



The KYTHERIAN

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

APRIL 2009

The Kytherian Ladies' Auxiliary invites you to a



MOTHERS' DAY MORNING TEA

Thursday, 7th May 2009

VAUCLUSE HOUSE TEA ROOMS
WENTWORTH ROAD, VAUCLUSE

10.00AM – 12.30PM
COST : \$45

Kytherian Debutante Ball 2009

DATE: SATURDAY 30TH MAY
VENUE: Grand Harbour Ball Room
3rd Floor STAR CITY CASINO.
TIME: 7pm to 1am

BOOKINGS: Kathy Samios 9349 1849
Esther Calligeros 9344 0298

TICKETS: \$185 per person

(ticket selling dates to be advised in May Newsletter)

KYTHO CALENDAR

Fridays 30th January - 3rd April
Weekly dancing lessons for Term 1.
(see back page for details).

Term 2 (1st May - 10th July)

Friday 10th April - 13th April, 2009
Turon Gates Weekend Away (see page 22)

Sunday 19th April 2009
Easter Sunday

Wednesday 22nd April 2009
KYMG Bowling Day (see details on p.20)

Thursday 23rd April, 2009
KYMG Museum Day (see p. 5 for details)

Saturday 2nd May, 2009
Kytherian 4WD Trivia Night (see page 11)

Thursday 7th May, 2009
Mothers' Day Morning Tea (details on front page).

Sunday 17th May , 2009
Ayios Theodoros Liturgy Service.

Saturday 30th May, 2009
Kytherian Debutante Ball at Star City
(see details on front page)

Sunday 31st May, 2009
Kytherian Ball After Party (see details on page 4).

mums & bubs

"Mums and Bubs" outings are held on the last Friday of each month, for babies and children up to 5 years. For more information please call Erenie on 0410 318 053.

Editor's Note



At this point in my life, I don't like surprises and I certainly don't welcome change a great deal. I am in my comfort zone and when change does occur, it means that I have to leave that zone to be able to adapt. This I do so reluctantly.

However, there are some aspects of my life where I find that I have absolutely no room for change and Kythera is definitely one of them.

My love affair with this glorious island began when I first stepped on her shores as a 17 year old. Reading Maria Whyte's recollection (on the website) of her time in Kythera when she was young is something I can certainly relate to. Over time, I have stored so many wonderful memories that remain as clear to me today as they were all those years ago. From a teenager to a married woman with a family, Kythera has shaped my life every step of the way.

My passion is shared by my husband and has been handed down to our children whose childhoods are full of memories of lazy summer days spent on Diakofti beach or winter days exploring the island.

However, "time waits for no man" and our island is not exempt from this. Change is inevitable. Admittedly, it is not always a bad thing and one can't help but notice certain changes on Kythera..... new homes being built, more businesses opening, roads being fixed (no wait....that's not one of them) etc, etc, etc.

However, when you read Anna Comino's blog on page 3 you realise that our island is experiencing other changes and that unfortunately they are not all good. Kythera is no longer immune to the evils of the 21st Century. Our pristine island of paradise is now being tarnished by such things as a rise in petty crime and while it is nowhere near the level that plagues us here in Australia, it is nonetheless very disturbing. These types of crimes can escalate into more serious ones if left unchecked.

One can only hope that the locals who live in Kythera will be strong enough to show the community spirit that is required to fight this kind of change. They definitely have our support because nothing will deter us from visiting the island to which we are so spiritually connected.

However, there is only so much that we 'tourists' can do.

We rely on the true caretakers of the island to resist indifference and be more involved in helping to preserve the true Kythera. Let us hope that they succeed.

On a different note, we wish all our members a Happy Easter.



Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



Embarkation to Kythera

Anna is back! After her winter hibernation our star reporter Anna Cominos is back with the island news and views – see the column on the right.

I was just on the phone to Kythera with Leonithes Kontosis, ex-Stuttgart engineer and leader of the island's Wind-farm resistance group. Greek but not Kytherian by origin, he lives full-time on Kythera and is working hard to ensure that no mammoth towers are constructed without the consent of the majority of Kytherians. He reported that the island was visited last week by the boss of the biggest wind-generation conglomerate in Greece, "Vector", who told a reporter that his company was all ready to construct wind-farms on Kythera as soon as the permits came through. We'll keep you informed.

If you've received this newsletter regularly you might know that my family and I spent 3 wonderful months on Kythera last year. It went so well that we are now planning to spend a year on Kythera as of this European Summer. Being something of an entrepreneur I intend to try out a few business ideas while there which will hopefully lead to new jobs and income for the islanders as well as sustaining my family. If you also have ideas or want to invest in the island, please send me a mail and we can see if we can find common ground. Kythera has so much potential, from low-impact renewable energy projects (without the mammoth towers – given the ample sun and wind, there is no reason why Kythera can't be energy self-sufficient!), catamaran regatta hosting, to organic medicinal herb production, any of which may not only invigorate the island's economy but also make it more self-sufficient and even more attractive!

While on the island we hope to start building a house on our piece of land. So if you have any building suggestions or even building horror-stories, now is the time to send them to me. I could even publish them in the next newsletter or on the website (with the author's permission of course) for the benefit of all readers. Also recommendations on which builders to use and which to beware of, sources for materials and ideas for low-water & maintenance gardens, would be much appreciated.

If you haven't been on the kythera-family.net site for a while you really should take a look at the dozens of new entries, especially in the guest book and message board, where there are lots of questions regarding families on the island which you may be able to help with.

And for those of you who will be on Kythera this summer, please let me know if you would be interested in a Kythera-family.net dinner party where we could meet and mingle.

James Prineas (james@kythera-family.net)

Bring Back Barbarossa?

by Anna Cominos

Sorry for being off-line for so long, it wasn't really a case of being absent but more of having brain-freeze... it has been a long and endless winter.

FAQ's* about current Kytherian matters **frequently asked questions*

+ We do have a local ship connection with Neapoli and now there is finally a twice weekly .

– The ship looks like a double-Lego construction built by 4 year-old and pasted together. Once you reach Neapoli you still had an 8 hour drive to Athens....tedious

+ Interviews with Kythera's Mayor appeared in the local print press quoting him as saying the windmills were not going ahead and that the Kytherian Diaspora would be immediately advised if otherwise.

– The applications for the licensing of windmill parks on Kythera to the Regulatory Authority for Energy are still apparently being received: www.rae.gr

+ Globalization comes to the island with the first Chinese clothing store opening in Tsikalara

– Globalization comes to the island with petty-crime on a sharp increase

+ Sunflowers and wild-flowers are a bloom.

– The flowers have been flowering since late January, making their bloom 3 months early.

Despite embracing and even demanding multiculturalism for its population abroad, Greece/Kythera has, despite the existence of a large migrant population itself, stubbornly stuck to monoculturalism. The decay of the former communist countries surrounding Greece, particularly Albania, has been a double-edge sword. Yes, the recent migrant workers have renewed Kythera and Greece, refilling the schools and filling the void of affordable workers, but the lack of presence of the Greek state has meant it is a free-for-all: there is no integration or assimilation. So Greece/Kythera is going through growing pains and the acne scars are not pretty. But what is most alarming is the absence of planning: how do you make a mono-culture as idiosyncratic as the Greek, multicultural? Perhaps Greece will find the light again and evolve a new system of governing. Fingers crossed... but it feels like a shaky boat trip till then.

Don't be put off if you're planning to dip your feet into Kythera's waters this year. Like a sleepy porch dog, the sea and landscape of our magic island welcomes all.

Anna Cominos (acominos@hotmail.com)

IT'S ON AGAIN !!!!!

The Debutante Ball After Party!



To all friends and family of the debutants aged between 16yrs and 30yrs are warmly invited to join the debs at the after party.

Date: 31st May

Time: 1am – 4:30am

Place: Carrington Café.

(More information in the next newsletter)



The University of Sydney



KYMG in conjunction with the Nicholson Museum
presents
Greek Myths & Artefacts

Date: Thursday 23rd April 2009
Where: Nicholson Museum @ University of Sydney
Time: 11.15am - 12.45pm
Cost: \$12 per child (Parents are free)
Who: Children 7yrs - 12yrs old
Tour: Organised by the museum to capture the minds of children, this

wonderful opportunity will include:

- A hands-on workshop with Greek archaeological artefacts
- Session on Greek myths and story telling

Tour of Greek archaeological objects in the classical room

***Bookings Essential *Limited number of places *Book early to avoid disappointment.**

For bookings please contact:

Tania Marinos	0417 267 670
Maria Coolentianos	0409 639 897
Maria Schwirtlich	0402 087 533

"Aroney" Awards 2009

The Kytherian Association of Australia again hosted the annual **Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards** last month. The purpose of the night was to celebrate with and acknowledge Kytherian students who had excelled in the previous year's Higher School Certificate examinations.

This year was similar to past years with a number of students achieving excellent results in the HSC. Certificates of Achievement and prize money cheques from the N A Aroney Estate were presented to each of the awardees. The ultimate winner was **Christopher Harris** with 99.70 UAI. The other awardees were **James Alexander-Hatziplis**, **Marcus Megalokonomos**, **Athanasia Katsimberis** (HSC 87 in Modern Greek Continuers), **Marina Calligeros**, **Antonia Phylia Simos**, **Kristina Kanaris** (HSC 92 in Modern Greek Beginners), **Peter Andrew**, **Alexander Louran**, **Stratos Varipatis** (HSC 89 in Modern Greek Beginners) and **Lucas Mallos** was presented with a Special HSC Achievement Award. Congratulations and well done to all those students and others who have tried their hardest to make the most of their educational opportunities.

On behalf of the committee of the **Kytherian Association of Australia**, I would like to express our thanks to the **Trustees** of the **Estate of the late Nicholas Anthony Aroney** for their continuing support of our youth in their academic endeavours.

I would also like to thank those members of the Committee who were able to assist on the night and in particular **Kathy Samios** for all her hard work. A special thank you to those non-committee guests who assisted in folding raffle tickets and **Eleni Malanos** for compiling our guest list.

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all of the guests, family and friends of the awardees for attending and to our beautiful dancing teacher, **Joanna Tsakiridis** for providing a dance group to showcase the wonderful dance routines that are taught to our children every Friday night.

This year the main dance group comprised of former students who reunited for this special occasion. They had a thoroughly enjoyable time practising and performing on the day.

The Association is also indebted to the sponsors and long time supporters who have donated raffle prizes. These include **Laiki Bank**, who donated a flat screen T.V. (won by **Marina Magiros**), the **Haros Family** of **St George Smallgoods**, who donated a \$250 gift voucher (won by **James Andrew**), **Cos & Toni Psaltis** of the **Centennial Hotel** who donated a \$150 lunch voucher (won by **Marianthe Varipatis**), **John & Marina Venetoulis** of **Maroubra Family Pharmacy** for health and beauty products (won by **Violet Sandeman**), **Maria & Natassa Andrew** of '**Psonia**' who donated Imperial Handmade Turkish glass products (won by **Alexandra Luxford**), **John & Hellan Ventouris** who donated a **Diethnes Greek Restaurant** Voucher (won by **George Samios**) and **George & Paula Giaouris** who donated a basket of wines (won by **Peter Calligeros**). The lucky door prize was a bottle of wine that was donated by **Theo Lazarus** (and won by **Malena Andrew**).

I am sure that everyone attending our function would agree that we were provided with delicious food and excellent service by **Theo Lazarus**, owner/manager of the **Twin Reception Centre** in Alexandria, thus ensuring that a good time was had by all.

Victor Kepreotis





DEVELOPMENT AND REPATRIATION IN KYTHERA

UNDER THE CURRENT CONDITIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES

*The former eparchos of Kythera, **Manolis Kassimatis**, was a keen participant at the Third International Kytheraismos Symposium last August and delivered a paper about an issue which concerns not only locals, but the many Australians of Kytherian origin who have an interest in commerce and property development on the island. **Manolis** is not shy in stating his views which can easily be branded as pro-development or anti-green. However, his speech did contain a number of truisms and left delegates with many issues to debate regarding the desire to achieve sustainable development on Kythera in a balanced and measured way. An abridged and edited version of **Manolis's** paper is reproduced below:*

Kythera is one the 16 largest islands in Greece and it covers an area of 284 sq m. It is situated in the southwest corner of the Mediterranean and has been a juncture for people and cultures through the centuries. Today's population of Kythera is around 3500 permanent residents. During the 1950s the population was as high as 7600 while in the beginning of the century it was even higher.

Until the 1950s there were 12 primary schools each of which had 30-50 students. Today there are only five schools with a total of 200 hundred students while 40 per cent of them are children of immigrants to Kythera, who of course are welcome and are considered as a positive factor for the development of Kythera.

Furthermore, Kythera has 66 villages which used to be populated by young, middle-aged and children. Unfortunately today the majority of the population in Kythera is old and middle aged while there are few children. Some houses are shut during the winter while others are derelict or *halasmata* as we say in Kythera. Apart from olive oil and honey there is very little primary production.

Of course this is one image of Kythera. There is also the image of the relevant development and modernisation and the desire for repatriation especially among the young people who insist on staying in Kythera, fighting to put their roots down. The prosperity that seems to exist in Kythera is not based on sound economic foundations and it can very easily crumble. The prosperity is not real. And it is at this exact point that we all and especially the young have the obligation and the duty to work and fight for a balanced economic development while taking into consideration the environment and the culture in the same way as it occurs in other more developed countries.

Economic development in Kythera should occur without prejudice, dogmatism, local or special interests, but with open minds discussion, participation and the care for Kythera while taking advantage of all human capital available who agree to these principles. Kythera has at its disposal considerable human capital spread at an international level which in cooperation with the Kytherian/local human capital it can bring better days to the island. Kythera has water, roads in good condition, an airport, a port, a hospital, an old people's home, a high-school and college, natural beauty, considerable cultural heritage, people with high educational background and an international reservoir of Kytherians in Australia, Africa, America, Canada, and Europe with know-how and economic power. We have to realise that the development and prosperity of Kythera is our business and it starts from us. Only we can visualise it and only we are the ones who can materialise it with our efforts. The attitude that everything depends on the will of the central government allowing it to have the initiative for our problems and the solution to them is wrong.

The result of this attitude is that the development and prosperity of Kythera depends on any given civil servant at the Ministry for the Environment or the Ministry of Culture and on those who have a different view of the development of Kythera as they consider Kythera as a retreat. Furthermore, in the name of the environment and culture many times we witness on one hand the absolute strictness of the law and on the other we see the complete non-implementation of the law. This double standard in the implementation of the law creates injustice and it definitely does not protect the environment neither our culture.

Visitors are welcome to Kythera so we can all live in a developing island where there is respect for each other's right to peace and quiet but also the right to live and have families where they want in the wider context of development in Kythera.

The attitude that any kind of development either public or private will dilute the character of the island is wrong, especially when there is not an alternative proposal. The attitude that in Kythera there is nothing else other than the environment, the character of the island, its culture and tradition which they actually exist, while not considering the living conditions of our Kytherian population, the development of our island and the future of our children, is wrong.

Moreover, the attitude that since I have come to Kythera to spend my retirement I do not wish for an increase in the population; I do not wish for a quarry; I do want tarmac on the roads; I do not want more swimmers in the beach; I do not want yachts; I do not want hotels; I do not want tourism in general but I want my peace and quiet, is extreme and wrong.

Any public or private work encounters obstacles or even meets bureaucracy's opposition to its materialisation because the interventions are very strong. The other position in support of sustainable development is not openly supported because it is accompanied by degrading comments for anyone who adopts this position.

As a result of this, Kytherian society today has adopted the stance "do not pay attention, do not get involved, do not have an opinion because you will get in trouble and you will not achieve anything". Unfortunately this has resulted in indifference, fear and in inaction becoming the embedded attitude. Wrong attitude is a disaster for our island.

The above factors have created a powerful bureaucracy which instead of executing the political decisions is actually the one which decides and implements the laws according to its own opinion. This is what the Kytherians see and feel weak to fight for. As a result of all this we have economic stagnation. We have witnessed a decline in construction of around 70 per cent. The current building works are not new building projects but older ones which were planned before the interests that have a different opinion for the development of Kythera were activated. We should not relax on today's lucid prosperity because it does not have sound economic foundations. It is a false prosperity.

However, this new attitude towards "no development" - that any kind of development will alter the character of the island and thus it has to be delayed, stopped or even turned away from Kythera - comes with the blessing of the bureaucracy and the over centralisation of the state in Athens. In this way, the young people are witnessing the harsh reality of economic underdevelopment while also seeing their dreams falling apart leading them to once again abandon the island.

It is high time that we become aware of what is happening in our island because we are responsible for the future of our island and our children. We have an obligation to guarantee a better future for our island and for generations to come. I believe it is time that a dialogue should begin about whether we should remain in the prefecture of Piraeus.

If the position that nothing changes and that "this is Greece and these things do not happen here" becomes dominant then we deserve what we get. We are compromising our future with misery which will continue to fester while not doing anything towards the direction for a better future. If, however, we reconsider and decide that we want to improve and change our island then let's proceed because I strongly believe that we can change our island for the better so long as we believe that it is us and only us that are qualified to do so.

If we are all united, open to discussion even with those who have a different opinion but with the common concern of our island and only, the prosperous future of our island is guaranteed. I strongly believe that the system creates the attitude and not the attitude creates the system.

The problems of the island are huge. They will not be solved by ignoring them and they cannot be solved according to party political interests, influential people or supreme rulers of Kythera. What is needed is for everybody or those who believe in the idea to sit down and find the solutions. We can achieve this as long as we want to do it.

We have to accept that not all is black or white, that Kythera has to be preserved and that it has to protect what it has but at the same time Kythera has to develop in a sustainable manner so that it creates conditions suitable for the young people who insist on staying, seeking employment opportunities in Kythera and for those who want to repatriate. This can definitely be achieved as long as we decide on it. And it is better that it is us who decide on it now rather than letting others decide on it with a different kind of development in mind without talking the Kytherians into consideration.

George Vardas

Greek Independence Day, 25th March 2009



*The photos above: The laying of the wreath on behalf of the Kytherian Association of Australia at the Cenotaph, Sydney.
The photo below: Young Kytherians participating in the march from Martin Place to Opera House on Sunday 22nd March 2009 to commemorate those that gave their lives for the freedom of Greece.*



*The photo at right :
Special guest at both celebrations were the Deputy Minister of Mercantile Marine, Aegean and Island Policy, Mr. Panos Kammenos and his wife.*



*The photo at right:
Kytherians celebrating Greek Independence Day at the home of the Consul General of Greece in Sydney, Mr Vassilios M Tolios & Mrs Theodora Tolios. Our beautiful Helen Zerefos entertained us and the many guests with her wonderful singing.*



The following poem is one of two poems sent to us by past president, Mr Peter Vanges. This one is about the lovely horio of Karava. The other poem will appear in next month's newsletter.

Στού караβά τις ρεματιές
πού κελαϊδά το αηδόνη
όταν το γλυκοσούρουπο
αρχίζει και νυχτώνει,
εκεί πού η αμυγδαλιά
ανθίζει το Φλεβάρη
ερωτευμένος τριγυρνά
λεβέντης, παληκάρι.

Πιό πάνω απ' την πορτοκαλιά
το Μάρμαρο πιό πέρα
όμορφη είδε κοπελιά . . .
δεν τ' είπε καλησπέρα.

Αργιοσπαρμένε Καραβά
σ' αφίνω καληνύχτα
θε να 'ρθω πάλι άλλη βραδιά,
με τού έρωτα τα δίχτια,

Θα καρτερώ την κοπελιά
στη βρύση εκεί πιό κάτω
κρυμμένος μεσ' στη ρεματιά
τα κάλλη της να μάθω.

Μαγευτικός ο Καραβάς
καί το φίλι της γλύκα
απόψε τον παράδεισο
σίγουρα δα, τον βρήκα.

Την κοπελιά τη γνώρισα
το 'φαγα το κεράσι.
Της το 'χα πεί, της μάνας της
πώς δε θα της περάσει.

Αξέχαστέ μου Καραβά
φεύγω γιατί χαράζει
τα όνειρά σου να 'ν' γλυκά
στις ρεματιάς σου ο έρωτας
γιά πάντα να φωλιάζει.

Δεν πάω πιά στον Καραβά
η μάνα της μαλώνει,
καί η πανούργα της ματιά
μαχαίρι είναι, σκοτώνει.

Ανθοσπαρμένε Καραβά
μακρυνά σου πώς θα ζήσω
της κοπελιάς την ομορφιά
Πώς θα την λησμονήσω;



The Kytherian 4WD & Recreation Club
together with the Kytherian Soccer Club
present

Annual Charity Trivia Night
2nd May 2009
Randwick Labor Club
135 Alison Road, Randwick
Time: 7.30pm sharp

Yes, its on again, come along for what in
the past has been a great night of fun,
entertainment and a great opportunity to
catch up with old friends.
Fantastic prizes on offer (including Lucky
Door Prize)

This is a great way to promote your
business by donating prizes.

Please contact any of the below committee
members if you want to organise a table
(max 12 per table).

Bar facilities available. BYO Nibblies. (No
BYO drinks). Coffee, tea and cakes
provided.

Entry Fee is \$10 per head.

Contacts ;

Peter Tzannes 0419993000,
Gina Ambele 0408429042,
Tina Economy 0430357167,
Victor Alfieris 0407909294,
Spiro Coolentianos 0418213990,
Peter Poulos 0409 666 238,
Dennis Coolentianos 0417230743,
Emmanuel Alfieris 0410305805

“Ferries, wind turbines and the Aegean islands”

Deputy Minister Panagiotis Kammenos in Sydney

On 24 March 2009, on the eve of the celebrations for Greece's National Independence Day, the visiting Hellenic Deputy Minister of Merchant Marine, the Aegean & Island Policy, **Panagiotis Kammenos**, attended a reception held in his honour at the Athenian restaurant in Sydney. Gathered there were representatives from various Aegean islands and island associations, including representatives from the Kytherian Association of Australia.

Mr Kammenos was first elected to Parliament in 1993 from Athens' second election district as a New Democracy deputy and, at age 28, was the youngest member of parliament. He was recently elevated to the position of deputy minister. He flew into Australia to attend the Greek celebrations in Sydney and Melbourne and on the previous night had met Greek-Australian community leaders, including **Victor Kepreotis** and **Kathy Samios** from the Kytherian Association, at a cocktail party held at the Consul-General's residence.

In a wide-ranging and impressive speech at the Athenian restaurant reception, the Deputy Minister addressed the gathering of about 50-80 people regarding recent developments in the Aegean islands and other issues. One of those is the vexed issue of sea transportation and ferry movements between the islands. **Mr Kammenos** announced a number of new initiatives for some of the islands and, relevantly for Kytherians, he confirmed that a new eight year contract had been signed with a shipping company (Lane Sea Lines) to provide a regular ferry service between Kythera, Antikythera, Crete (both Kissamos and Rethymon), Gythion and Piraeus with the introduction of the car ferry boat *Vitsentzos Kornaros* (pictured below).



The boat, which previously served in the Dodecanese, is 129 metres long and can carry up to 1,100 passengers and 280 vehicles. It has a maximum speed of 19 knots. It will also supplement a daily service between Neapolis and Kythera although the co-existence of the two separate ferry services would appear to have been the source of some friction and lobbying in the past by various groups on the island! **Mr Kammenos** explained that the shipping company is committed to replacing the *Vitsentzos Kornaros* within 30 months with a newer ship.

As an interesting historical aside, the name *Vitsentzos Kornaros* is very famous in Cretan folklore. Kornaros (1553-1614) was a Cretan poet who wrote the romantic epic ballad "Erotokritos" (which the immortal Cretan singer Nikos Xylouris recorded in the 1970s) and was also a leading figure in the Cretan resistance against Ottoman oppression.

The Deputy Minister also spoke about other initiatives, including wind and geo-thermal energy, water supply, education and health projects for the islands. Greece is working towards the establishment of ecological sanctuaries on several small islands - or so-called "Green islands" - where organic production methods would be encouraged and visitors able to visit ecologically sustainable communities as an ultimate form of Aegean eco-tourism.

At the reception, I asked **Mr Kammenos** that, in light of his comments regarding Aeolian energy projects in the Greek islands, how did the Greek Government propose to deal with local protests in islands such as Kythera against proposals for wind parks given the government's commitment to the Kyoto protocol to achieve 20% of the nation's electricity generation from renewable energy sources by 2010. The Deputy Minister acknowledged that there was local opposition in some islands and gave as a specific example the island of Serifos where there was a large and sustained movement against the introduction of wind turbines because of a fear that it would adversely affect tourism. He agreed that

Mr Kammenos said that if a whole island is opposed to a proposal then it is something that the government would need to take into account. At the same time, he pointed out that wind energy was not the only form of renewable energy. He indicated that there also options through tidal wave energy and solar energy which should and will be explored. He noted that solar energy offers great potential because of the large amount of sunny days in the islands.

Mr Kammenos did concede that a few wind turbines would be acceptable, particularly if they are located in mountainous or remote areas. He actually said that, for example, they would not look good if they were located at Avlemonas. He concluded that what is required is a constructive dialogue at community and government levels (and, as far as this writer is concerned, one that should be free from unnecessarily emotive language to ensure a reasoned dialogue that is in the island's best interests).

Mr Kammenos fielded questions from a number of people in relation to island matters, as well as discussing issues beyond his portfolio. He was asked by Kytherian stalwart, **Peter Magiros**, about the government's commitment to promoting trade opportunities between Australia and Greece and appeared genuinely interested in wishing to arrange to discuss the matter with **Peter** later during his stay in Sydney.

The Deputy Minister also acknowledged that the Greeks need to apply pressure to the British over the vexed issue of the Parthenon Marbles. Again, I reinforced the view of the Australian committee for the Reunification of the Parthenon Sculptures that the forthcoming opening of the New Acropolis Museum should be the occasion when the Greek Government makes a formal and public demand for the sculptures' return and that the Greek Government, from the Prime Minister downwards, should be more direct in their dealings with the British Government and the British Museum.

Panagiotis Kammenos is one of a younger breed of Greek politicians with a bright future. As the Deputy Minister for Merchant Marine and the Aegean Islands, the interests and needs of those islands are seemingly in capable hands.

George Vardas

The following letter was sent to us by Mr Theo Megalokonomos.

Hi to all of the members ... parentsand childrenof the best and most beautiful ...original and unique place in Greece....Kythera - Tsirigo.

For those who don't know me .. I say that:

I come from the BEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD GREECE and I live in the BEST GREEK ISLAND IN THE WORLD THAT IS AUSTRALIA.....AFSTRALIA in Greek spelling and sound.....!!!!

To Mr V. Kepreotis and all your committee members we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the great effort and achievements you have done for the children and the people... over the years....

But a very special EFHARISTOUME PARA POLIgoes for your excellent hospitality at the Aroney Awards evening.... from our family and friends from other parts of Greece....

We are taking the "hats off" to all of you...

The most common comments I heard over gossiping all night long that night was that ...

The Kytherians are the one and only of the very few associations who do that... *give acknowledgement and awards to the children of Kytherian back round...!*

Regardless if those children never have seen Kythera in their dreams. Or not....

And that is what we as Kytherians ...Tsirigotes...Syrianoi....**ELLINES LEVENTES**... appreciate the most... **that generosity of yoursit is priceless.**

Keep up the hard work and God bless you all and your families .

One day I wish to see all of us from here in Australia in Potamos Kythera on the 15th August for the biggest panigiri ...

(and at the 17/8 for the second big panigiri at Karavas)... at the platia dancing and singing and having great time like here in Sydney.

I believe in these kind of dreams ...and one day they will come through...

Kane Panagitsa mou Mirtidiotisa... to thauma sou.

GET WELL / CONGRATULATIONS

On 14th January 2009 my father, **Emanuel John Comino OAM** underwent a successful major heart operation in the Prince of Wales Private Hospital.

KOGARAH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 2009

On 26th January 2009, Australia Day, he was presented with the 2009 “Kogarah Citizen of the Year” Award by the Mayor of Kogarah Council, Nick Varvaris at Carss Bush Park in the presence of thousands of people including distinguished guests such as The Federal Attorney General, The Honorable Robert McLelland, State Ministers, The Local Superintendent of Police Helen M Berg, Inspector Raf Ajaka and many others. The award was given to **Emanuel** for his many contributions in his voluntary work for the district and for the Australian Community in general. From 1972 he has attended Citizenship Ceremonies not only in Kogarah but as well as at Hurstville and Rockdale Councils as MC, giving the new citizens a rousing speech on their rights, privileges and responsibilities as Australians. He always emphasizes to the new citizens the importance of being a good Australian and the one thing they must never ever do is to bring political or internal problems of countries from which they came to this wonderful and most hospitable new homeland, Australia. “Australia welcomes you with open arms and gives you every opportunity to progress”.

Among other things **Emanuel** was a foundation member of St George Migrant Resource Centre, was a fund-raiser for the Red Cross and a NSW Southern Area Health Service Board Member.

Emanuel was President and Secretary of the Greek Orthodox Parish of Kogarah for 18 years and was a foundation member of the fundraising committee of the Chair of Modern Greek at the University of Sydney. This led to the introduction of the Modern Greek Language into Australian Education.

It should never be forgotten that amongst his many other activities, **Emanuel** is the founder and chairman of the first and best committee in the world for the Return to Greece of the Parthenon Marbles: the “International Organising Committee-Australia-for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles” Inc which was established in 1981. Over the years he has given and continues to give a great number of illustrated lectures in all states and territories across Australia and on several occasions, in the USA, Greece and New Zealand.

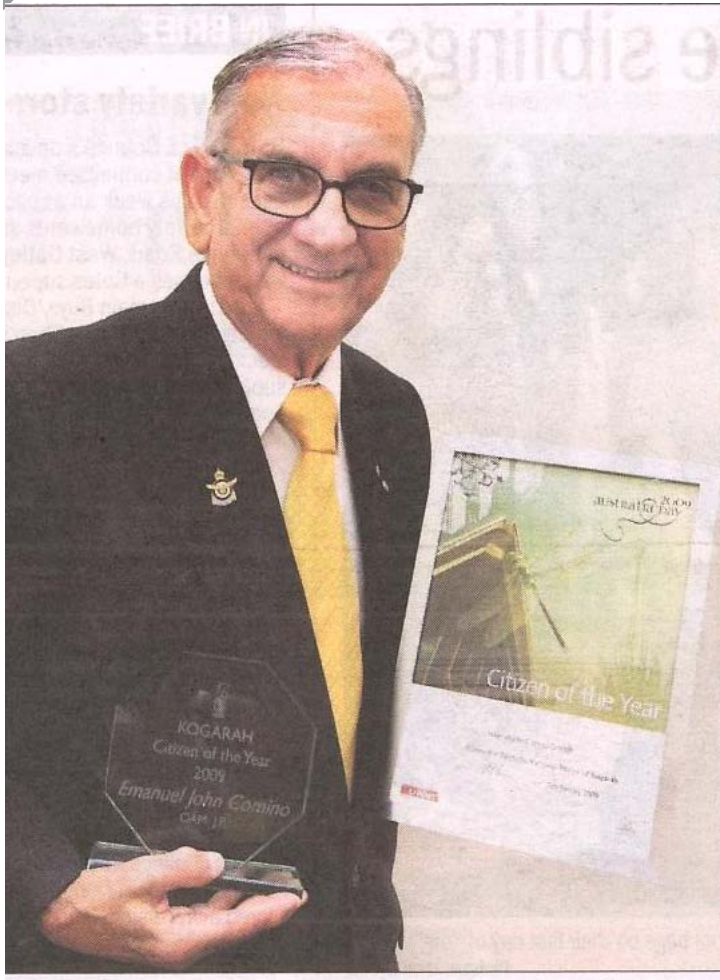
In March 2000 he established the New Zealand Committee: the “International Organising Committee-New Zealand-for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles”. He appointed Mr Gerald O’Brien (Former Minister of the New Zealand Government) as President and the Late Bruce Blades as Chairman of that committee. All other members are from the Order of AHEPA, which **Emanuel** also established in New Zealand in May 1992 when he was Supreme President of AHEPA Australasia.

Emanuel has been going to New Zealand annually and together with Gerald O’Brien lobbied the New Zealand politicians. It was because of this lobbying that the New Zealand committee was successful and in May 2007 the New Zealand Parliament passed unanimously a resolution to support the Return to Greece of the Parthenon Marbles. This was a great achievement.

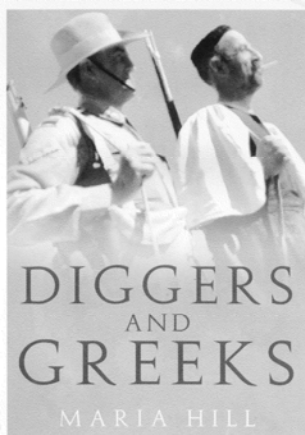
Emanuel continues to remain very active as a Past Supreme President of the Order of AHEPA (Australasian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association). He has contributed many years promoting the Greek Language, culture and traditions.

Congratulations Dad (**Emanuel**) once again and may God keep you in good health so that you can continue your excellent works for many more years to come.

Gregory Emanuel Comino JP



The photo above appeared in the 'Leader'.



diggers and greeks

PRESENTATION BY MARIA HILL

The talk will examine how Australian soldiers, who came from a predominately Anglo-Celtic background, gained the trust, friendship and support of the Greek people. How did the Greek people react to soldiers from a culture so different from their own? Some of the Australian veterans who fought in Greece and Crete in 1941 continued their friendship and correspondence for over 50 years with the Greek people they befriended in a battle so long ago. What was it about this particular wartime experience that left such a lasting impression on both the Australians and the Greeks?

Or is this special connection a product of wartime propaganda?



date Sun 26 April
time 4.30pm
venue Barnet Long Room, Customs House, 31 Alfred St, Circular Quay
cost Free Entry
contact 02 9750 0440
language English with Greek Translations

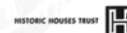
Courtesy Kay Kalas and Susannah Place Museum. Historic Houses Trust of NSW



greek odyssey

PRESENTATION BY DR PANAYIOTIS DIAMADIS

This illustrated lecture will explore the deep roots of the Australian Hellenic community in Sydney in the interwar period. Curator Anna Cossu will explore the Hellenic connection with Susannah Place, a working class museum in The Rocks that was home to the Sarantides and Passaris families. Dr Panayiotis Diamadis will examine the causes and course of early Hellenic migration to Australia and the growth of the Australian Hellenic community between the 1920s and the 1940s.



date Tues 28 April
time 6pm - 8.30pm, Museum opens at 5.30pm
venue Museum of Sydney, Corner Phillip and Bridge St, Sydney
cost Free Entry (Bookings Essential)
contact 02 9750 0440
language English

The future of our Kytherian-Australian youth: A plea at the Kytheraismos Symposium, August 2008



At the 3rd International Kytheraismos Symposium, Penelope Samios, daughter of Kytherian Association committee member, Kathy Samios, delivered a paper on the future of our Kytherian-Australian youth. Penelope, who has a Bachelor of Liberal Studies from Sydney University, has been actively involved in the Kytherian Association in Sydney and what follows is an abridged version of the interesting paper presented at the conference.

“In Sydney, young Kytherians have gone to extra efforts to organise and to take part in an array of events which aim to promote and maintain Kytherian culture and community. For example, every Friday night, Kytherian Greek Dancing classes are held in which about 120 young people attend ranging from infants and primary school age groups right through to high school and university levels. In the past eight years, the size of these Greek dancing classes have more than quadrupled. Prior to the year 2000, there were only two rather small-sized Greek dancing classes. Now, however, there are four very significant-sized dancing classes to cater for the increased popularity. This shows that the Kytherian culture is not only as alive as it was in previous years but that it is becoming increasingly alive amongst the youth of today.

Every year, the Kytherian youth of Sydney also go to great efforts to organise both outdoor and indoor Kytherian Soccer Teams. It must be noted these teams are performing very well. In 2006, the outdoor team won the premiership and in 2007 (and again in 2008 – *editor*) were minor premiers. The indoor soccer team also won its competition last season. The formation and support of these teams, is another great way through which our Kytherian identity, heritage and association is promoted amongst the youth.

Further, family dances are another way through which the Kytherian culture is kept alive. These are primarily arranged by the Kytherian Association of Australia and aim to attract Australian-Kytherians of all age groups – from infant children to the elderly. They provide a great opportunity for Kytherians to mix, socialise and learn from each other. They also often provide guests with the opportunity to be inspired and entertained by performances from the Kytherian dance school. These family dances are highly successful and tend to attract about 200-300 people on average. Dances are arranged to celebrate Myrtidiotissa Day, New Year Day and an Award Night for the high achievement of young Kytherians in their final year of school.

However, the largest event on the Kytherian social calendar is the annual Kytherian Debutante Ball. This has proven to be very successful over recent years with between 600 and 780 guests attending. Here, Greek dignitaries are also invited as guests to mingle with the large number of Australian-Kytherians in attendance. More and more young Australian-Kytherians are now attending the Ball each year with about 50% of guests being from the youth.

Outside of the Kytherian circle, there are also more general Greek associations and societies which aim to promote Hellenism amongst the youth. Such societies include the University Greek Societies. The four main universities in Sydney – the University of Sydney, the University of NSW, the University of Technology and the Macquarie University – each have their own Greek Society. The four societies have much association with each other, support each other with Greek events and even combine on many occasions in order to arrange larger scale events.

On average, each society has about 200 to 300 members per year and organises a number of events. Such events include educational talks given by professors regarding a Greek related topic, weekly Greek dancing classes and other events which aim to promote the study of Greek both at High School and University. We cannot forget the many social events such as harbour cruises, taverna nights and various other gatherings which help to maintain a sense of community and identity amongst the Greek-Australian youth in Sydney.

Thus far, we have seen that there are many means through which Kytherian and Greek culture and tradition have been kept alive. However, as a young Kytherian living in Sydney, the need for a Kytherian Youth Committee or Association is recognised. We have the University Greek Societies which primarily cater for Greek University students. We have the Kytherian Association of Australia which aims to cater for all age groups of Kytherian descent generally. We do not, however, have a Committee which specifically caters for the Kytherian youth who are post-University. If we could find about five people to form this Committee, this would be a good first step. The ultimate priority of this Committee would be ideally to organise events which would not only provide youth with the opportunity to meet fellow Kytherians but also to learn more about their own culture and heritage.

The final issue I wish to bring to your attention is that regarding the teaching of Greek at Universities in Sydney. How many of you know of children, or have children, who can't really speak Greek. I am sure there are many of you. I know that before I came to Greece for the first time, I honestly believed that 'tiketo', 'karpeto' and 'friza' were Greek words. Also, I am sure you will agree that there are not many young people who can say they know well their Greek history, politics and culture. This is an issue which will only worsen as the generations, through lack of education, become more and more distant from their Greek ancestors. For this reason, we should try to do all we can to support educational institutions who teach Greek, like the universities. Unfortunately, reality shows otherwise. At the University of Sydney, for example, the number of students enrolled in Greek courses in the years 2005 - 2006 was between 250 and 300. In 2007 it was 150. Now it is 120. A pattern of decreasing enrolments also appears at all other Universities in Sydney. In turn, Universities have decided to reduce funding for their Greek Departments which has ultimately lead to a much smaller number of staff. In the year 2010 there will only be three Greek lecturers remaining in Sydney. This is why we need to encourage the youth as much as possible to study Greek.

Due to the priorities of the Australian Government, the youth are focusing more and more on their career relevant subjects only. Not to mention, it is cheaper to do this. It now costs students about 1,400 Euros per semester to study Greek compared to about 450 Euros per semester for the average subject - a huge difference. So if we can provide a real incentive for students to study Greek, and even major in Greek, there is more chance that the Greek education will continue to flourish in future generations. After all, it is the youth who will determine the future prosperity of the Greek character.

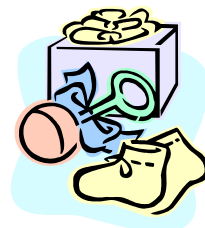
This is why, as a suggestion, I propose a study abroad program whereby students who have chosen to study Greek are provided with the opportunity to travel and study in Greece for, say, a few weeks every six months. This way, the youth will have an incentive not only to study Greek but also to commit to the study of Greek, through either majoring in Greek or even prolonging their study of Greek. Over the past few years, there has been such a program which has allowed students to study in Greece. However, this is a 'single chance' opportunity for them. By allowing students to travel every six months or so, for as long as they are studying Greek, not only will they have more of an incentive to continue with their Greek studies, they will also become more knowledgeable of the Greek history, culture and language through their frequent liaison with Greece which they can then share with their fellow Greek-Australian youth. There is no doubt in my mind that this will help promote our Kytherian and Greek culture amongst the youth of today.

My experiences in Greece have been many and unforgettable. I have learnt so much more about the country's history, language, and culture but most of all I have gained a much closer understanding of my identity as a Greek-Australian and a Kytherian-Australian. Although the Kytherian and Greek culture is quite alive amongst our youth, there is still much more that we can learn. It is up to people like myself to share our experiences with fellow youth so that the knowledge is spread and enhanced. I only hope that, like myself, others too can get the opportunity to be inspired and learn about our Kytherian and Greek culture so that they can also pass down their knowledge to future generations."

George Vardas

Social News

Births



Congratulations **Nick & Soula Hagistefanis** of Bensville, on the birth of their second child **James**, brother of **Paul**. He is the fifth grandchild of **Paul & Helen Hagistefanis** of Woy Woy and second grandchild of **Jim & Maria Vlandis** of Gosford. James was born on the 25th of February 2009. Na sas zisi!

Victor & Kerrie Stellios of Canberra are celebrating the birth of their second daughter, **Christine Antonia**, a sister for **Kate**. **Christine** is the second grandchild for **Katina & Tony Stellios** of Melba, Canberra and the tenth grandchild for **Chrissa & Peter Vlandis** of Yowie Bay. Congratulations to you all.



Correction

We incorrectly placed the following in the March newsletter as a Christening announcement instead of a **Birth announcement**.

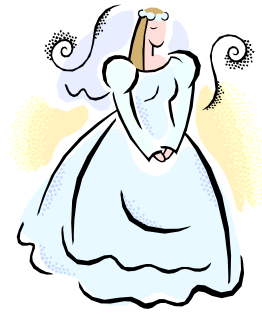


Congratulations to **Vass & Kate Tzavaras** on the birth of their first child, **Dimitrios Vassilis Tzavaras**.

Grandparents are **Jim & Mary Tzavaras** of Maroubra and **Tom & Jenny Williams** of Christchurch, New Zealand. **Dimitrios** is the fifth grandchild for **Jim & Mary** and the first grandchild for **Tom & Jenny**.

Na sas zisi!

Weddings



Congratulations to **Melissa & Michael Kondilios** on their marriage. **Michael** and **Melissa** were married in Saint George Greek Orthodox Church at Rose Bay on 22nd of February 2009. A lovely reception followed at Dockside Reception Centre at Darling Harbour.

Melissa is the daughter of **Mr. George & Mrs. Maria Mallos** and **Michael** is the son of **Mrs. Ann Kondilios**.

We wish them all the best for the future.



Did you...

Go to Canterbury Racecourse?
Take Part in the Sydney Greek Olympics
Spend New Years Eve at the Sebel?
Do your debut at the Wentworth?
Learn to Greek Dance at Kythera House?
Spend Valentine's Day on a Cruise?
Attend a KANGA function?
Moved on ... but the memories linger ...

For one night only

The Reunion We Have To Have
The Kytherian Youth Association (KYA) , Sydney Young Kytherian Organisation [SYKO],
70's and 80's

Are you on
"THE LIST"

Send email addresses, photos and suggestions to

info@kytherianyouthreunion.org.au

Web Site coming soon at

www.kytherianyouthreunion.org.au

Be part of it...Reunite the group...

Make it happen!

KYMG PRESENTS TEN PIN BOWLING

Come to

Bowling

Bookings essential

When: Wednesday 22 April 2009

Time: 10 am- 11.30 am

Cost: \$15 –shoe hire/snacks

Where: Entertainment Quarter Fox studios Strike Bowling Bar

Bookings:

Christine Lazaris: 0418696715

Sophia Poulos: 0438660412

Carol Alferis: 0407018611

Maria Coolentianos: 0409639897

This article may prove quite interesting to many of our readers.

Dear Editor,

Have you heard of the much discussed "*ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM*"?

A recent book published in August 2008 styled "*DECODING THE HEAVENS*" by Jo Marchant, published by William Heinemann, outlines the history of this object found in Antikythera.

The publishers' forward to this book is attached hereto.

I am confident that Kytherians share a keen interest in History and Science and that this book will stimulate an interest in this strange and ancient artifact found in Antikythera.

A readable publication is further discussed on the website under "*ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM*".

I trust you will find it worthy of mention in your next published issue of the Kytherian.

I remain.

Yours faithfully,
A.G. POULOS

In 1900 a group of sponge divers blown off course in the Mediterranean discovered an Ancient Greek shipwreck dating from around 70 BC.

Lying unnoticed for months amongst their hard-won haul was what appeared to be a formless lump of corroded rock. It turned out to be the most stunning scientific artefact we have from antiquity. For more than a century this 'Antikythera mechanism' puzzled academics. It was ancient clockwork, unmatched in complexity for a thousand years – but what was it for? Now, more than 2,000 years after the device was lost at sea, scientists have pieced together its intricate works and revealed its secrets.

In *Decoding the Heavens*, Jo Marchant tells for the first time the story of the 100-year quest to understand this ancient computer. Along the way she unearths a diverse cast of remarkable characters – ranging from Archimedes to Jacques Cousteau – and explores the deep roots of modern technology not only in Ancient Greece but in the Islamic world and medieval Europe too. At heart an epic adventure story, it is a book that challenges our assumptions about technology transfer over the ages while giving us fresh insights into history itself.

£12.99





The Kytherian 4WD & Recreation Club

Upcoming Event

Turon Gates Weekend Away

Camping or Cabin Accommodation

10th, 11th, 12th and 13th April 2009

It's on again. Come along and join us for what is a great weekend away. Great fun for all the family. You do not need a 4WD to be part of the fun.

For anyone who has thought about going camping but didn't feel confident this is your chance to try something different.

Our committee are there to help out if needed.

Here is your chance, just do it, your kids will love it and so will you !!!!!

This trip has been run for the last 10 years and has been a fantastic success every time. Come and join us in April 2009.

Website: www.turongates.com

Telephone: (02) 6359 0142, Cabin Bookings (02) 9969 3818

Address: Turon River, Capertee, New South Wales, 2846

How to get to Turon Gates:

At Lithgow turn right towards Mudgee. Turn off to the left just past Capertee. Refer Map below; Travel time is around 3 hours and can be travelled by conventional vehicles.

Camping: \$24 per car per night.

Additional \$6 per trailer.

Cabins: Minimum Charge per Cabin \$390 - \$498 minimum charge.

Cabins must be booked in advance. Cabins to be booked and paid for directly on phone (02) 9969 3818. No booking required for camping however first get the best spots.

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

Committee Contact

Peter Tzannes 0419993000, Gina Ambele 0408429042, Tina Economy 0430357167, Dennis Coolentianos 0417230743, Spiro Coolentianos 0418213990, Peter Poulos 0409666238 and Victor Alfieris 0407909294

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) 93999767
- *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 32811525.
- *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 : 44293564 (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

VISIT US ONLINE!

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

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

Enquiries: Peter Samios

GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2009

FRIDAYS 30th JANUARY - 3RD APRIL (TERM 1)

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

<i>Infants</i>	7.00pm-7.45pm
<i>Primary</i>	7.45pm-8.30pm
<i>Junior High School</i>	8.30pm-9.15pm
<i>Senior Group</i>	9.15pm-10.15pm



TERM 2 from 1st MAY - 10th JULY

Please note that all need to have current membership of the Kytherian Association of Australia to attend classes. For more details, please contact Esther Calligeros on 93440298.