

## KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



# Hard working life in Australia pays off after 93 years

Given the current heightened emotions surrounding migration to Australia it is refreshing to read an account of happily integrated arrivals to our shores.

Life in Australia, written in 1916, stressed that virtues such as hard work, honesty, diligence and civic duty were highly valued in Australia, and would ensure success there. It helped to con-

vince prospective Greek immigrants that they would quickly enjoy a "very good life in Australia".

Life in Australia has now been reproduced in both an original Greek version and in an English translation. This was the first book printed and published in

Australia in the Greek language. Aside from being an important first chronicle of Hellenic involvement in Australian history and culture, it is an accurate snapshot of life in Australia in 1916.

It was produced and funded by Sydney merchant John Comino. The writers were Georgios Kentavros and brothers Kosmas and Emmanuel Andronikos. The book was designed to convey to Hellenic "patriotes"

living in Greece just how quickly they had obtained wealth and acceptance in the Australian community. It was published to inform prospective Greek immigrants about the history, geography and culture of Australia, and to provide them with guidelines about what to expect and how to behave when they arrived in this country.

This 368 page book details the state of the Greek communities in 1916 and provides about 150 pages of micro biographies and photographs of Greek immigrants. Many Australian families will recognise great grandparents, grandparents and other relatives in these pages. An extensive 2009 Epilogue has been added in order to outline events surrounding the period of its creation, and the subsequent 93 years.

Life in Australia ensures that the descendants of this pioneering generation of immigrants are aware of their achievements and can access this important historical record. It is hoped that the re-publication of this book will stimulate further research by current and future generations to find out how the families of these pioneers have fared since 1916.

These two impressive volumes will be launched at MacLaurin Hall, Sydney University, on Wednesday 9 December 2009 (6pm for 6.30 start) Invitation open to all. RSVP Tuesday 1 December Kathy Samios phone: 61 2 9349 1849 or [info@kytherianassociation.com.au](mailto:info@kytherianassociation.com.au).

ALL WELCOME - ADMITTANCE FREE

You are invited to the launch of **Life in Australia**  
A major historic and cultural event

MacLaurin Hall  
University of Sydney  
Wednesday 9 December 2009  
6.00pm for 6.30pm start. Complimentary refreshments provided.

RSVP Tuesday 1 December  
Kathy Samios p: 9349 1849  
[info@kytherianassociation.com.au](mailto:info@kytherianassociation.com.au)

After the book launch all are invited to visit the **Nicholson Museum** to inspect the display and the model of the "Antikythera mechanism" (circa 300BC) described as the World's first computer.

**Greek-Australia of 1916 comes to life in this landmark publication**

**The roots of Hellenism and Greek Orthodoxy in Australia**  
215 biographies, in most cases adorned with photographs, of Greeks who had succeeded in Australia. Many of them were shop-keepers in New South Wales and they were praised for their industry, philanthropy and philhellenism.

With special thanks to our sponsors: **LAIKI BANK**, **Kytherian Association of Australia**, **Order of ANEKA, NSW**

Thanks also to the **Department of Modern Greek Studies, Sydney University.**

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It was produced and funded by John Comino, Sydney Merchant and leader of the Greek Orthodox Community, and it was written by Georgios Kentavros and the brothers Kosmas and Emmanouil Andronikos. The book was designed to convey to Hellenic "patriotes" living in Greece, just how quickly they had obtained wealth and acceptance in the Australian community. It was published to teach prospective Greek immigrants about the history, geography and the culture of Australia, and to provide them with guidelines about what to expect, and how to "behave" when they arrived in the country.

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## From Zimbabwe to Ecuador...a different Greece

A Greek Language and Culture program for 100 young people from the Hellenic Diaspora, aged 18-25, from Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Uruguay, Panama, Peru, Chile, South Africa and Zimbabwe, will take place from January 17 to February 6, 2010, organised by the General Secretariat for Hellenes Abroad.

The program, based in Athens, aims at:

1. Improving the level of Greek language skills for young ethnic Greece, irrespective of their field of studies and their general employment.
2. Reinforcing the Greek cultural identity of the participants.
3. Familiarising them with modern Greece
4. Strengthening friendship ties among young people from the Greek Diaspora from different countries but with common cultural roots.

