



The KYTHERIAN

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

AUGUST 2008

3ο Διεθνές Συμπόσιο του Κυθηραϊσμού

Κύθηρα (Μυρτίδια, Χώρα, Φράτσια, Ποταμός)

21 - 24 Αυγούστου 2008

Ετερο-Κυθηραϊσμός: Ο Κυθηραϊσμός του 21^{ου} αιώνα

(Από την Κυθηραϊκή Ταυτότητα στην πολυ-πολιτισμική ετερότητα)

Hetero-Kytheraismos: The 21st century Kytheraismos

(From the Kytherian Identity to multi-cultural heterocity {diversity})

Ο Λέων των Κυθήρων
(6ος αιώνας π.Χ. - Μουσείο Κυθήρων)
The Lion of Kythera
(6th century b.C. - Kythera museum)

3rd International Symposium of Kytheraismos

Kythera (Myrtidia, Chora, Fratsia, Potamos)

21 - 24 August 2008



Διοργανωτής: Ινστιτούτο του Κυθηραϊσμού
Organiser: Institute of Kytheraismos



Με την υποστήριξη: Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών, Δήμου Κυθήρων, Κληροδοτήματος Αρώνη,
Κυθηραϊκής Αδελφότητας Αυστραλίας, Ιεράς Μητρόπολης Κυθήρων, Εγχωρίου Περιουσίας,
Γραφείου Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου στην Ελλάδα, Κυθηραϊκού Συνδέσμου Κυθήρων

THIS SYMPOSIUM WILL BE OFFICIALLY OPENED BY MR JEREMY R. NEWMAN,
AUSTRALIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO GREECE.

AYIA ELESA CHURCH SERVICE

To be held at the Kogarah Greek Orthodox Church
Belgrave Street Kogarah
Sunday 3rd August 2008

(Ayia Elesa's Icon and life story on page 6)

KYTHO CALENDAR

FRIDAYS 25TH JULY - 26TH SEPT.

Weekly dancing lessons for Term 3
(see back page for details).

SUNDAY 3RD AUGUST 2008

Liturgy for Ayia Elesa at Greek
Orthodox Church, Kogarah.

SATURDAY 27TH SEPT. 2008

September Family Dance
(details on page 12).

SUNDAY 28TH SEPT. 2008

Panayia Myrtdiotissa Liturgy & dancing
in front of church (see details below).

SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2008

KYM Group - Day Trip (see page 12)

PANAYIA MYRTIDIOTISSA CHURCH LITURGY

**SUNDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER,
2008**

**GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,
KOGARAH.**

**Our Friday night dancers will be
performing in the plateia in front
of the Church at the end of the
service.**

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.**

Editor's Note



August is a wonderful time to be in Greece and for us Kytherians....well it goes without saying, we prefer to be in Kythera.

What is so remarkable about our beautiful island is that wherever you go, there is a story to be told.

Without realising it, you make the transition from tourist to participant.... you suddenly find yourself feeling connected to the island, its history and its inhabitants. For me, such an example is Ayia Elesa.

Kytherians begin the month of August by celebrating the Feast Day of Ayia Elesa. She is undoubtedly my favourite patron saint, so much so that we named our daughter's middle name after her.

I have always been intrigued by her life story. It amazes me that such a young girl (she was only a teenager when she died) had become a devout Christian at a time in history when many Christians were still being persecuted for their faith. Elesa's love for God empowered her to sacrifice her life for Him.

Ayia Elesa's grave and monastery is located on a mountain in the south-western part of the island. I love its location. Many wonderful memories come flooding back whenever I go there. The first time was in the heart of winter, 35 years ago when the island was on the verge of having electricity connected. We ventured up the mountain on a cold and extremely windy day, to be greeted by the monastery's priest who gave us a tour and detailed history of Ayia Elesa.

The view from the monastery is amazing! You are able to see many of the towns on the island. To get my bearings, I find myself looking for a landmark that I am personally connected to and that is the beautiful Katouni bridge. Am I biased? Of course I am.... considering the bridge is in my "horio". Its 13 arches are such a magnificent sight and from there I can recognise other towns. On the far side of the monastery, there are superb views sweeping across the coastline out to the sea that leads us to Anti-Kythera and Crete.

As I look down on the land below, I can see Melidoni. This is the place where Ayia Elesa came ashore when she was fleeing Peloponnesos (to escape her father who was a heathen). It is also the place where my father, as a boy, used to travel from Livadi on foot or by donkey, with my grandfather to collect salt. To this day, he tells me that it was the most difficult task he has ever had to do. I never met my grandfather, but stories like this enable me to feel a connection to him. These days, Melidoni is a popular beach where many locals and tourists enjoy swimming.

The very essence of being Kytherian is that many aspects of life such as history and religion as well as personal experiences and memories are interwoven. This enables us to access a treasure-trove of information thus giving us a greater understanding and appreciation of how we are influenced by our heritage.

The fact that so many Kytherians from different walks of life and various parts of the world are meeting in Kythera this month for the third International Symposium of Kytheraismos confirms what many of us already know....being Kytherian defines who we are. It allows us to appreciate and embrace our past and look forward to the future.

Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



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Go

Interview with Kythera's Mayor Koukoulis

Kythera-Family.net (KFN): Mr Mayor, would you please tell us about your connection to the island?

Mayor Koukoulis: I was born here in 1956. My father and grandfather and great-grandfathers were Kytherians. I have found some information about my family which goes back to 1780 and heard that there is something about a priest called Nicholas Koukoulis from the middle of the 17th Century. I know very well that the village my family comes from, Katsoulanika, had a small neighbourhood called Koukoulanika. I lived here continuously until 1965 and during that time both my parents were primary school teachers in Logothetianika before they were transferred to Pireaus. But we never lost touch with the island as my parents were teachers and had long vacations during which we used to come each Easter and summer to Kythera and even in the winter during Christmas. Since 2006 my family and I have been living here permanently. I was elected mayor in October of 2006.

KFN: What have you achieved and what would you like to achieve as mayor?

Mayor Koukoulis: Certainly we want to keep our environment without great change. We want to see the island developed but without having all the negatives effects which have occurred on other islands such as in the Cyclades, where the built environment and the natural environment have been to a certain degree "at conflict". For this reason we try to do our best in this field. On the other hand we want to increase the standard of living here. We are trying to improve the water network which exists, the road infrastructure. We are introducing in the next few weeks the recycling of aluminium, glass, paper and plastic, and of course we are doing our best to connect the island as many times as possible with the Peloponnese and Pireaus. We give priority to the connection with the Peloponnese as that distance is shorter. We are also in the process of building two new primary schools and improving existing schools both primary and secondary. And of course we have tried very hard to offer our services as a municipality to the inhabitants of Kythera as well as to those of Kytherian descent who live everywhere, in Pireaus, Athens, Australia, America or anywhere else in the world.

KFN: How do you see the Diaspora Kytherians? Are they an important part of the Kytherian community?

Mayor Koukoulis: In the policy that I follow it is very important to have the Kytherians abroad in touch with Kythera. Unfortunately we haven't yet manage to create a mechanism to keep in touch with as many Kytherians as possible regardless of whether they belong to the first, second or third generation. But certainly we want to do

that and are looking for the means - the money and the people - to materialise this policy. I will try to travel to Australia early next year. The problems I face every day here are many and that is why I don't know if I will make it but I will try my best to go to Australia to see as many people as possible and try make them more interested in coming to the island, in helping the island in one way or another. Whether making a small donation or making the island better known in Australia so that more people visit us. This is important as much more money will indirectly reach Kytherians.

KFN: The visitors to our website have heard of plans to create a **wind-farm** on Kythera. When do you expect them to be constructed?

Mayor Koukoulis:

First of all, it's not even a plan. It's just a thought. We had an application from an investment company here which wants to produce electricity from wind-power and the president of the company asked for permission to meet with our municipal council to inform the members of the council of it's investment plans. About 7 months have passed since then. What we have promised to the people here is that, before anything is even planned to be done on the island, a very detailed study will be conducted. That is, we have to answer many questions such as: how many wind-turbines can be placed on the island without having an effect on the environment from an aesthetic viewpoint - from an ecological standpoint the island will be better protected if no fossil fuels need to be burned. Secondly, how far from the villages and archeological sites and other monuments must such turbines be constructed under Greek law? Even if the study says that 15 turbines can be placed on the island we will consider other things as well, such as whether the inhabitants wish to have them at that particular place or not. We will have gatherings in the villages to explain what the study says. And we will discuss the matter and we will see what the people say. We will never do anything which is against the will of the people.

KFN: Is there anyone in your council who is more knowledgeable regarding the plans for the wind-farms than you are?

Mayor Koukoulis: No, no one. All the information comes to me first and I inform the rest openly, sincerely, frankly, without hiding anything.

KFN: So you don't yet know where the sites might be?

Mayor Koukoulis: No, nothing at all.

KFN: Do you know what sort of financial gain the island will have if they are constructed?

Mayor Koukoulis: This depends on how many MW will be produced. What I can tell you is that the proposal of this company which said that perhaps 40-45 turbines with 95-

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.

100MW capacity would be placed on the island - it was just a suggestion - would generate an income of about 400.000 Euros a year.

If turbines are to be built on the island, we will be very hard in our negotiations with any investor. And we will ask them to do as many good things as possible for the island. But as I said before, nothing has been done so far and nothing will be done not before the study is completed.

KFN: Is the study being produced now?

Mayor Koukoulis: No, we intend to commission it in September. The study will be done by an independent body which has nothing to do with the energy companies. And we believe the best people to do this is the Polytechnic of Athens which is a university institute which is known for its independent view and the majority of professors there have, let's say, liberal political views so they won't be influenced by the private companies.

KFN: Does the council has the right of veto over the construction of the wind-turbines?

Mayor Koukoulis: No, there is no veto. The law says, if the government - any government - decides that it is necessary for important reasons to build this to cover the percentage of green energy under EU regulations, we have to accept it. We know that very well. So what we can do as a municipal council here is to create an environmental study. If this study concludes that only 3 wind-turbines can be put here, no government can force us to accept more.

KFN: And if the study were to report that 150 could be constructed?

Mayor Koukoulis: There is no possibility of this. Not even for 50 or for 40. The reason for that is as follows: the island has about 65 villages. And the distance from these villages must be - if my memory serves me correctly - 500 or 600 meters. There are also certain archeological sites like Paliopoli, Paliochora, Paliokastro, Finikies, and many more all over the island. There are certain important monuments which stand alone in the middle of nowhere. Like a Byzantine church, which needs another 500 or 600 meters distance from a turbine. So when we look at a map of the island these sites are everywhere. What is left over in order to place all the wind-turbines?

KFN: But don't the companies already know this?

Mayor Koukoulis: If they don't know, we will inform them.

KFN: But these companies are investing money right now to do wind-measurement studies and to apply for building permits. Surely they must already have the information about where they can and where they can't construct.

Mayor Koukoulis: These companies make their own studies, which include measuring the wind power. But when the time comes and they come to us with this or that proposal indicating the places where they want to build them, we can say you can't build them there and there because our study says the opposite.

KFN: Would these companies have to lay a new and expensive cable across to the Peloponnese to get the large amounts of energy off the island?

Mayor Koukoulis: Yes and if they want to make this expenditure they will not come to the island to construct just 5 or 3 or 7 turbines because it will be very costly.

KFN: Do you know how many MW of turbines they would

have to construct on Kythera to make it worth their while to lay the cable?

Mayor Koukoulis: I'm afraid I don't know, but it must be at least 100 in my opinion.

KFN: But according to what you just said this cannot happen on the island.

Mayor Koukoulis: Yes, this is my opinion. This is my view. It cannot happen on the island.

KFN: Do you know of any companies who have applied to the electricity authority RAE in Athens to put turbines on the island.

Mayor Koukoulis: I know that there are two or three companies but I don't know the names. If you know the names, perhaps you can tell me.

KFN: As you see from this letter I have here from RAE (the Greek Electricity commission), turbines have been planned in various places.

Mayor Koukoulis: (reads the first application) "Finikies". Wind-turbines there would be out of the question. First of all I have a BA and an M. Lit. in archaeology. Do you think I would be so negligent as to allow them to build turbines which would damage an archaeological site? Finikies is an archaeological site. Also Mt. Memingares (the second site in the application) is just above Milopotamos. Milopotamos is a traditional village. We cannot allow these things to happen. So people should not worry. We will protect the island, and its environment to the maximum. I say that in the most clear and categorical way.

KFN: But at the same time you have said that if the Greek government wants turbines on the island for "important reasons"...

Mayor Koukoulis: The study will stop any plan for wind-farms. We will commission the study in about September and I imagine it will be finished about 6 months after that.

KFN: Has the council budgeted for such a study? And do you have the support of your council for that expenditure?

Mayor Koukoulis: Even the "opposition" wants to see a study done. So I don't see any obstacles.

KFN: So the government can not go against the study.

Mayor Koukoulis: Of course not. That is absolutely clear.

KFN: Speaking to you it sounds as if in your opinion they cannot construct more than 10 or 20 turbines at the very most and that it wouldn't be in their interest to construct so few.

Mayor Koukoulis: I don't know if even this number is close to reality. Maybe three, maybe two, maybe none. But certainly not the number which a few people have been saying.

KFN: But from this official application alone to RAE we can see they are interested in setting up 160 MW of wind-towers.

Mayor Koukoulis: Let me make this even more clear. If I was the president of a company who wanted to invest and make more money, I would try to do this on any island. The problem is not that. The problem is what we will do in order to avoid the materialisation of the plan of 10, 20, 30, 40 turbines. Perhaps someone will come here one day and say I want to build an oil refinery. Do you think we will

ever allow this to happen to the island?

We don't have the right of veto. But if we have the study, this will protect us. And from what I know so far, no company will try to violate the study. Because we will fight - myself, the council, the people - against it. And they (the companies) are not stupid, they do not want to fight the local community.

KFN: But if they are not stupid then surely they know how expensive it is to lay the cable, they know there are archeological sites, that there are 65 villages, that the roads would have to be widened or build anew.... why wouldn't they say from the beginning "Kythera is not viable"?

Mayor Koukoulis: Say I wanted to build a skyscraper here on the island and I will try although I know the law is against it. If the people here, if the municipal council, the archeological service, the forestry commission don't react, I may build this skyscraper. But if the municipal council says no, then no-one would dare to do that.

KFN: And that is true even if the Greek Government says "this is necessary for important state reasons"?

Mayor Koukoulis: Yes. There is the law for this. I do not believe that there will even be 5 wind-turbines on the island. Although I think that a small number of them would be good for the island because it will make it a green island without the use of fossil fuels.

KFN: What is the situation with the public records on the island?

Mayor Koukoulis: I'm planning to collect all the books which are scattered around the island in municipal offices - for example Friligianika and Logothetianika there are boxes full of books which were packed in the 50's 60's and 70's. Record books but also poetry, philosophy etc. And some of these books are very important. The aim is to collect these books and then put them in a municipal library so we can create a modern library. In doing so everyone can go to the library to read and write and search for information, including the municipal records. For this we need to create a fund. We will do that in relatively short period of time if we can raise the necessary funds.

KFN: Many Diaspora Kytherians would like to see all those records online, just as many countries have put such records onto websites. The archives in the Castro in Hora are very important documents pertaining to the life on the island during the Venetian rule of almost 400 years. There are no copies of them anywhere. Can you imagine having them digitalised, not just to preserve them, but to make them available through the internet for everyone?

Mayor Koukoulis: The archive of the Kastro have nothing to do with the municipality of Kythera. They belong to the Greek State. What we can do is to have a kind of communication with the people who look after the archives. But not take the archives and put them in our library, or to use the archives on the internet. If we can find the money to do this, it should be possible. I hope we can get permission. I hope so. But I must make it clear that we will give priority to the municipal archives because it is easier to get hold of them. It may take some time to get a permit to digitalise the state archives. But we will certainly try to get these archives too as they are very important to Kytherian history.

KFN: Do you have anything else you would like to say to the Diaspora community?

Mayor Koukoulis: That we think of them. We want to have them very near to us and would certainly like to see them on the island whether they can come regularly or not. That they are a piece of our community. The distance may be great but our hearts are very close. And we believe that even if they don't speak Greek as their mother tongue we want them to come to the island, we want them to feel that they are partly kytherians and Greeks. We want them to feel as the Jews do about Israel. They don't forget their homeland and believe that they will visit their homeland at least once in their lives. In the same way we want the Kytherians to feel that they can contribute to the community here on this small island and to the people who live here.

One thing which I would also like very much is to reconnect to the Kytherians in the United States, South America and South Africa. The connection to them is no longer as strong as it once was.

KFN: Perhaps you could reach more of them if you were to write a regular letter to the Diaspora community which we would send out with our monthly Kythera-Family.net newsletter?

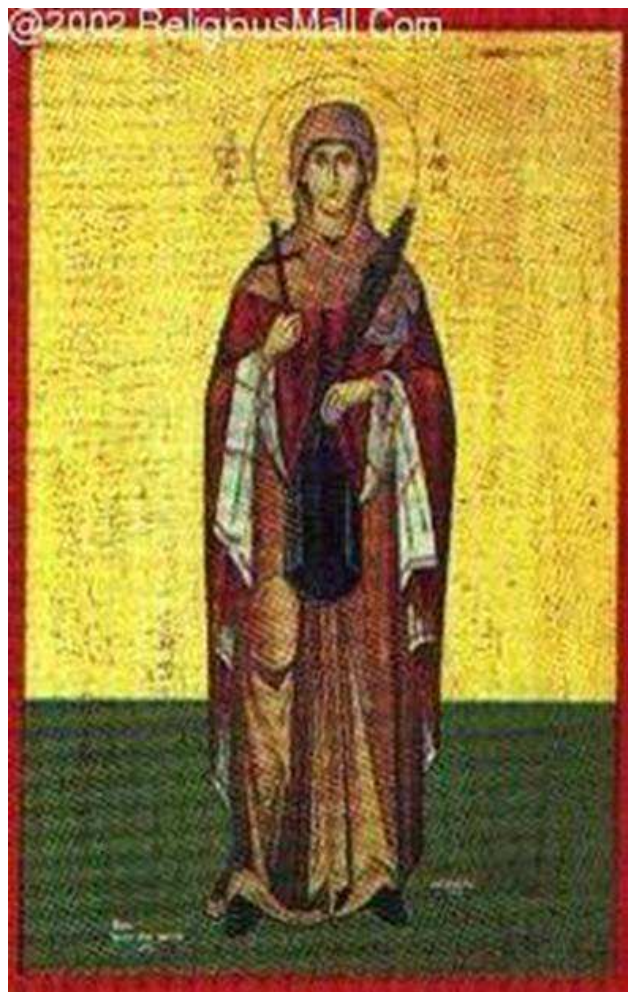
Mayor Koukoulis: I would like that very much.

KFN: Mayor Koukoulis, thank you very much for your time.



James Prineas contributes to our newsletter every month (page 3) and conducted this interview with the Mayor of Kythera, Mr Theodore Koukoulis.

AYIA ELESΑ



Photos courtesy of Stephen Trifyllis

The Monastery of Ayia Elesa was built in 1871 on the peak of a mountain 433 metres high with impressive views.

It was built in memory of the tragic St. Elesa who was the daughter of an army officer, himself, an idol worshipper from the Peloponnese.

Elesa, a Christian, fled to Kythera to get away from her father who was angered by her refusal to marry the man he had chosen for her. She disembarked at Melidoni, Kythera in 375 A.D. determined to lead the life of a nun instead.

On the way up to the mountain, she begged the Lord to open the ground at her feet so that she could hide from her father who was in close pursuit. The earth beneath her feet cracked open but her father was already there, waiting for her. She underwent terrible torture at the hands of her father.

He whipped her, hung her from a carob tree and finally decapitated her. Her grave today is located in the Monastery's courtyard, where remarkable healing miracles have been reported and the church commemorates her memory on her Feast Day every 1st August.

*Information is courtesy of **Kytheriaki Ithea**.*

Multi-cultural Kytherocity

by Elias Marsellos

As it is well-known the 3rd International Symposium of Kytheraismos is being organized on Kythera from 21-24 August 2008. Its main theme will be Hetero-Kytheraismos, in other words, the cultural, political, economic and social diverseness of the Tsirigoti in past centuries but in combination with the current reality. With this opportunity the relations of Kytherians and Philo-Kytherians everywhere will be strengthened and many of today's significant issues will be discussed.

In this particular ecumenical gathering of Kytherians we will HONOUR our compatriots from everywhere, who emigrated, we'll REMEMBER our first emigrants, who moulded with sweat and blood their existence abroad, but also those who remained on the island close to their parents and our land. We will PRAISE them as they deserve for their great achievements, their tireless attempts to safeguard Kytherocity, both on the island and abroad, particularly abroad with its many challenges.

We will SHOW the high level of maintenance of principles, ideals, traditions, art and science wherever they lived, and we will REFER to their level of cultural inheritance which they kept and perpetuated and maintained intact up to even today so as to withstand the challenges and invitations of today.

We will REMEMBER our parents and ancestors and we will THINK about the great inroads they made with little means, but as a sole rule and aim the survival of their Kytherocity and the raising of their children; we will think about ourselves with the same communion they fostered, with the same principles they were brought up with so that we can come together and fight for the same objectives

We will SHOW our youth of today our own objectives, our visions, which we received from our elders and we'll compare our achievements which we owe and, in essence, we leave as a legacy to the next generation, for we literally have borrowed it from them and must surrender it to them.

At this Symposium we will transcend and we will by-pass, the traditional identity of the Tsirigoti, putting for the first time emphasis on his **multi-cultural heterocity**. It is the other side of the coin which stands out (Kythera, Kytherians and Philo-Kytherians). It is his difference, that which distinguishes him and will continue to distinguish him, that which always characterized him, his great cultural embrace which finds the Tsirigoti and his friends at the turn of the great century. That cultural embrace which made him accept many civilisations, religions, mixtures, deprivations and enslavement. Yet, he remained unique in his difference, even multi-cultural in his hospitality, crystal clear in his Kytherocity.

On the 24th of August a new chapter will open for Kythera, for Kytherians abroad and Philo-Kytherians; a new chapter at the beginning of the 21st century in a book which will never close. In its pages will be written and noted, images and events, unified and in indelible ink, of a continuous Kytherian chronology, a portrayal of past and future history, whether these events take place in Australia, in America, in Athens' Kytheroupolis or in our birthplace under the veil of Kytherocity.

WIND ENERGY AND KYTHERA

150 Wind-Turbines on Kythera?

Applications have been received by the Greek Department of Energy for the construction of 150MW of wind-turbines (50-150 towers) on Kythera.

Proposed areas are:

- Kefalakia
the hills above Agia Pelagia
- Finikies
close to Logothetianika
- Mt Mermingares
south of Milopotamos
- Kefalovouni-Pyrgos-Krotiri
between Aroniathika and
Milopotamos

More areas could follow!

Advantages? What advantages?

- no free electricity for Kytherians
- no guaranteed supply of electricity
- dozens of huge turbines visible from half the island
- no funding for their removal when they stop working
- minimal income for Kythera
- disruption to bird migratory patterns
- discourages tourism to the island
- serious damage to nature on the island



**Register your opposition:
Sign the petition!
Call the Mayor's office:
27360-31213!**

Turbine Action Group



These two images represent two sides of an argument that is currently raging in Greece and, more relevantly for us, on Kythera. Do we want wind parks on Kythera?

The photo on the left depicts an operational wind farm on Panachaiko Mountain, overlooking the Gulf of Corinth near the city of Patras. The picture on the right is a poster rallying against proposed wind turbines on the island with a "photo illusion" depicting how windmills might overlook Agia Pelagia.

Where does the truth lie in this debate? Kytherian - family.net Webmaster James Prineas and prominent Kytherian residents John Stathatos and Anna Cominos are at the forefront of a campaign against the proposed introduction of wind energy parks on Kythera, with an online petition that can be signed at <http://www.petitiononline.com/kythera/petition.html>. According to the online petition, although the move towards renewable energy is to be encouraged, many islanders and Kytherians of the *diaspora* are worried that the proposals will compromise the "unspoiled" reputation of the island as well as being a threat to migratory birds who, in their hundreds of thousands, use the island as a way-station on their way from northern Europe to Africa. The petition requests that a full environmental impact study be undertaken as well as giving the islanders a chance to vote on the issue before the go-ahead is given.

What indeed are the implications for Kythera? Whilst I have yet to form a concrete view as to the relative pros and cons of having a wind farm or wind generators erected on Kythera, I feel that it is important that any discussion regarding wind power on Kythera should be balanced so as to avoid the protagonists from being tagged with the NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) syndrome. It also appears from the interview with Mayor Koukoulis which is published in this issue of the Kytherian newsletter that the introduction of wind turbines on Kythera is still a matter for speculation at the present time. Only time will tell.

In a sense it is somewhat ironic that our forbears utilized renewable energy sources in the form of the old wind mills and water mills that once dotted the island. My interest in this subject has been aroused by the controversy in Kythera. Just last week I attended a public lecture at the Alexandria Hall in Sydney on the prospects for wind energy in Australia presented by the eminent Australian academic, Dr Hugh Outhred, Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of New South Wales Centre for Energy and Environmental Markets. Dr Outhred spoke about a global energy crisis and how the human race has backed itself into a corner. The conventional sources of power come from burning of fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil. In Australia, the debate is driven by the catastrophic effects of climate change and why it is necessary to find sensible and environmentally-sustainable responses. The issue of wind energy is about how to harness and integrate large amounts of wind energy into the mainstream electricity network. According to Dr Outhred, wind energy is the fastest growing and most cost effective electricity generating technology at present and has an important role to play as an alternative clean energy source. As a result, the Australian Government aims to have 2% of Australia's electricity generated by renewable sources by 2010.

As it turns out, Greece was the first country in the years to 1980 to install a wind park in Europe. This was on the island of Kythnos. In 2002 Greece ratified the Kyoto treaty and is committed to achieving a target mandated by the European Union of producing 20% of its electricity power from renewable energy sources by 2010 and a fifth of all energy by 2020. The country is seen as a nation with a strong wind and solar power potential. The generation of 1 KW electrical energy with the use of wind-powered generators (or other renewable sources of energy) replaces 1.7 kilos of lignite and 0.05 cubic metres of natural gas and in theory no more pollution is added to the atmosphere. By 2007 Greece generated a total of 870 megawatts (MW) produced from 1,096 wind generators, or less than 1% of the world's output from this energy source. The Kyoto-inspired target for 2010 is 3,000MW. In other words, there is a long way to go even though Greece is one of the windiest countries in Europe.



There is considerable opposition to wind turbines across Greece and particularly on the islands. Many have also been sited in inappropriate places, spoiling landscapes of natural beauty. According to Tasoula Karauskaki in the *Kathimerini* newspaper (18 August 2007) proper community consultation is rare whilst to many the wind farms are seen as get-rich schemes for private interests. She reports that organized protests against the establishment of wind parks on Greek islands, as well as on parts of the mainland, have developed into a form of ideological warfare between "environmentally friendly" local organisations and the central government. Ms Karauskaki wryly observes that these protesters are uncomfortable with the idea of roads being opened up to allow the creation of wind parks, but have for years turned a blind eye to the widespread illegal construction on their islands. The island of Serifos in April 2007 rejected a proposal for the installation of 87 wind turbines capable of generating 260 megawatts. A thousand permanent residents saw no point in jeopardising their income from about 80,000 tourist visitors a year. A similar proposal for Skros was also rejected. As the journalist John Psaropoulos in the *Athens News* (27 June 2008) noted, both of these projects suffered from the same dilemma: most of Greece's wind potential lies offshore, but wind farms are only financially feasible if they can sell power to the national grid. The debate continues. In an article published in *Kathimerini* on 5 February 2007 Giorgos Lialios wrote that the Environment and Public Works Ministry is in favour of developing wind parks on Greek islands but wants to place strict restrictions on such development to avoid aesthetic conflicts and possibly noise pollution. A new land use plan for renewable energy sources was being prepared by the Ministry which would limit wind parks to 4 percent of a municipality's area (as opposed to 8 percent on the mainland) and which would limit the number of wind turbines to 2,000, producing some 4,000 MW of energy. According to this report, the maximum installed MW must be less than 20MW per wind park and wind power plants should not be built near or within site of archaeological sites and should be no closer than 1 kilometre to towns or villages or the coastline. This means a wind turbine per 2 square kilometers. For example, on the island of Sifnos, which has an area of 74 square kilometers, up to 39 wind turbines would be allowed. Another limit to be placed is on the quantity of energy produced on islands that are not connected to the countrywide electricity grid but produce electricity for their own needs. In this case, the cap on electricity production from renewable energy sources is set at 30 percent of an island's electricity capacity. This limitation is to ensure the stability of the local grid.

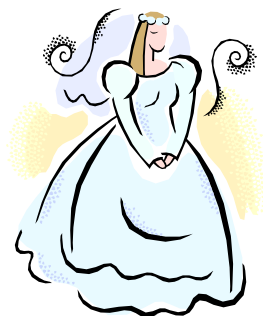
The debate continues. As it turns out, I will be in Kythera for the Kytheraismos Symposium between 21-24 August 2008 and I hope to find out more about the plans for the island. Let's hope that this controversy does not prove to be an ill-wind.

George Vardas

Social News

Weddings

Paul Raissis, eldest son of **Mina & Helen** of Chipping Norton married **Caroline Balasopoulos**, only daughter of **Nick & Cassie** of Collaroy. The wedding took place at St Michael's Greek Orthodox Church at Crows Nest and the Koumbaro was **Con Raissis**. Guests had an enjoyable evening at the reception which followed at Luna Park.



NA ZISETE!

Christenings

Congratulations to **Joe & Melissa Socrates** on the Christening of their daughter, **Kristen**. Godparents were **George & Kathy Laliotis**. The service was held at St Michael's Greek Orthodox Church, Crows Nest, followed by lunch at Chatswood Golf Club. Proud grandparents are **Joseph & Christina Socrates** and **Steve & Anna Psaltis**.



NA SAS ZISI!

BREAKING NEWS**– Passenger ship comes to grief in Kythera**

Some 8 years after the SS Nordland hit a small islet off Diakofti and partially sank, another maritime incident has plagued Kythera. On Saturday 25 July 2008 the sole ferry servicing Kythera, the “Myrtidiotissa”, carrying 295 passengers, was apparently trying to dock at Diakofti after sailing on its regular route between Neapoli and the island when it ran aground on a reef. The impact opened two holes in the ship’s hull approximately 7 and 10 metres long and damaged a propeller. Although no one was injured fuel leaked from the boat and efforts were under way to try to contain any pollution threat to the waters around the pristine port of Diakofti. According to the *Kathimerini* newspaper, the 30 year car ferry “Express Pegasus” operated by Hellas Seaways has replaced the “Myrtidiotissa” during the upcoming peak period in tourism to the island.

JEREMY ROGER NEWMAN

Mr Newman is the new Australian Ambassador to Greece and will be opening the 3rd International Symposium of Kytheraismos in Kythera this month. **Mr Newman** was born in Melbourne and educated in Singapore, Sri Lanka and Britain where he graduated from the University of Cambridge with First Class Honours in History. He has held many overseas positions since 1977 and it is an honour for all Kytherians that he has accepted the invitation from Elias Masselos to visit Kythera this summer.

PANAYIA MYRTIDIOTISSA
FAMILY DANCE

Venue: Grand Barclay Reception Lounge
588 Princes Highway, Rockdale

When: Saturday 27th September 2008

Time: 7pm

Cost: \$50 per adult, \$25 per child (12 years & under)

Includes Mezethes and a 2 course meal with drinks (except spirits).

Our Greek Dancing Classes will perform at this function.
(Children performing from Friday Greek Dancing will not be charged but will be given raffle books to sell). Payment for tickets can be made at Greek Dancing each Friday night.
Please book early by calling Kathy Samios on 9349 1849.

Upcoming Event

Sunday 12th October 2008

The **Kytherian Young Mothers Group** together with the **Kytherian 4WD and Recreation Club** are holding a day trip to the Illawarra Fly Tree Top Walk.

The Illawarra Fly is a 500 metre long, 25 metre high elevated tree top walk ascending at a gentle grade and suitable for visitors of all mobilities.

Nestled amongst the temperate rainforest of the Southern Highlands the treetop walk takes you along the picturesque Illawarra escarpment and offers inspiring views from Shellharbour to Bass Point, Lake Illawarra and the South Pacific Ocean.

The Illawarra Fly is located near Robertson in the Southern Highlands approximately 2 hours from Sydney.

For Enquiries please call:

Maria Coolentianos 0409 639 897

Stella Preneas 0402 296 100

Maria Notaras 0425 230 991

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

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

CULTURAL ARCHIVE
WEBSITE FOR KYTHERA

Kythera-Family.net

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

Donations can be sent directly to:

The Treasurer

Kytherian Association of Australia
PO Box A203
Sydney South NSW 1235

Cheques should be made out to:
Kytherian Association of Australia
- Kythera Family Website Account

More information about sponsorship
 can also be obtained by contacting:

George C Poulos

Ph: 02 9388 8320

Email: transoz@bigpond.net.au

Angelo Notaras

Ph: 02 9810 0194

Please forward any items you wish to be included in our Newsletter to
 The EDITOR
 PO Box A203
 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

or

kaanewsletter@optusnet.com.au

Please Note:

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

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



Kytherian Association of Australia

www.kytherianassociation.com.au

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

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

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

Enquiries: Peter Samios

GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2008

**FRIDAYS 25TH JULY - 26th SEPTEMBER
(TERM 3)**

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

Infants 7.00pm-
7.45pm

Primary 7.45pm-
8.30pm

Junior High School
8.30pm-9.15pm

Senior Group 9.15pm-10.15pm

