



The KYTHERIAN

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

FEBRUARY 2006

Aronay Awards Function

We are inviting Students of Kytherian descent to submit their Year 2006
HSC Results and UAI scores to the
Kytherian Association of Australia for the
Nicholas Anthony Aroney Encouragement Awards
which are presented on behalf of the
Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust
at the Awards Dinner, to be held on Saturday 10th March, 2007
at the *Twin Reception Centre* at 7.00pm
560 Botany Street, Alexandria
\$45 Adults \$25 Children

Results (Copy of UAI and Higher School Certificate marks) to reach
the below address by 14th February, 2007:

Nicholas Anthony Aroney
Encouragement Awards
c/- *The Kytherian Association of Australia*
PO Box A203
SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

Any enquiries should be addressed to:

Victor Kepreotis on 0408 216 108.

Bookings please call *Kathy Samios* on 9349 1849

Παμε στο Καραβιτικο!

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2007

Venue: Venus Reception Centre, Kogarah

Time: 11.30am—4.30pm

(See page 6 for details)

KYTHO CALENDAR

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 30TH MARCH

Weekly dancing lessons for Term 1.
**WE REGRET THE DATE ERROR
IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER**

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Karavitiko Symposium Luncheon
Venus Reception Centre, Kogarah.
(See Page 6 for details)

SATURDAY 10TH MARCH

Aroney Awards Function
Twin Reception Centre, Alexandria
(see front page).

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH - SUNDAY 1ST APRIL

Wine Festival at Berry.
(see page 12 for details).



Editor's Note

Happy New Year to all our readers and I pray that with it comes good health and happiness for everyone. I can't believe that the festive season is over for another year. All that preparation and anticipation and before you know it the Christmas decorations are down and Easter eggs are appearing on the supermarket shelves (ridiculous, if you ask me).

We had American relatives staying with us this year so Christmas 2006 will always hold special memories. Upon reflection, what stands out in my mind are fairly simple things but they are memorable just the same.

Over the past few years, we have started a tradition in our house of opening our presents on Christmas Eve to the sounds of Carols By Candlelight. It seems more personal and there is less rushing on Christmas morning. I love watching everyone's reaction to the gifts they receive.

The most entertaining one came from my cousin, who is a staunch Republican. I thought that a calendar with 365 'Bushisms' (dumb things that el presidente has said during his terms in office) would be appropriate. Every email that he now sends me has a quote from the calendar... who knows, maybe I've made a Democrat out of him!

How can I forget New Year's Eve, camped out for 10 hours in the freezing cold at Mrs Macquarie's Chair with family and friends, waiting for the fireworks at midnight and then finding out that it was definitely worth the effort! Trying to get home in the early hours of New Year proved entertaining with my niece in the car saying that she wanted to ring her friends back in the States and tell them "Sucked in..... You're still in 2006!".

Coming from the Midwest, our American clan had an obsession with going to the beach and getting a suntan. 3 weeks and several sunburns later, I gave up preaching about melanomas. What was the point? No one was listening.

We also became tourists these holidays as we chauffeured our visitors around Sydney and shared in their experiences. It enabled us to rediscover our beautiful city while pounding the 'sidewalks' (don't call them footpaths). Needless to say the goodbyes at the airport proved to be far more difficult than we anticipated.

Sadly, they have returned home, the holidays are over and all that's left now, is the counselling that the kids will need to get out of holiday mode and kick start themselves into a year of hard work and study. It's time to look forward to the year ahead with great energy and enthusiasm but if you feel that you can't do that... try counting the days to the next holidays (it works for me).

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.

A big 'thank you' to
George Vardas for his
'Summer Edition' of this
newsletter. His answers
to the crossword are on
the back page.

Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



Multilingual ▾

search

The Recipe

I was baking a spinach pie yesterday - don't forget I live in sub-zero Berlin and putting on the oven isn't something to be avoided like it is in Australia in the summer - and I had to ask myself if I'd have been so interested in Greek cooking if my yiayia hadn't made a pie for us a few times every month. It's been a quarter of a century since she died, and I was a teenager when I last tasted her pie, so I can only go on memories, which are notoriously unreliable. At least mine are.

Mum recently reminded me that yiayia used silver beet instead of spinach and she would cook the chopped-up stems with the onions in lots of oil. She didn't like waste. I'm not sure if I liked the stem part of it. Still, silver beet stems or not, I'd give an arm and a leg if she were here now - at the age of 83 when she died, not the 106 years she'd be now - so she could try my spinach pie and listen to my rotten Greek, which I hadn't learnt by the time she died.

What would we talk about? The pie of course for a start. She might be scandalised that I have modified her recipe with savoy spinach and pine nuts. We would almost certainly talk about Kythera. I have been going there now for longer than she lived there in the first quarter of the 20th century. We could swap impressions. Perhaps I even like it there more than she did. When she went back to Kythera for a visit after 50 years in Australia, the reality didn't live up to the memory - she returned home 3 months earlier than planned.

Using Kythera-Family.net is a little like picking the brains of elderly or deceased relatives. "How was the journey to Australia back then?" "What was the racism like?" "Did you serve Greek food in your cafe?" "Why did so many Kytherian families move to the big city when their daughters finished school?" "What were the spices you used in your *keftethes*?" Most of you probably know the answers to all of those questions, but do your children or grandchildren? Or will their children in 20 years? Are you going to write down the answers to all their possible questions about your life, copy it a dozen times and put it in envelopes addressed "To my great-grandchildren, whatever your names are"?

Perhaps you've already done it. If not, I have a better idea. Put your "answers" on Kythera-Family.net. The chances are much higher that your great-grandchild, nieces and nephews and 3rd cousins twice

removed will find your words there than in a 20-year-old envelope at the bottom of a cardboard box which wasn't unpacked the last time someone moved.

Don't have any questions to "answer"?

How about these ones for a start:

1. How Kytherian do you feel?
 2. Do you visit Kythera? Describe your first visit.
 3. Did you enjoy being (part-) Greek/Kytherian as a child?
 4. Were you part of the Kytherian community?
 5. What did your parents tell you about their lives?
 6. List all of the living and dead Kytherian relatives you know of and give a short description of their relationship to you and your memories of them.
- That should keep you busy for a few minutes...

That time of year again...

.....the coldest, dampest, most solitary period of the Kytherian winter, when many older islanders feel like the world has deserted them. In some villages only one or two houses are inhabited, their occupants huddled close to the fire. Influenza and rheumatism is the norm rather than the exception. Many dread having to go out of the house into the permanent cloud which covers most of the island.

For those of you in Australia with heat-waves and droughts to contend with, you might think a bit of cold rain would be a pleasant change. It's easy to forget the isolation many of our relatives there are experiencing. Send them a bit of sunshine by calling them occasionally. They've literally kept Kythera alive so we can visit a "populated" island in the summer months, and it's the least we can do.

If you don't know, or can't find their number, try looking on the internet at www.whitepages.gr and clicking on the "English" button. The trick with that site is that you have to choose "Other town" and then "Attiki" under "Prefecture". Then under "Town/Area" you can select "Kithira". That's because Kythera is part of the prefecture of Pireaus, which is of course part of Attica. You might have to try different variations of spellings if you don't get the results you want (Calokaironos, Kalokerinos etc.) And also try leaving out the first name initial as it sometimes interferes with the system. If your Greek is rusty, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

If you're reading this in the evening, it is daytime in Greece. Just call. Most people don't take naps in the winter, so don't use that as an excuse. Just call. You'll be able to hear the smile when they hear your voice. Just call.

James Prineas, james@kythera-family.net

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.

'I don't think it's any accident I'm a storyteller'

Author: **Anthony Stavrinis**

Publisher: **Fairfax**

Publication: **Sun Herald , Page 53 (Sun 21 Jan 2007)**

GEORGE MILLER FILMMAKER

From dancing penguins to singing pigs, this Greek-Australian is a colourful storyteller. But, he tells **Anthony Stavrinis**, so is everyone in the old country.

When an earthquake hit southern Greece a year ago, it almost destroyed an enduring symbol embedded in George Miller's memory of his father.

Seventeen years ago Miller had travelled to the island of Kythera, donating about \$50,000 to help restore Agia Triada, a small Greek Orthodox church perched high on a cliff in the town of Mitata.

The creator of blockbusters including the Mad Max trilogy, Babe, Lorenzo's Oil and now Happy Feet, matched dollar-for-dollar the fund-raising effort of Sydneysiders Matina and Manuel Samios, also from Mitata. But the restoration work was almost totally undone when the modest building narrowly escaped being flattened by the tremor, measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale, when it hit Kythera on January 8.

Miller was shocked when news of the "act of God" filtered through to Australia. "I've only seen pictures, but the church up there on the escarpment way up in the hills of Kythera is the centre of the town. It's like the beacon of the town and the square around it," Miller explains. "And the square, you've seen part of that slide away, and the church, it seems damaged beyond repair.

"It's very sad because it's taken the heart of a village out, which has been there many centuries. The church has been there since the 19th century, I think. My father was born a few hundred metres from the church. And my great-great-grandfather was the founding priest, Papa Yianni."

Miller's attachment to the church is less religious than sentimental. It is a reminder of trips to Kythera of the past, but more specifically it is symbolic of the relationship he and his three siblings - twin John and younger brothers Chris and Bill - had with their father, James Miller. "The first thing he always did when he went back to the island is he went up to the church tower," Miller recalls.

"He and his four sons, we all took him up to the bell tower and he rang the bells and that was what he always did when he went back to the island."

James Miller, who served in the Australian Defence Force, with his last posting in Kempsey on the NSW North Coast, died in June 1997. But his legacy laid the foundations for his son's filmmaking success. Miller believes his Greek heritage has given him the ability and desire to communicate stories.

"I don't think it's any accident I'm a storyteller. What I found when I went back to that island was everyone's a storyteller. Everyone sits around telling each other stories of the deep past as if it was yesterday. There were just stories that went back centuries."

Greece's profound history ensures that at every corner there's a tale - ranging from the dark and mythological to the hilariously funny - and always someone to tell it.

Miller says it's something you don't quite find in Australia's younger culture, with the exception of its Aboriginal history. In fact, he says, the Greeks in Kythera demonstrate an understanding of their land through stories in much the same way as indigenous Australians. "It reminded me very much of the times I'd been with Aboriginal storytellers, how they knew every nook and cranny of their land through their stories," he says.

"It was quite striking how that would seem to be the case when we went back to the island life. It was not a city, it was villages and countryside with fields, and it's very much of the land, and that really stuck with me."

Miller says there are more similarities between Greece and Australia that explain why his father fell in love with his new homeland.

"Rural Queensland was exactly like the summer on the island of Kythera - the same heat haze, the same cicadas, the same brown grass, the same intense light," Miller explains.

"I could never figure out why my father loved Queensland so much because he left [Greece] when he was a boy; he basically left his parents when he was a nine-year-old boy. "I realised what he'd done was replicate the kind of life he had on the island, in Chinchilla, Queensland. It was very, very familiar, just physically when I went back there [to Kythera] it reminded me so much of where we grew up."

The filmmaker has generated hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office, but earlier in his career there was strong parental pressure to continue to practise medicine. "His father wasn't happy about him changing course and I said to him, 'If he doesn't succeed, he can always go back to medicine'," mother Angela explains. "Of course, when he did succeed, his father was very proud."

Along with John, Miller completed his studies in medicine at the University of NSW, working briefly at Sydney's St Vincent's Hospital. But he maintained his interest in the movie business, making a one-minute short film with his younger brother Chris, which was entered into a student film competition.

They won first prize, a course at a summer film school workshop in Melbourne in 1971, which is where Miller first met Byron Kennedy. Miller and Kennedy teamed up, and began making short features and experimental films.

Probably the best-known was *Violence In The Cinema, Part 1*, which won several film festival awards. During this time Miller was still supporting his film career by working part-time as a doctor.

"He was a doctor in the Air Force and when he did home visits, he took Byron with him in the car and they talked about movies," Mrs Miller recalls. "He used to come up [to Sydney] and visit and wasn't worried about what he was wearing. Any money he was earning would go into making films. It wasn't easy at all - it took a lot of effort and time.

"She says her son had been "in the right place at the right time" when he and Kennedy - under the umbrella of the Kennedy Miller Entertainment production company - made the film that "put him on the map", *Mad Max*.

Another enthusiastically received instalment of the film epic came with *Mad Max 2*, before Kennedy was tragically killed in a helicopter crash in July 1983. Miller's response was to work more intensely to realise his shared dream with Kennedy, producing two 10-hour television miniseries and eventually, *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. He still plans to make *Mad Max IV*, but says it's still a while off.

"A lot of people say to me I must be very proud of George. I tell them I'm proud of all four of my boys," Mrs Miller, 85, explains. "I'm more proud of him because success hasn't changed him."

Annual Karavitiko Symposium Luncheon

You are invited to come along and enjoy a superb four course meal
to celebrate Άγιος Χαραλαμπος Day

Παμε στο Καραβιτικο!

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2007

Venue: Venus Reception Centre
(next to Kogarah Greek Orthodox Church)
20 Belgrave Street, KOGARAH
www.venusreception.com.au

Time: 11.30am - 4.30pm

Cost: \$50.00 adults, \$30.00 Children (under 12)

Early Bird Special: \$45.00 Adults, \$25.00 Children

Special Guest:
HARRY EVANGELOS TZORTZOPOULOS
(Karavas)



Bookings

Theo Poulos 9150 9069 or 0409 449 927
George Poulos 9388 8320
Peter Poulos 0409 666 238

The following email has been received from a fellow Kytherian in the United States, who is attempting to trace his ancestry. Hopefully, one of our members may be able to assist him.

From: George Coleman <george@colemanfamilycamps.com>

Date: 08-Jan-2007 05:06

Subject: Family history sought

To: info@kytherianassociation.com.au

Greetings from the United States. My name is George Coleman. I was born George Contemanolis. My mother was Maria Samios who was born in Kythera, Greece on Feb.15 in either 1907 or 1910 (both records exist). My mother emigrated to the US to marry Michael Calligeros who died on April 24, 1944. They had two children (my half-siblings): John Calligeros and Helen Calligeros. Our mother remarried and I am the only issue of that union: born April 24, 1947. Maria Samios Calligeros, then Contemanolis died January 7, 1977.

As a young child, aged 6 and 9, I visited Kythera and recall pilgrimages to Myrtidiotissa and Agia Elesa. I recall staying with my uncle and aunt George and Dimitra Samios and visiting with an aunt Lambrini and uncle Vassili. I believe my grandparents' names were John and Katherine Samios (they died before I was born) and am aware that my mother had several other siblings, at least two of whom emigrated to Australia. Minas Samios is the only name of an uncle that I am certain went to Australia.

My sons (Jordan, now 32) and Ross (now 29) have asked me to shed some light on their ancestry. This is the focus of my inquiry?

My siblings and I would be most appreciative of any background information that may be provided regarding our Calligeros/Samios heritage. More can be learned of my family and our endeavors by visiting web site www.colemanfamilycamps.com

Thank you,

George Coleman



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

NEW YEAR'S DAY DANCE

Our New Year's Day Dance at the Grand Barclay Reception Centre was once again a successful evening. The lovely venue, good food, and great music by our resident DJ provided all that was needed for a wonderful night!

I am sure all the parents, relatives and friends of our Kytherian Dancers would have been very proud of the children's dancing performances as selected by our very talented dancing teacher, Joanna. It was amazing to see so much 'kefi' when you consider the fact that most people had a late night on New Year's Eve!

Congratulations to all the lucky prize winners and especially to the winner of the gold sovereign, Helen Venardos.

Kai tou xponou!

Victor Kepreotis
President

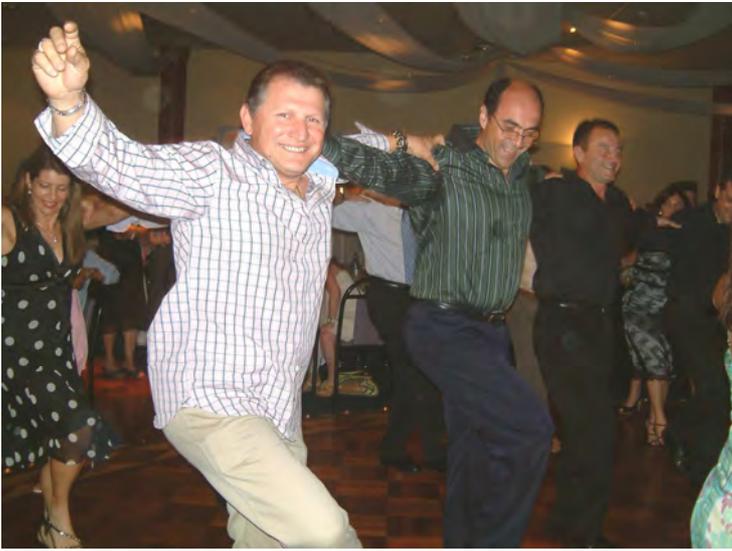
RAFFLE PRIZES NEW YEAR'S DAY FAMILY DANCE MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

- 1ST PRIZE** JVC 29"/74cm FLAT TV (valued at \$1199) won by John Skyllas
- 2ND PRIZE** HAMPER (donated by George & Irene Cassim & family) won by John Skyllas
- 3RD PRIZE** DVD PORTABLE PLAYER (donated by 4WD Club, valued at \$200) won by Persephanie Economy
- 4TH PRIZE** DESIGNER KUTZ HAIR & BEAUTY (colour/cut/blow dry/protein treatment donated by Gloria Papayianakis, valued at \$150) won by Effie Sofios
- 5TH PRIZE** GOURMET HAMPER (donated by Elite Corporate Merchandise, Pamela Milos, valued at \$150) won by Zoe Cass
- 6TH PRIZE** DAVIDOFF COOL WATER GIFT SET (donated by John & Nola Skyllas, valued at \$120) won by Sacha Kepreotis
- 7TH PRIZE** BOLARI EAU PARFUMEE EXTREME GIFT SET (donated by John & Nola Skyllas, valued at \$120) won by Helen Ericson
- 8TH PRIZE** HAMPER OF DRINKS (donated by Colin & Tina Parras, Andrew & Denise Lazarus, valued at \$100) won by Pamela Haros

LUCKY DOOR PRIZES

DIETHNES GREEK RESTAURANT DINNER VOUCHER (donated by the Management, John & Helene, valued at \$150) won by Peter Mihailou

SKARA BAR VOUCHER (donated by the Management, valued at \$60) won by Leah Tsathas



This photo was taken at the last dancing lesson for the year 2006. The photo speaks for itself as to the success of Friday night dancing and is a credit to our wonderful dancing teacher, Joanna Tsakiridis.

Social News

Births



Congratulations to **Anthony & Melanie Matis** on the birth of their son **Austin**, brother to **Isabella**. **Austin** is the fourth grandchild of **Nicholas & Mary Matis** of Kingsford, and also **Doug & Helen Gosson** of Scotts Head.

Christenings



Ross and Toula Cassimatis of Burwood christened their second daughter **Tina Dimitria (Constandina)** at Agios Stephanos at Hurlstone Park. Godmother was **Eugenia Veneris** of Carindale QLD. The proud grandparents are **Peter & Metty Cassimatis** of Baulkham Hills and **Bill & Tina Hatzivasiliou** of Croydon. A party was held afterwards at Atlantis Seafood Restaurant at North Ryde to celebrate the event.

Engagements



As mentioned in last month's 'Summer Edition', our daughter **Yana Kepreotis** recently celebrated her engagement to **Michael Belogiannis**.

In view of the fact that our social news are a little depleted this month, we enclose a photo of the happy couple. (It's one of the few perks that come with this job... being able to use your child's photo as a space filler.)



Weddings

Congratulations to **Stanley Giaouris**, son of **George & Paula Giaouris**, on his recent marriage to **Sonia Jovanovic**, daughter of **Peter & Vera Jovanovic**.

The ceremony was held at The Annunciation of our Lady at Redfern followed by a beautiful reception at Clarence House, Belmore. Koumbari were **Nick & Gina Travassaros**. A wonderful time was had by all and we wish **Stanley & Sonia** a long and happy life together. Na Zisete!



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Theodore Souris** of Greystanes for attaining Dux of Year 12 at Greystanes High School. **Theodore** is the eldest son of **Taso & Effie** and eldest grandson of **Violet & the late Nick Sandeman**.

Wine Festival 31 March

Spend a relaxing Weekend away in the beautiful South Coast town of Berry.

Enjoy delicious wines and a Glendi night filled with Greek Music and Dance

The Kytherian Association is offering a great value 2 night package cost which includes:

- ⌘ dormitory style accommodation (2 nights) Adults.....\$150
- ⌘ all meals Friday dinner to Sunday Lunch Children 5-17.....\$110
- ⌘ outdoor facilities (pool, tennis, cricket) Children 2-4.....\$36
- ⌘ instructor organised recreational activities Tots Under 2.....Free
- ⌘ entry to the Wine Festival

ON 30TH MARCH TO 1ST APRIL 2007



People not staying at the centre are welcome to attend the evening of the Wine Festival:

Entry \$15 Adults, \$ 5 Children under 15

Bring your own food, drinks will be available for purchase.

Book early !

—Limited Numbers !

Theo Poulos 9150 9069 or 0409 449 927

George Poulos 9388 8320 or

www.kytherianassociation.com.au

Berry Sports and Recreation Centre

660 Coolangatta Road, BERRY. Tel 4464 1406

**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)
- *Journey to Kythera* CD-ROM for Apple Mac
ActionPoints@hotmail.com or 0417 590 194]
- *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
- *Expectations and Achievements*
by Peter Haniotis \$39.50
[Peter Haniotis 40 Eastern Ave,
Kingsford NSW 2032]
- *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.

Contact Victor Kepreotis on 0408 216 108 for details.

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.**

Greek Dancing Classes

**TERM 1 Friday Nights
9/2/07 - 30/3/07**

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

Class Times:

Infants	7.00pm-
7.45pm	
Primary	7.45pm-
8.30pm	
Junior High School	8.30pm-
9.15pm	

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

