



www.kytherianassociation.com.au

**MARCH 2008** 

# Nicholas Anthony Aroney **Encouragement Awards Night**

We are inviting Students of Kytherian descent to submit their Year 2007 HSC Results and UAI scores for the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards. This lovely Awards Dinner function will be held at

**Venue : Twin Reception Centre** 560 Botany Street, Alexandria Date : Saturday 5th April, 2008 Time: 7.00pm Cost : \$50 Adult & \$25 Children

Please send Results (copy of UAI result and Higher School Certificate marks) to: 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.

The closing date for applications is 19th March 2008.

# **KYTHERIAN LADIES AUXILIARY MOVIE DAY AND LUNCHEON** Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008 **"THE OTHER ANNE BOLEYN"**

starring Natalie Portman, Scarlet Johasson, Eric Bana, Kristin Scott Thomas

Synopsis: Two ferociously ambitious sisters, Mary & Anne Boleyn, are rivals for the bed and heart of the 16<sup>th</sup> century English King, Henry VIII. Based on the best selling novel 'The Other Boleyn Girl' written by Phillippa Gregory.

TIME:	10am – movie to start at 10.30am
<b>PLACE:</b>	The Ritz Cinema 43-47 St Paul St Randwick
LUNCH:	At a coffee-shop close by
COST:	\$35.00 (includes movie and lunch)

**BOOKINGS:** Matina Samios - 9665 7225 / 0414 657 225 Mary Moutzouris - 9310 0410 Kyrranne Thomas - 9764 6636 / 0402 809 050 **NB.** Bookings are essential So come and enjoy a relaxing day with friends!

# KYTHO CALENDAR

FRIDAYS 8TH FEB. - 11TH APRIL Weekly dancing lessons for Term 1 (see page 12 for details). **THURSDAY 13TH MARCH 2008** Ladies' Auxiliary Movie Day (see front page for details). SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2008 Greek National Day wreath laying at Cenotaph. March to Opera House. **SATURDAY 5TH APRIL 2008** Nicholas Anthony Aroney **Encouragement Awards** (details on front page). **SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2008** Easter Sunday (Pascha) WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2008 Mother's Day Morning Tea (see page 4) **SUNDAY 11TH MAY 2008** Agios Theodoros Ton Kytherion Liturgy. SATURDAY 24TH MAY 2008 **4WD** Trivia Night (details to follow in April newsletter). SATURDAY 31ST MAY 2008 Kytherian Debutante Ball (see below).

# 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.

<u>Kytherian Debutante Ball</u>

To be held at Star City on Saturday 31st May 2008. Enquiries to Esther Calligeros Phone: 9344 0298.

# **Editor's Note**

Whatever happened to the English language? Can someone please explain to me at what point in time did we manage to destroy it.....because I really want to know.

When I was young (I can hear my kids groaning now) it was considered swearing if you simply heard someone say "shut up". Now all of us find it so easy to vent our anger by swearing as we have been desensitised by the constant use of it.

I am so sick of the "f" word. You would be hard pressed to find a movie that does not use it repeatedly as a noun, verb or adjective in its dialogue. As a viewer, I resent having to constantly listen to it. When did it become acceptable to swear so much? You can't even walk into a trendy clothing store (not that I frequent them that often) without hearing it in the lyrics of those horrible rap songs. Who writes this garbage? Are these so called artists incapable of writing an articulate piece of work?

Today's pop culture makes it very difficult for the younger generations to appreciate that swearing is not acceptable behaviour. Very few people stop to think about who may be listening to them when they use foul language in public. I feel so sorry for parents with young children because it is difficult to protect them from hearing that kind of language.

If the swearing aspect is not enough, just listen to everyday conversations and it will make you cringe. I was paying for something the other day and the young man serving me told me "good on ya" and to have "a good one". Who is "ya" and what on earth is a "good one"? A good hair day, a nice lunch, a lotto win.....what? Why is it so difficult to simply say "you" and "have a good day"?

Now I know that I am being pedantic but I must have been in a grammatical coma for the past 35 years since I left school. For the life of me, I do not remember when the plural of "you" became "yous". There is no such word. The word is "you"...always has been and hopefully always will be.

These may seem like trivial issues but how we speak defines our image in society. For our children, it is far more relevant. Many of them are at that stage in their lives where they will learn that first impressions are very important in whatever you do, whether it is a job interview or simply meeting new people.

If you have been fortunate enough to have had an education (as most of us have), then we have no excuse. English is our language and we should nurture it as much as we can to prevent it from being further eroded.



## The KYTHERIAN, MARCH 2008



# VLITA

#### From our message board:

Dear Kytherians:

I was lucky enough to get some wonderful VLITA SEEDS that I want to plant in New York this spring 2008. What advice can the elders give me for thavma crops this summer?

Efharisto,

Adrienne Kalligeros frankargos@aol.com

## Death on Kythera

Is the fragility of life linked to seismic activity? While the Greek mass media speculates about a futuristic natural catastrophe, this week Kythera has been plunged into deep grief with the sad passing of two popular people, boat-builder Dimitri (Vlahos) Diacopoulos and professional diver Polychronis Chrysafitis, both of whom lived larger than life.

Dimitri (Vlahos) Diacopoulos, aged 63, was a modernday Poseidon and one of Greece's remaining traditional boat-builders. A Kytherian enigma, Dimitri could be found at his boat-shed at Agia Patrikia constructing a caique (wooden fishing boat) or at Moustakia's Taverna in Agia Pelagia adding his laconic remarks to any political debate.

Part-poet, part-philosopher, Dimitri was an incredible boat builder and carpenter: his knowledge of sea vessels was unmatched in Kythera. His woodworking capabilities were a bridge to a time long gone. Unafraid of whom he was, the often gruff Dimitri had amassed an impressive collection of by-gone woodworking tools.

A deeply caring man with short curly hair and bright ocean blue eyes, Dimitri could recognise where a 'caique' (fishing boat) was built, from afar. Always a big-man Dimitri had various medical complications that intensified with age, recently underwent a serious operation that he never recovered from.

Dimtri leaves behind his wife Irini, children Mihalis, Nicoletta and Ourania and grandchildren. It feels as if the bright candlelight of Agia Patrikia has been snuffed-out.

The tragedy of the accidental death of Polychronis Chrysafitis aged 36, feels insurmountable. Polychronis, the eldest of 'the Baker Boys' (the Chrysafitis family have long owned the Bakery in Potamos, delivering bread to most of the island) was a gentleman, who lived an inspirational and dignified life pursuing what he loved best - adventuring. In the Navy he became a 'frogman' with the elite diving corps. Once released from the Navy, he went on diving professionally and travelled internationally diving to recover ships.

Much beloved by all, the gentle and softly-spoken Polychronis had a deep respect for life. He wasn't a person to shout and bellow and yet he pursued his own path with absolute determination. While the first generation of Baker Boys now in their 60s – Tassos & Jimmy recently retired passing the business onto their sons – Tassos's sons Polychronis & Nikos along with Jimmy's sons Polychronis (nicknamed Seinfeld) and George, Polychronis maturely walked away from the lucrative bakery to set up a Diving/Fishing shop in Potamos.

The elder Polychronis was born with a deep love of exploring the natural world, even as a teenager he was an accomplished spear-fisherman and mountaineer. He had explored many of the island's most inhospitable rock-faces and coastlines in detail. Perhaps you joined Polychronis on one of his climbing tours along the Kaki-Lagada.

The painful stillness of Potamos as people helplessly gathered last night outside the iconic Potamos bakery in shock, needing to hear that it wasn't true, was eerie. While details of his passing are still vague it has been reported in the media that he was diving at the Scaramanga Ship Yard in Attica when the accident happend. The tragedy is heightened by the fact that the accident occurred at a depth of only 4 metres.

There is a deep lament for all the dreams Polychronis will not realise. In order to start Kythera's own diving school he recently bought a building in Potamos to relocate his shop and business, looking forward to being permanently based here. His deep love of Kythera and all he planned to do here is now also lost.

Like Dimtri, Polychronis was loved by many and will be missed by all. I feel sadness for the young people of the island who will never come into contact with these two truly individual beings, but the best lesson we can now hope to have from them is that we can learn by honouring their work and their love of our island.

Today Wednesday 26 February 2008 Kythera cries for its Fallen. May They Both Rest in Peace.

#### Anna Cominos, KFN Lead Reporter on Kythera acominos@hotmail.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.

The Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary invites you to a

# **MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2008

# VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEA ROOMS WENTWORTH ROAD, VAUCLUSE

10.00AM - 12.30PM

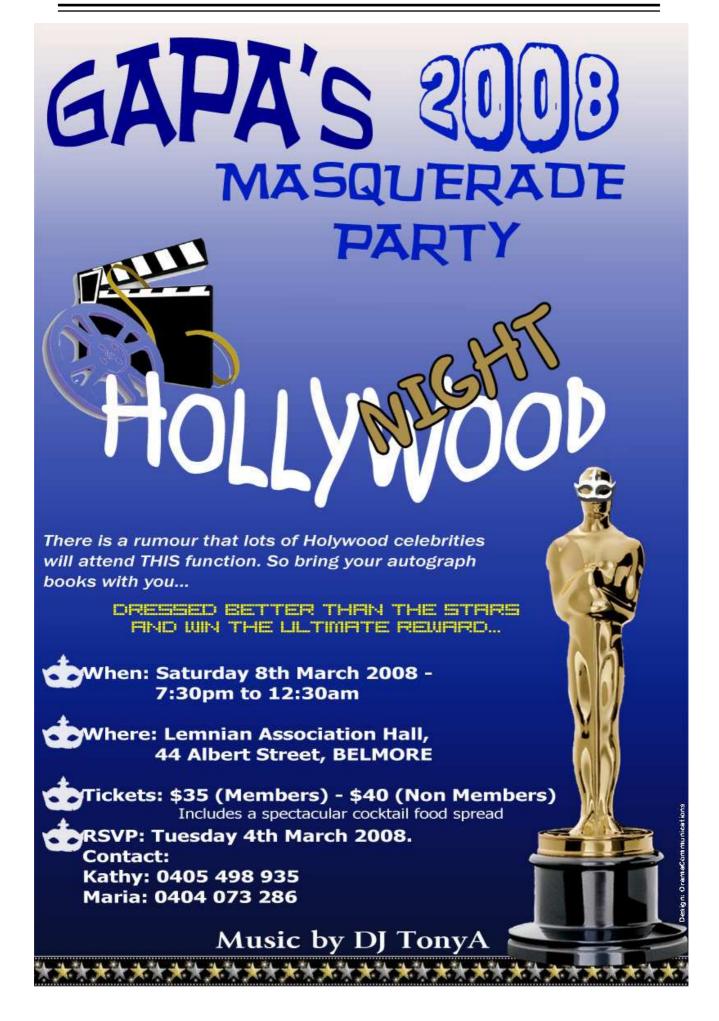


Includes: High Tea enjoying the beautiful Gardens of Vaucluse House.

**Free parking** 

BOOKINGS: Rene Condoleon - 9363 5915 Paula Giaouris - 9547 2747 Mary Moutzouris - 9310 0410 Kyrranne Thomas - 9764 6636 / 0402 809 050

NB. Limited numbers - please book early!



# Social News

<u>Engagements</u>



**Paul Raissis**, eldest son of **Mina & Helen** of Chipping Norton, announced his engagement to **Caroline Balasopoulos**, daughter of **Nick & Kathy** of Collaroy.

**Chrisy Cassimaty**, only daughter of **Arthur & the late Roula Cassimaty** of Rydalmere, has announced her engagement to **Emmanuel Christou**, only son of **Anthony & Georgia** of Dulwich Hill.

Anthony Cassimaty, second son of Pipitsa & the late Theo Cassimaty of North Parramatta, has announced his engagement to Rheannon Williams, eldest daughter of Rhys & Leanne of Orchid Hills.

Tous euxomaste kala stefana!

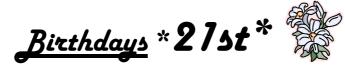
<u>Birthdays</u> \*50th

Congratulations to **Sandra Kepreotis** who recently celebrated her 50th birthday with a party at the Bankstown Sports Club. Good food and music ensured that family and friends all had a wonderful time. Husband **Peter** and sons **Luke, Andrew and Mark** were on hand to celebrate along with relatives, some of whom had travelled from Queensland to be present for the occasion. **NA TA EKATOSTISIS!** 

<u>Christenings</u>



Michael & Mersina Kalos of Denistone baptised their son Andrew, at St Andrew's Church, Gladesville. Godfather was Paul Apostolou, and a reception later followed at Castel D'Oro Function Centre at Five Dock. Andrew is the first grandchild for Andrew Kalokairinos, who travelled from Kythera to be present and seventh grandchild for Helen Kalos of Auburn. Also proud grandparents are Alex & Niki Viamarelos of Casula.



**Chrissie Cassimaty**, daughter of **Jim & Helen** of Kingsford, recently celebrated her 21st birthday with a wonderful party at the Bardwell Valley Golf Club. Friends and relatives had a thoroughly enjoyable time partying well into the early hours with great food, music and lots of "kefi". **Chrissie** is the grand-daughter of **Chrysoula** & the **late Nick Cassimaty** of Randwick and **Nick & Maria Psaltis** of Mascot.

NA TA EKATOSTISIS!





On 19<sup>th</sup> January, **George & Patrisia Tzoukas** of Beverly Hills christened their daughter **Tiana** at St Spyridon Church, Kingsford. Her proud Godparents are **Sam & Vesna Tsatsoulis**, parents of son **Nathan** and daughter **Katerina** of Kingsgrove. Grandparents are **Angelo & Melba Tzoukas** of Redfern (10<sup>th</sup> grandchild) and **John & Dina Karedis** of Kingsford (5<sup>th</sup> grandchild). **Tiana Fay Tzoukas** was christened **Kostantina Fotini Tzoukas**. She is named after her grandmother **Dina** and belated great grandmother **Fotini Lionas** of Stranoma Nufpactos, Greece. **Tiana** is sister to brothers **Evan**, aged 7 and **Jonathan** aged 4. **Tiana** celebrated her christening with her grandfather, **John** who celebrated his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday with a surprise birthday cake at the reception that was held at **Phillip & George Sclavos's** Roslyn Gardens Function Centre, Peakhurst. A wonderful time was had by all.



## PIRATES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - Part VI

## By Luke Kepreotis

In an old Greek apartment sat an old Greek man watching an old Greek television. He was alone, and the reason for this was his two failed marriages and his failing memory. He was fed up. He was finished. And all he wanted to do was sit and sulk, because if it's one thing old Greek men do well, it's waste time.

Harry Tsigounis, a certified recluse, sat back in his ratty leather recliner to indulge himself in his only (and therefore favourite) pastime; watching television. Harry may have decided with all the strength of steel that the world is too cruel to live in, but that didn't mean he wouldn't keep in touch. Thanks to the idiot box, Harry didn't miss a beat in the bolero of life. On this particular autumn afternoon Harry felt undecided. On one hand he wanted romance, and on the other he wanted the melodrama you can only get from treachery and betrayal. Lucky for him the channel he flipped to was screening a movie entitled *Pirates of the Mediterranean*. It was poorly shot and the acting was atrocious, but for some strange reason unknown to Harry, he could not look away. He couldn't quite put his finger on it, but it was as if the screen was trying to *speak* to him.

Harry, why must we hide it any longer...?

Something prehistoric stirred in the old man's head. It was like an animal circling a cage.

Years and years...hidden...a secret...

Memories, weak, but memories nonetheless.

Where the willow tree grows...

Slowly, the animal arched its back.

Make my life...bright and golden...

And bared its teeth.

My treasure...

Growling, snarling, the animal pounced, bringing with it a flood of antique memories. Harry took off from his seat like a rocket, snatching his car keys from the mantle and fleeing the room in such a hurry he almost ran into the door. In the silence of the apartment, the television flickered.

If ever we are separated, for however long...you will find your treasure again, Harry, I promise...

It was a quiet evening in the Pits. A wind blew over the olive-hued plains, swaying the grass and catching the trees in their branches. It was the kind of wind that surrounded you with sounds. A flock of birds took off against the breeze, circled and then vanished skyward over the horizon. And a rustic maroon sedan trundled down a winding dirt path. The sedan came to a stop in the middle of a plain, right at the foot of a lonesome willow tree. The driver got out of the car, peered at the leaves, and then noticed the figure resting against the trunk.

'I've been waiting for you,' said Leo, stepping out from under the canopy. 'I'm glad to see that you got my message. You know, it's quite a bit more expensive than the phone, but far more secure.'

'You haven't changed a bit, you old sinner,' said Harry, hoarsely. 'Still hanging onto the dream of being so rich you could pass a gold kidney stone?'

Leo ignored the old thief. 'Where's Dim?'

'He isn't into Romance.'

'Not a problem. All the more for us,' said Leo as he tossed his old comrade a shovel.

'Time to collect?' asked Harry.

'Time to collect,' nodded Leo.

The duo ambled over to the foot of the willow and, with a shovel each, began to dig. As they mined into the ground, a string of memories slowly slipped underneath their noses, like the hint of an aroma blown in from the sea. Memories from thirty years ago when white hairs were black and bones moved freely without ointment...

Under the gaze of a curious seagull, who was perched in the branches of the willow tree on the night of the heist, three strange men with strange shapes, had finished burying a crate and were patting the topsoil.

'Phew, glad that's over,' said Harry wiping his brow.

'Good work,' said Leo. 'Let's see the feds try and get their hands on the Kurush now.'

'My back hurts,' said Dim. 'Can we go home now?'

'No,' said Leo, shooting him a gaze.

The mastermind collected the shovels and returned them to his knapsack, then huddled his fellow thieves around the tree roots.

'My friends,' he said, 'as you know, times are hard. And after the country gets wind of a missing shipment of Kurush, things are going to become even harder. Border Patrols will check every bag. Customs Officers will make transporting the gold impossible.'

'So?' said Dim.

So we cannot spend our loot! Not here. Not now. Too many eyes are on us.'

'So what do we do?' said Harry.

'We keep it hidden.'

'For how long?' asked Dim.

'Until it's safe. Geez, Dim, what are you using for brains these days? When the world forgets, then we can return to spend our treasure!'

Leo huddled his comrades over the spot where the gold was buried and produced from his pocket a long iron key. Slowly and silently, he handed it to the rock of the trio. The only man who he trusted more than himself. In the dead of the night, in the shadow of the moon, Leo handed the key to Harry.

In the branches of the willow, not far from the thieves, the curious seagull began to take notice.

'Finally!' cried Leo, tossing his shovel out of the hole. It was a moonless dawn following a moonless night. It had taken both of the aging crims almost twelve hours to dig the hole. But they didn't care. It had taken them over three decades of tentative waiting. What was one more day in the grand scheme of things? On Leo's command the duo heaved with all of their strength and managed to overcome their arthritis and lift the gold bullion out of the ground.

'It's here! It's finally here!' cried Leo, rubbing his hands zealously.

Harry scrambled out of the hole. 'I can't believe it. After thirty years of waiting!' he cried through a mask of dirt.

Leo couldn't contain himself any longer. He was finally staring at the fruits of his labours. All his pain and suffering, all those sleepless nights and bottles of liquor. Every last thought and ounce of energy he had spent over the last three decades were about to be payed of in full.

'Hurry, hurry, hurry! Open it, Harry,' he squealed, his tortured knuckles at his mouth.

Harry Tsigounis knelt by the crate and patted around his outfit.

According to the young Harry's memory, which (coincidently enough) was almost entirely different from the elderly Harry's memory, a curious seagull swooped down on that faithful night of the heist and knocked the key from his hand.

Unfortunately for Harry, that curiosity was contagious and found an empty head to settle in.

The empty head picked up the key and slipped it into his pocket.

'I don't have the key,' said Harry, utterly grey-faced.

'What?' spat Leo. 'Then who does?'

'Dim.'

The name resounded in Leo's head like the ring of a cast-iron bell. His head was spinning. He could feel his knees buckle. Luckily Harry caught him before he fell in the hole. 'I can't believe it,' he moaned. 'That bastard has the key?'

Leo collapsed at the foot of the willow tree and there he sat, languid and heart-broken. His temper had faded, replaced by a sickly feeling in the pit of his stomach. The animal couldn't get angry. It was far too old and far too tired.

A long moment passed, as did another. Harry loyally picked up the shovels and began packing the car.

'Wait!' cried Leo, standing bolt upright. 'I could find him!' said Leo. 'All we have to do is make another movie! Yes, that's it! Another movie! I'll hire back all the actors and start a new set!'

Harry rolled his eyes, angrily. 'You and your bloody movies! You think every problem can be solved with making a movie.'

'This one can!' spat Leo. 'Now quickly, tell me what kind of movies Dim watches!'

'Calm down, Leo,' he said, wearily. 'You're starting to lose it. Making *one* movie nearly killed you. Where are you going to find the money let alone the energy to make a second?'

Leo grabbed his comrade by the collar and barked at him nose to nose. 'I said tell me what kind of movies Dim watches!'

Harry winced. 'Are you sure you want to know?'

Leo nodded, slowly and hotly.

Harry whispered the answer into Leo's hairy ear.

The director's head rolled back, staring distantly at the flowing canopy above. Harry was right. It was all over. Because no matter the treasure, no matter the journey, no matter the blood, sweat and tears, even Leo Leonidas did not have the energy for X-rated erotica.





Please contact any of the committee members below if you are coming.

### **Committee Contacts**

Peter Tzannes 0419 993 000, Gina Ambele 0408 429 042, Tina Economy 0421 310 150, Victor Alfieris 0417 230 743, Spiro Coolentianos 0418 213 990 and Peter Poulos 0409 666 238

Books & CD's for sale -	
can be purchased from the	CULTURAL ARCHIVE
Kytherian Association of Australia	WEBSITE FOR KYTHERA
• <i>History of Kythera</i> by Peter Vanges <b>\$30</b>	Kythera-Family.net
<ul> <li>The Greeks in Queensland-A History from 1859 to 1945 by Denis A Conomos (RRP \$49.95)</li> </ul>	http://www.kythera-family.net
<ul> <li>Ta Tessera Spitia by Jim Saltis \$20</li> </ul>	Donations can be sent directly to:
<ul> <li>Ta Tessera Spita by Sim Saits \$20</li> <li>[Jim Saltis, 47 Market Street, Randwick 2031] email <u>saltisjim@optusnet.com.au</u> phone (02) 9399 9767</li> </ul>	The Treasurer <i>Kytherian Association of Australia</i> PO Box A203
Katsehamos and the Great Idea	Sydney South NSW 1235
by Peter Prineas \$35 available Plateia Press 32 Calder Road, Darlington NSW 2008 email <u>plateia@ozemail.com.au</u>	Cheques should be made out to: <i>Kytherian Association of Australia -</i> <i>Kythera Family Website Account</i>
Phone: (02) 9319 1513 Mobile: 0429 322 857	,,
<ul> <li>Aphrodite and The Mixed Grill. Greek Cafes in Twentieth-Century Australia by Toni Risson. 130 Woodend Road, Woodend QLD 4305.</li> </ul>	More information about sponsorship can also be obtained by contacting:
email: s131107@uq.edu.au -\$49.95 plus postage & handling. Phone 3281 1525.	© George C Poulos <u>Ph</u> : 02 9388 8320 <u>Email</u> : transoz@bigpond.net.au
• 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	Angelo Notaras <u>Ph</u> : 02 9810 0194
• A Touch of Greece. The Greek Café Owners of	
Junction St., Nowra by Robyn Florance.	
phone: 4429 3564 (BH)	
email: rflorance@shoalnet.au	11 1
\$17.50 including handling & postage.	
• Journey to Kythera CD-ROM for Apple Mac ActionPoints@hotmail.com or 0417 590 194].	

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.

