard star. It fell out of a box when I was putting away the Christmas decorations. Nothing too remarkable, silver one side, plain cardboard the other, or at least it was, until my children wrote xxx's and ooo's for kisses and hugs on the back of it.

You see, that was for the Christmas Angel to take back to baby Jesus for his birthday. I had told them the story of Jesus and that we celebrated His birthday on Christmas Day. They were so upset that we didn't have a birthday cake and presents for Jesus. So they decided that they would send him hugs and kisses instead and of course, if we had an angel at the top of the tree, then that angel would certainly know Jesus. So ever after, that little star has been near the Christmas angel, even though the angel is worn and now a large star tops the Christmas tree.

I began to remember Christmases past... back when I was a child. Back on my grandparent's verandah. No matter how many people were there, there always seemed to be room. I recall all the gifts from the various families being put into baskets or a large tea chest, well labelled, so that when my Papauli handed out the gifts, it was easy to tell which was for whom. There were no decorations as we have now, nothing like the Christmas Wonderland I try to create normally. Instead, I remember the smell of gum leaves from the branches tied to the verandah posts. I recall the tantalising promises of roast chicken coming from the kitchen, the allure of roast vegetables, hot custard and Christmas pudding...and, what seemed to me, a giant Christmas fruit cake beckoning on the sideboard. There were piles of nuts and dried fruits, stone fruits and of course, boxes and plates of kourabiethes, baklava and liqueur figs.

We would gather in the morning, each finding a place to sit and then the excitement would be almost unbearable for us children. Papauli would start calling out the names – maybe one of my cousins, or a friend, or an Aunt, perhaps an Uncle – then, unbelievably, Crissouli. I'd hold my breath, but it's not mine – my cousin. More names, then Theo – but not my brother, rather our grandfather. Then Crissouli. Maybe, maybe... it's small, with a ribbon. Is it for me? He hands it to my grandmother. She grins and then it comes to me. I can hardly open it. It seems everyone is waiting, and looking. The paper is soft and tears easily. I'm not yet five and I drop the small box that is held within. My older cousin lets out a deep sigh. I pick it up and open it quickly. Then I see the most

beautiful bluebird necklace. My cousin is smiling. She has a bracelet just like it and I've often admired it. Then I see the card... it's from my cousin. I've completely forgotten to listen for the other names and my grandfather is standing, smiling at me, with a few things in his hand... "for you, little one". That Christmas I also got a pocket dictionary, which I still have and use, from my cousin's sister, and a lovely doll dressed in red and white gingham for me by my Aunt. I wish my memory was better, as I can't recall what my grandparents gave to me... how I wish I could, as that was to be the last Christmas with my much loved grandfather. He passed away the next year.

When my Dad was young, Christmases were the same in some ways – a large gathering of family and friends, on the very same verandah. My grandparents were the hub of a growing Greek community from nearby towns, called Auntie and Uncle by many, as a sign of respect for the elders of the community. They welcomed all with open arms. Presents then were mainly clothing, always needed in a large family of nine children, and sometimes a wooden toy made by my grandfather. Dad recalls getting the old fashioned Christmas stockings a few times... that is the ones with a cardboard backing and a Santa mask on top, with little trinkets in them, sometimes lollies, and covered with red netting, similar to onion bags. I asked him what he remembered getting in them. He recalls what we called blowouts – a whistle with a tube of paper attached, that you blew out and it recoiled. Then they had a feather attached to the end. There would always be a small toy, maybe a plastic car or a tiny baby doll, a colouring book and either crayons or pencils. The lollies were usually little musks or hard 'candy'. There were metal clickers in some stockings.

Dad's memories are that the emphasis was on gathering around the kitchen table, or on the verandah with family and friends, and the food and the company being the main attraction of the day. There were no large Santa sacks put out, but a pillowcase at the end of the bed. Somewhere or other, he learnt to make Chinese lanterns out of Christmas cards as he and Mum taught us to do when we were children. I also asked him what he would wish for at Christmas... did he ask for anything. He smiled and said "You didn't ask, ever. You were always happy with whatever you got."

Next year, I will find a place to put a Christmas tree, no matter how crowded our place is, and pride of place will be given to that little silver star, as a reminder.

Crissouli (c) 2007

**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.



# Modern Greek Language on the Island of Kythera - Greece



**JUNE 9 -27, 2008**

## COURSE COORDINATOR:

Frosso Arvanitaki, MA, Foreign Language Teacher and Co-author of the textbook series Epikinwniste Ellinika.

## LOCATION:

Kythera Island (South of the Peloponnese) - Port village of Diakofti

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Three weeks (45 academic contact hours) of Intensive Modern Greek Language (MGL) instruction, from beginning (1 and 2) through intermediate (1 and 2) levels. Comprehensive, integrated approach to learning Modern Greek. Emphasis on spoken Greek, as well as instruction in reading, writing and grammar. Qualified instructors experienced in teaching Modern Greek as a foreign or second language. The language of communication in class is English.

## EMPHASIS ON GREEK CULTURAL IMMERSION

Scheduled co-curricular activities:

- Lecture on the History of Kythera, the birth place of Aphrodite, from Pre-Historic to Modern Times.
- Day trip to sites of archaeological and historical interest taking in Paleopoli (Minoan harbor), the peak sanctuary at St. George near Diakofti, Paliochora (the Byzantine capital of the island destroyed in the 16th c. by Barbarossa), the Venetian Castle of Kato Hora, Byzantine Museum and Monasteries, as well as various picturesque villages of the island.
- Visit to a honey production farm which makes the renowned thyme flavored Kytheran honey.
- Cooking class based on authentic Kytheran recipes.
- Greek dancing class.

## HERC: Hellenic Education & Research Center

13 Eptachalkou Street, 118 51 Athens GREECE  
Tel: +30 210 34 28 596, Fax: +30 210 34 12 766  
www.herc.gr, e-mail: info@herc.org.gr



## OXI DAY

In view of the fact that some of our younger members may not know why we observe OXI Day on October 28th every year with a church service and wreath laying ceremony & recounting some of the stirring poems written about the significance of those times. The following is a short description of the historical events during WWII that led to its inception.

OXI Day commemorates the Greek response by Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas to the ultimatum issued by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory or otherwise face the prospect of war. On 28th October, 1940 Metaxas answered with a defiant "OXI" ! This led to Italy, having already occupied Albania, crossing the border and attacking Greece, thus marking Greece's entry into the war.

However, the Greeks fought heroically and pushed the Italians more than 60 kilometres back into Albania. By late 1940, the Greek army had liberated the southern third of Albania. There was serious concern by the Italians that the Greek armed forces would cross the Adriatic Sea and invade Italy itself. By March 1941, the Greeks had dealt the Italian armed forces some unexpected defeats: 12,500 Italians returned home badly mutilated by the fighting; 13,800 were buried in the frozen soil of Greece; 25,000 were missing in action; and 40,000 were POWs held by the Greek Army.

At this time, the USA was still neutral and not involved in any fighting as the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour had not occurred yet. However, all the major USA periodicals such as LIFE and TIME carried cover stories about the Greeks and the history that they were making. In the USA, Greeks and Greek-Americans of all ages were showered with admiration at school and work in response to the historic events. The entire Western world, discouraged and fearful of the Axis powers and the growing ugly war, took hope from this incredible victory. It was a double first: the first defeat of the Axis powers and the first liberation of territory captured by the Axis powers. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said of the Greeks: **"Today we say that Greeks fight like heroes, from now on we will say that heroes fight like Greeks."** However, there was history still to be made by the Greeks.

They outraged Hitler and the Germans. A small military power like Greece had succeeded in defeating Germany's ally, Italy. The Germans invaded Greece in April 1941, and after nearly two months of fierce fighting, overwhelmed the defiant Greeks. However, the Greek freedom fighters had taken the lives of many German troops and destroyed much German equipment. The Germans were forced to divert 50 battalions to Greece, despite the fact that they desperately needed them on the Eastern Front.

The six months of fighting caused by the Greek resistance of the Axis powers also delayed Germany's invasion and campaign against the former Soviet Union. The fierce resistance of the Greeks in Macedonia, Crete, and other regions of Greece to the Germans, caused delays. It overturned German plans to occupy Moscow before the onset of the heavy and deadly Russian winter. This was something the Germans had not anticipated and thus were unprepared. The German war machine literally bogged down and froze. The Russians were successful in repulsing and defeating the Germans. This was a major turning point of World War II and signalled the beginning of the end of the German Third Reich. The sacrifice and success of the Greek armed forces, the Greek guerrillas, and the ordinary Greek citizens drew the admiration of the free world and kindled hope for the final victory of the Allied powers.

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*"As a matter of historical truth, I must ascertain that only the Hellenes, of all the adversaries that confronted me, fought with daring courage and the highest disregard to death..."*  
**Adolph Hitler** Leader of the German State.

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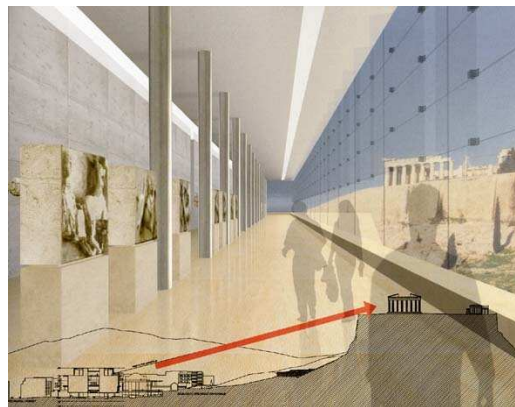
*"The word heroism, I'm afraid, does not reflect in the least the Hellenes' acts of self-sacrifice that were the defining factor of the victorious ending of all the nations' common struggle during the 2nd WW, for human freedom and dignity."* **Winston Churchill** Prime Minister of Great Britain.

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*"If the Russian people managed to raise resistance before the gates of Moscow, to contain and reverse the German hurricane, they owe it to the Hellenic people who delayed the German divisions that could have beaten us. The gigantic Battle of Crete was the peak of the Hellenic contribution."* **Georgy Constantinovich Joucov** Marshall of the Soviet Army.



## THE PARTHENON: WHO OWNS CULTURAL HERITAGE?



Who owns the past? Is the past a foreign country? Why is the British Museum so dogmatic in its refusal to return the Parthenon sculptures to Athens? Did the great Athenian statesman Pericles provide inspiration to George Bush for his exploits in Iraq? Why is the Parthenon so special? These and many other issues were the subject of an interesting panel discussion at the **Parthenon Forum** held at the Seymour Centre in Sydney on Sunday 28 October 2007 under the auspices of the University of Sydney's think tank, Sydney Ideas.

The panel discussion was chaired by **Dr Alastair Blanshard**, Lecturer in Greek History at Sydney University's School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry, who spoke of the intellectual bravery of the Ancient Greeks and how the Parthenon has inspired passion amongst people from all over the world and across the ages. Dr Blanshard set the scene by posing the question: how do we possess the past and in whose hands should the past be preserved?

The Parthenon Marbles, comprising the sculptured pediments, metopes and frieze removed by Lord Elgin and his men from the Parthenon in Athens in the early part of the nineteenth century and placed in the British Museum in 1816, symbolise the entire body of unrepatriated cultural property in the world's museums. In renaming the Parthenon sculptures "the Elgin Collection" by an Act of Parliament, the British not only saw themselves as the rightful heir to the cultural heritage of ancient Greece but they literally erased the Athenian origin of these artefacts and used them as a means of conveying the idea of national, that is British, superiority.

The first two speakers, **Maria Ioannidou**, Director of the Acropolis Restoration Service, and **Nikolaos Toganidis**, the architect responsible for the Parthenon Restoration Project, traced the sordid history of Lord Elgin and the brutalisation of the Parthenon monument when his workers set about the dismantling of architectural members and architectural decorative elements from the temple, in the process damaging the structural integrity of monuments on the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis. The speakers demonstrated by means of a PowerPoint display how fragments of the sculptures are scattered between London and Athens. They also lamented the fact that dispersed architectural members cannot be used in the current restoration project on the Parthenon. It is indeed profoundly disappointing that the British Museum has even refused requests from the Greeks to return a column drum and a column capital taken by Elgin from the northern colonnade of the Parthenon which could have been reset in their original and authentic position on the Parthenon during the restoration works on the Acropolis that have been continuing since 1975.

The President of the Organisation for the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum, **Professor Dimitrios Pandermalis**, last visited Sydney in 2000 when he spoke about the return of the Parthenon Marbles. Seven years later, and with the dream of the New Acropolis Museum now a magnificent reality, Professor Pandermalis described how the new museum's architect, Bernard Tschumi, has created a Parthenon-type environment within the new museum with an optical link with the Parthenon itself. The new museum also takes advantage of the natural Attic light - these classical sculptures were "created for changing light" - in contrast to the darkened and artificially-lit recesses of the sterile, uninspiring display that is the Duveen Gallery

At the same time, Professor Pandermalis was very critical of the British Museum's claim to be a universal museum which he said demonstrates a 19<sup>th</sup> century mentality in the period of empires and imperial plunder.

**David Hill**, a member of Australians for the Reunification of the Parthenon Marbles and the Chairman of the International Association for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures, the new umbrella body representing 14 separate national committees throughout the world (including Australia, Britain, United States, Canada and New Zealand) explained how the British Museum is now out of step with modern museum practice on the question of the repatriation of cultural artifacts. David pointed out that the Parthenon Sculptures are a special case and not just an issue of national patrimony. They do not belong to the Greeks or the British; they belong to humanity. In this case, they should be reunited with the other sculptures within proximity of the Parthenon which they once adorned.

David Hill was also dismissive of the British Museum's attempts to justify the continued retention of the sculptures, noting that the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Karamanlis, has recently claimed that the British are running out of excuses. David also described the New Acropolis Museum as the "most significant new building in Athens for over 2000 years" which will provide the most appropriate context for understanding the accomplishment of the Parthenon complex itself.

To "balance" the debate, **Associate Professor Vrasidas Karalis** of the Department of Modern Greek Studies was asked to present the counter arguments for return. Introduced as the "Goddess of Discord", Vrasidas Karalis warmed to his task admirably although he did concede that the sculptures should never have been removed in the first place. He observed that the building of the Parthenon was financed by tribute paid by other member states of the Delian League to Athens and that it was perhaps ironic that the product of Periclean "imperialism" had been vandalised by an act of British colonialism. Professor Karalis also discussed claims by authors such as Dorothy King about the lack of continuity between the Ancient Greeks and the inhabitants of the modern state of Greece and concluded that the Parthenon Marbles had served as the most important cultural ambassador for Greece whilst on display at the British Museum. There was a short panel discussion followed by several questions from the audience (who numbered around 120). At the end of the forum, **Professor Jeffrey Riegel**, the Head of the Department of Languages and Cultures at Sydney University, moved a vote of thanks to the speakers and pointed out that the debate about the Parthenon Sculptures is also relevant to the important issue of the preservation of cultural heritage in other places, including South East Asia. Professor Riegel noted in particular the damage still being caused by theft and vandalism at the magnificent ancient site of Angkor Wat in Cambodia. From this writer's point of view, when the Parthenon Marbles arrived in the British Museum in 1816, it was at a time when great empires needed great museums. The late Donald Horne wrote in *The Great Museum* about the trend that developed in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries to establish museums of antiquities stocked with the loot of empire. To Horne, structures such as the British Museum merely affirm the legitimacy of imperial domination. In the face of calls for the restitution of the sculptures the British Museum has resorted to novel interpretations of the past and the role of the museum in history. The British Museum claims to be a universal museum that represents the "collective memory of mankind" (whatever that is) and therefore it would be a crime to repatriate the sculptures.

The concept of the "universal museum" is now under direct challenge. Already, prominent museums around the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the J. Paul Getty Museum and Yale and Princeton Universities have agreed to return cultural objects that were illegally taken from their countries of origin. In most cases, enlightened collaboration arrangements have been made to allow for the sharing of exhibitions and research facilities and reciprocal loans of artefacts. A recent example is Yale University agreeing with the State of Peru to return priceless antiquities from Manchu Pichu under a new framework of international co-operation providing for the collaborative stewardship of cultural treasures. It is time that the same spirit of collaboration was applied to the Parthenon Sculptures in London and Athens.

The Parthenon Sculptures remain the leading case for the restitution of cultural treasures to their place of origin to ensure that history and memory are simply not sacrificed for imperial grandeur and also to ensure the architectural integrity of the monuments of the Acropolis. Until these incredible sculptures are reunited in the New Acropolis Museum at the foot of the Sacred Rock, the Parthenon will continue to be haunted by Lord Byron's lament, "Fair Greece Sad Relic".

George Vardas  
*Australians for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures*

*Do not ask what Kythera can do for you,  
Or even, what Kythera can do for itself...  
Ask instead,  
What you can do for Kythera...*

In the week beginning Monday 17th September a large 20 foot (7 metre) container (the standard shipping variety) was unloaded on Kythera.

Inside was about \$A80,000 (at new prices) of hospital equipment destined for use at the Aged Persons Facility, Potamos. The equipment included a number of sophisticated "multi-part moving" beds, of a variety rarely (if ever) seen on Kythera.

The project to despatch the equipment had been a joint venture between a number of diaspora Kytherians and a committed "Aussie" philo-Kytherian:

...George & Lorraine Poulos. (Lorraine was then Director of Aged Services at St. Lukes Hospital, Potts Point. She is now Chief Operations Officer, the Aged Care Television Channel, Australia-wide.)

...Ms Linda Brennan, St. Luke's Care, who co-ordinated the logistics, and arranged to have the equipment delivered to the Frutex factory.

...Matina & Manuel Samios, Bronte & Mitata, true Kytherians & philo-Kytherians.

...Dr Mitchell Notaras, London, who came to Australia, examined the equipment and determined which were both, most needed and most useful for Kythera.

...Peter & Helen Magiros & family, benefactors-extraordinaire for Kythera, who funded the US\$6,500 to ship the container to Athens.

The Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust, who donated \$A2,880, for Customs Duty & Port Charges (Athens), and,

...the Protopsaltis family, George, Michael & John; *Makras*, Kythera, who funded the 1000 euro cost to ship the container from Athens to Kythera.

It is hoped that this visionary initiative might serve as a template for similar projects. Books, (first and second hand), musical instruments, & fire fighting equipment for example, could easily be despatched from Australia or America in the same way.

In the meantime is hoped that the Hospital equipment that has arrived will provide a tangible benefit for the persons in the Aged Care Home, for years, perhaps decades to come.

The group involved in despatching the container also hope that it will provide a "psychological" uplift to the Board, Administrators, Nurses, carers, volunteers, and "friends" of the Aged Persons Home, Potamos, Kythera.

**George Poulos**



**"FROM CARUSO TO BOCELLI"**



**ROSS MAIO**

Traditional & Contemporary  
Italian Instrumental Favourites



**ROMANO DRAGONI**

Music from the repertoire of the  
Italian greats - Enrico Caruso,  
Mario Lanza, Luciano Pavarotti,  
Andrea Bocelli



**HELEN ZEREFOS**

Helen brings you the delightful arias  
and songs of Puccini, Lehar,  
Rodgers & Hammerstein,  
Andrew Lloyd webber and many others.

Our beautiful Helen Zerefos will be performing two shows at  
South Sydney Juniors (Anzac Pde. KINGSFORD)  
on Saturday 22nd December  
at 7.00pm & 9.30pm.

**3rd International Symposium of Kytheraismos**  
to be held in Kythera  
21 - 24 August 2008



The event promises to be a spectacular Kytherian event with speakers  
and many attendees from around the world. More information on this  
event will be published in future newsletters.

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR EARLYBIRD DISCOUNT FARES.**

# Social News

## Births

Congratulations to **Peter & Nancy Notaras** on the birth of their first child, a son named **George**. Proud grandparents are **George & Mary Notaras** of Bella Vista, and **Peter & Nicky Panagiotopoulos**.



Congratulations to our Greek dancing teacher, **Joanna Tsakiridis** and her husband **John** on the birth of their third daughter, **Nicoletta**. Needless to say, it will come as no surprise to us if in 10-15 years time, there are three extremely talented young dancers in that family!

Congratulations & best wishes to **Spiro & Faye Tzavaras** on the birth of their second son **Nicholas Spiro**, a brother for **James**. Proud Grandparents are **John & Maria Sarandoupoulos-Rousis** of The Oaks and **Jim & Maria Tzavaras** of Maroubra.

## Christenings

**Amber-Maree**, daughter of **Soula Vlandis** of Leichhardt was baptised at St Gerasimos, Leichhardt, with a reception following at Canada Bay Club. Godparents are **Peter & Maria Revelos**, and proud grandparents are **Peter & Maria Vlandis** of Narara.



## 50th Anniversary

**Alex & Rene Sophios** of Woollahra recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a family party at the home of their eldest son **Nicholas** and daughter - in-law **Lisette**. A wonderful time was had by all. Congratulations!



## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Melissa Mallos** on attaining the degree of "Bachelor of Arts / Law with Honours" from Macquarie University. **Melissa** is the daughter of **George & Maria Mallos** and the sister of **Theodore Mallos**.



## 50th Anniversary

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November a surprise party was organised by the children of **Bill & Margaret Psaltis** to celebrate the couple's **50th** Wedding Anniversary. The Party was held at the Concord Golf Club and when **Bill** and **Margaret** arrived there for a supposed 'family dinner', they were greeted by their three sons, their wives and grandchildren, as well as members of **Bill's** and **Margaret's** families and many friends. Congratulations on your Golden Anniversary.



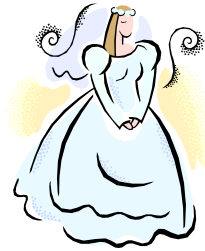
## BILL ECONOMOS RETIRES

**Bill Economos**, the well known Sydney Accountant, who in 1978 with **John Prineas** established the Firm of Economos and Co. has retired as a Partner as from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. **Bill** will continue to work with the Firm as a consultant and see some of his old clients who have been his friends. The Partners and executives of Economos and Co, organised a 'Retirement' Party for **Bill** and his wife **Mary** at the restaurant at the Hellenic Club, and invited along a lot of **Bill's** clients to help them celebrate. It was a wonderful evening, and a wonderful gathering. We hope that **Bill** is going to take it easy now.

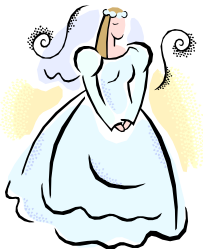




## Weddings



**George Notaras**, youngest son of **John and the Late Olympia Notaras**, recently married **Despina**, daughter of **Steve & Maria Caldis** of Wentworthville. The couple chose the Cathedral of Annunciation at Redfern for the ceremony, while a reception followed at Sheraton on the Park. **Peter Notaras**, son of **George & Maria** was koumbaro. Na Zisete!



## Engagements

Congratulations to **Vassilis**, son of **Jim & Maria Tzavaras** of Maroubra, who has announced his engagement to **Kate**, daughter of **Tom & Jenny Williams** from Christchurch, New Zealand. We wish them well. Kala Stefana!



Congratulations to **Christopher Giaouris** on his recent engagement to **Josephine Donohue**. **Christopher** is the son of **George & Paula Giaouris** of Carlton and **Josephine** is the daughter of **Frank & Laurie Donohue** of Vacluse. Their engagement was celebrated with a family lunch at the Donohue home. We wish them "Kala Stefana".

## Engagements



The eldest sons of **John and the Late Olympia Notaras** of Merrylands, recently announced their engagements.

Eldest son **Peter** announced his engagement to **Irina**, daughter of **John & Maria Cundari** of Belfield.

**Damien** also announced his engagement to **Kylie**, eldest daughter of **George & Jennie Tseros** from Greystanes. Kala Stefana.

**Syd Cassimaty**, only son of **Arthur and the Late Roula Cassimaty** of Rydalmere, announced his engagement to **Sylvia**, second daughter of **George & Poppy Tolos** of Croydon. *Tous efhomaste kala stefana!*

Congratulations to **Terry and Pamela** on their engagement. **Terry** is the son of **Stathi & Despo Efstathis** of Brisbane and **Pamela** is the daughter of **Greg & Anne Moutzouris** of Coogee. The engagement was celebrated at the Royal Motor Yacht Club at Point Piper, where the happy couple and their parents were joined by many guests from Brisbane, Perth, Tasmania and Adelaide, to celebrate this happy family occasion. Kala Stefana.





## Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary Melbourne Cup Fashion Luncheon 2007

The recent Melbourne Cup Fashion Luncheon was a resounding success with close to 100 in attendance. The function was held at the Swiss Grand Spa and Resort, Bondi Beach where our guests were entertained by a wonderful parade of fashions by Anthea Crawford and a sumptuous meal that was enjoyed by all. There was much excitement and 'cup fever', especially as many of our guests went to the trouble of wearing a hat or fascinator. There were many raffle and door prizes to be won, including prizes for those ladies who best captured the Melbourne Cup Spirit. The highlight of the day was of course the big race. A fun day was had by all! We thank all of you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you again at our next function in 2008. Best wishes for the festive season to you and all your families!

*Kyrranne Thomas*







## ***PIRATES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN***

### ***Part IV***

***By Luke Kepreotis***

*According to a fisherman, who was casting his rod deep into the sea on the night of the heist, three men were racing down the Kytherian hillside, cursing at one another and crying hysterically.*

*The first said, 'Faster! Faster! We've almost caught it!'*

*The second one said, 'We're running as fast as we can, you ass!'*

*And the third one said, 'Oh no! It's headed for the shore!'*

*And it was. The crate of gold bullion was sliding at a speed far greater than any sprint.*

*The trio sped down the hill in hot pursuit, blazing a trail through rocks and gravel.*

*The crate was charging like a bull charges at a matador. But what was about to happen next was a matter for debate. Some call it divine intervention, others call it dumb luck, but whatever it was, it was about to strike, and it was about to strike hard.*

*The first said, 'Look out!'*

*The second said, 'What? What is it?'*

*And the third said, 'It's heading for a –'*

*The crate slammed into a tree, burying itself deep into the roots.*

*A flock of birds poured out of the branches and disappeared into the night sky.*

*Eventually the trio of men caught up to the crate. Two collapsed onto the ground in laboured breath. The remaining man stood staring at the trunk. He was the mastermind, the one that wonders. And right now he was wondering how he could get the loot without anyone becoming suspicious of a giant empty iron crate.*

*He walked between his comrades and rested a hand on each of their shoulders.*

*The first said, 'Now what do we do?'*

*The second said, 'That's easy.'*

*And the third said, 'Whatever it is, I'm bushed.'*

*The mastermind reached into his knapsack and pulled out a pair of shovels. He handed one to each of his comrades.*

*The first said, 'Oh no,' looking utterly depressed.*

*The second said, 'Oh yes,' with a wolfish grin.*

*And the third said, 'I knew I should have stayed in bed this morning!'*

Nick Scorthos can play quite the actor when he wants to. This is because Desi decided to educate him (along with the entire crew) as to why the mascot of Pitsinianika was the donkey. This was, of course, because the locals were stubborn and kicked just as fiercely. Desi was determined that this time, when Leo Leonidas reared his ugly head, every possible element that needed to be ready would be ready.

Eventually, the portly director emerged from his trailer, and as he did a hush fell on the set. He was a gaunt vision of human willpower, even from behind his profusely black sunglasses. His double-breasted jacket was buttoned for the first time in history and his hair was combed back instead of standing threadbare like a mad professor. He strolled past crew members, stage-hands and all manner of technical paraphernalia until he came to the faithful willow tree with Nick and Desi cautiously poised underneath.

Leo dipped his glasses and glanced at the equipment. Everything seemed to be in order. He smirked then kissed his fingers before collapsing into his director's chair. Holding his own dog-eared copy of the script in one hand and his trusty megaphone in the other, he bellowed the commands that make cinematic history.

*'Scene Thirty-Two!'*

*'Check, scene Thirty-Two,' came the response.*

*'Hit 'em all!'*

*A battery of lights suddenly flashed on and wobbled into position, highlighting the actor's faces.*

*'Camera! Aaaaand ACTION!'*

*The director's words hung in the air for an instant before finding their mark in Desi's consciousness.*

*This was it – the moment of truth.*



‘Victor, oh, Victor,’ cried Desi, dramatically tossing her hair. ‘Why must we hide it any longer?’

‘I know not, Sophia, my love,’ replied Nick, with convincing authority. ‘For years and years we have hidden our love, like a secret, hiding it from everyone except the lonely willow tree.’

‘But I say to you, Victor, why must our love remain hidden? Why should it not shine after spending so long in the darkness?’

Desi raised a limp wrist to her forehead and gave a throaty sigh.

Nick responded to this by placing his hands on her hips and bringing her head to rest under his chin. ‘Then the time has come after so many years of solitude, Sophia,’ he went on. ‘After surviving long and lonesome nights without you, I have dreamt about you constantly. Dreamt about you so much that I could feel you in my hands. Dreamt about how you would touch every part of my life and make it bright and golden.’

Desi raised her head just in time for her nose to miss hitting his chin. She stared into his eyes and flashed a coy expression.

‘Bright and golden, Victor, my love?’

‘Yes, Sophia, because you are my treasure. My treasure under the willow.’

The camera zoomed in, filling the lens entirely with lips.

Slowly, silently, both Desi and Nick leant closer to each other until Leo whispered to a stage-hand: ‘Cue the jealous boyfriend.’

‘Aha! It is I!’ came a voice.

Nick and Desi pulled away from each other with theatrical surprise, both peering up at the branches.

With considerable effort and a little bit of luck, a badly dressed actor swung down from the wispy canopy.

‘Oh no, Cousin Spiro!’ cried Nick, starting slightly to over-emote. ‘What are you doing here? I thought we left you in Istanbul, licking your wounds!’

The man with the novelty moustache grinned. ‘Ah, but I am back, and with a vengeance no less! You stole my treasure and now I want it back!’

Cousin Spiro grabbed hold of Desi’s arm and pulled her to his side.

Nick took a dramatic step forward.

‘I wouldn’t do that if I were you,’ said Cousin Spiro, producing a rubber pistol. ‘This beautiful treasure is mine, Victor, and she belongs with me in Istanbul!’

‘You are a fool, Spiro,’ said Nick, fighting to remember which eyebrow to raise. ‘Because my treasure belongs here, where the willow grows, and never with the likes of some treacherous lout!’

‘You talk big, cousin, but can you back up your words? You forget that I have both Sophia and the upper hand.’ Cousin Spiro waved the rubber pistol, reminding the cameras to beware of Greeks bearing guns.

‘Sophia!’ howled Nick.

‘Don’t worry about me!’ cried Desi, struggling weakly. ‘If ever we are separated, for however long, we will find each other again. Because no matter how far apart, we will always be together. This is where our love began, and this is where our love will remain, here, underneath the willow tree. No matter how long it takes, you will find your treasure again, Victor, I promise!’

Cousin Spiro hoisted Desi over his shoulder and began to hobble off set.

Nick knelt on his knees and cried to the sky, giving his most convincing interpretation of a spirit breaking.

‘Remember, Victor,’ said Desi, her head bobbing away into the sunset, ‘we will always have the willow! No matter how long it takes, you will see me again! You and your treasure underneath the willow!’

‘This is it,’ whispered Leo, ‘the money shot...’

Nick’s bottom lip wobbled uncontrollably as a camera zoomed in to capture the emotion. Then, throwing back his head to the sky, he cried out a long and resounding ‘Noooo!’

Spiro carried Desi out of frame where he let her down, ripped off his fake moustache and opened a bottle of ouzo.

A tense minute hung in the air. It was the kind that sits and ages until it’s tasted by each person like an expensive white wine.

Finally, like a cork from a bottle, Leo shot out of his seat and yelled: ‘Cuuuuut!!’

*To be continued.....*





## Wollondilly River Camping Trip

The K4WD and recreation club set off on a camping trip down to Wollondilly River (near Mittagong). It had been arranged to meet up with fellow Kytherians from Canberra at the camp.

This was a new camping area, that we had not tried before, so it was both with anticipation and a little bit of reservation, we headed out of Sydney.

On the way we were hit with torrential downpours, leaving us praying for a break in the weather to set up camp.

By the time we arrived at camp (only 2 hours from Sydney) the weather was fantastic, sunshine and hot. We set up camp and then just sat around relaxing. Wollondilly river camping is fantastic in that all camp sites are alongside the river.



Facilities were porta loos and if there was water, hot showers. Not quite as good as Turon Gates though.

We set up an inflatable boat on a long rope and sent the kids out for a swim, they had a ball.

On one night our friends from Canberra (the Levantis tribes), made a damper for us all. Its good to have a baker in the crowd.

We experienced all forms of weather while we were there, Torrential rain on way down, super hot and humid while setting up camp, pouring rain both nights, very windy while packing up (helped dry the tents). But the days were absolutely glorious.

Apart from the weather and a wayward rock that was taller than the diff clearance on one of our cars, all was uneventful and very enjoyable. Overall a great time was had by all, and with the closeness of this location, we may have to come back here soon.



**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  
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**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.**

**Greek Dancing  
Classes**

**Term 1 2008 - Fridays  
(8th February - 11th  
April)  
(details to be advised next  
year)**

**Matraville High School** cnr An-  
zac Pde & Franklin Sts,  
Matraville.

**Class Times:**

**Infants K to Yr 2**

7.00pm-7.45pm

**Primary Yr 3 to Yr 6**

7.45pm-8.30pm

**CULTURAL ARCHIVE  
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**Kythera-Family.net**

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Cheques should be made out to:

**Kytherian Association of Australia -  
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More information about sponsorship can  
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