



The KYTHERIAN

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

JULY 2007

The Kytherian Young Mothers Group
Proudly presents

Christmas In July

The team that presented Halloween last year is back and has planned an exciting and merry night of games, presents and prizes, for infant and primary school aged children (Kindergarten till Year 6).

- When:** Friday, 13th July, 2007
- Where:** Santa's Workshop
Francis Drake Bowling Club
Barton Street, Monterey
- Time:** 6.00pm till 9.00pm.
- Includes:** 3 fun-filled hours of Christmas themed activities
Sumptuous Yulefest Pizza Feast
Christmas Present and Prizes to take home.
- Cost:** \$25 per child
- Dress Code:** Festive Chic



Tickets to this event are strictly limited.

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Bookings: | <i>Matina Coolentianos</i> | <i>0404 369 631</i> |
| | <i>Maria Coolentianos</i> | <i>0409 639 897</i> |
| | <i>Maria Notaras</i> | <i>0425 230 991</i> |
| | <i>Stella Preneas</i> | <i>0402 296 100</i> |
| | <i>Kyrrianne Thomas</i> | <i>0402 809 050</i> |



Reservations & pre-payment essential
Ho! Ho! Ho!

KYTHO CALENDAR

**FRIDAY 20TH JULY -
FRIDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER**
Weekly dancing lessons for
Term 3.

FRIDAY 13TH JULY
Christmas in July
(see front page)

SUNDAY 5TH AUGUST
Ayia Elea Liturgy

TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST
Ladies Auxiliary Movie Day &
Luncheon (see page 7)

SATURDAY 29TH SEPT.
September family dance (details
in next month's newsletter).

**Editor's
Note**

Winter is the season when everyone tends to hibernate.

The kids are busy with school-work and exams while at the same time, counting down the days to the 'end of term' holidays.

The weekends are no longer full of social activities and it is quite easy to find one's comfort zone at home, all rugged up in front of the TV. Going out.....especially in the kind of weather that we have had of late can be more of an endurance test.

However, despite the cold conditions that we have been experiencing, spare a thought for those in Europe who are sweltering in an extremely hot summer. Greece has not been spared and in the last few days, some parts of the country have had temperatures of 50°C!

The annual pilgrimage to our beautiful island is well underway with many of our members having already left for overseas. There are many who are travelling to Kythera for the first time and I look forward to hearing their impressions of our little slice of paradise.

Hopefully, the heat will not be too oppressive, although air conditioning on the island is still a luxury and power stoppages are quite common. We hope that all our travellers will have a wonderful trip and a safe return.

On an entirely different note, while watching good old Oprah, I found one of her episodes to be particularly thought provoking. A priest in the U.S. has asked his parishioners to stop being negative about life. In order to do this, he has issued them with purple bands (like the Lance Armstrong ones) and instructed them to wear them on the left wrist for 21 days without "whinging". If they fail, they must change wrists and start again. They are not to complain, whine or be sarcastic (that leaves me out) and must endeavour to be cheerful and positive at all times.

What an absolutely brilliant idea! It has taken me most of my life to appreciate how much easier it is to view life from the 'glass half full' perspective rather than the 'glass half empty' one. Focusing on the positives over the negatives is certainly a step in the right direction to finding personal happiness.

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.

Thank you

I omitted to acknowledge a big
"Thank You" in last month's
newsletter to Mr. John Prineas
for his wonderful Ball photos.

Kythera-Family.net

for the world-wide Kytherian Community



Multilingual

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Go

An Extraordinary Archive: The Fatseas Pictures

You may have heard that, a couple of years ago, the director of the Kytherian Cultural Association, John Stathatos, stumbled upon the remains of the photographic plates of Kytherian photographer Panayoti Fatseas. More than 800 of the glass plates discovered had already deteriorated to such an extent that the subjects photographed were no longer discernible. With the support of our Website Team, the Aroney Trust, The Kytherian World Heritage Fund and more specifically through the financial support of Angelo and John Notaras of Sydney, the remaining 1000 plates have been saved from further



The subjects of more than 500 pictures from Kythera in the 1920s and 1930s need to be identified for upcoming publications of the archives of Kytherian photographer Panayoti Fatseas. Please visit www.fatseas.net to view them all and add the names of any subjects you might recognise. © 2007 Kythera Cultural Association

deterioration, cleaned, scanned, and the best of them are being prepared for an exhibition at the internationally renowned Benaki Museum in 2008. We will also be publishing a catalogue which includes all recovered pictures within the archive. **We need your help** to identify the subjects of the pictures, and we've set up a special website at www.fatseas.net where all the pictures can be viewed and you can add any

information you might have about the subjects. Directly and easily. When you open the site you see the first page of 15 images. Clicking on one the image enlarges it to make the identification easier. Beneath the picture is the comment box in which you can write, and then click on "add" to submit it. Your comment will be published on the site immediately - you of course can also read the comments of others. Click on the orange arrows at the top right to progress through the pictures.

Most of the photographs were taken in the 1920s and 1930s, so this is The Big Chance to coax the oldest Kytherian members of your family around a computer and go through the pictures with them. In those days being photographed was a big deal, and would have cost the equivalent of two days wages for just one picture. Many pictures were therefore ordered or at least paid for by Kytherians living in Australia and America who wanted to see images of the families they left behind. If you go through your own family album you might even have old prints of pictures from the Fatseas collection. If you do please contact me urgently - email address below - so we can organise someone to scan it for you (if you can't yourself). That way we can recover the pictures from some of the glass plates which didn't survive half a century of neglect.

Another Naming Game

I returned from the island last week. No, still no luck with the aerial pictures. But I didn't come back empty-handed. I managed to photograph each grave in another 8 cemeteries on the island, bringing up to 12 the cemeteries on the site. With the enormous help of Theo Poulos, Peter Trearchis, Vikki Vrettos Fraioli, Terry Chlantzios, John George Prineas, Gordon Hutchison and Spyro Calocerinos, each gravestone picture is being uploaded to the site and the Greek inscription translated. Sypro has even managed to detail part of the lives of those he personally knew and who are now buried in Hora and Kapsali. Here are the cemeteries we have so far: Ag.Theothoros, Aroniathika, Drymonas, Friliganika, Hora, Logothetianika, Kapsali, Karavas, Mitata, Panagia Despina, Potamos, and Tryfillianika. Many of the uploaded gravestones have no inscriptions, so if one of your families graves is in the above graveyards and you know it lacks a inscription, you can add it yourself in the comments area. If you are going to The Island this year and would like to volunteer for a "Graveyard Shift" (photographing), please let me know.

**James Prineas, james@kythera-family.net
KFN Team Leader Europe**

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.

MITATA: IMAGINING THE *BALCONY OF KYTHERA*



It was the winter of 1973 and it was my first trip to the island of Kythera. At once I was drawn to the intriguing history and architecture of this island and to the beautiful vistas of what was then a cold and wind-swept landscape. Although based in Livadi we ventured out to explore the island and one of the towns that stood out and which has always remained vivid in my mind was the village of Mitata in the verdant centre of the island.

As the author Peter Prineas in his recent book, Katsehamos and the Great Idea writes:

“Mitata, my family's village, is high up in the centre of the island. It sits on the edge of a plateau above a verdant ravine filled with orchards and garden and watered by an unfailing spring. From the village square or plateia you can look down on lemon trees and funereal cypresses, and follow the line of the dry watercourse as it passes beneath the hill of Palaiokastros to the olive groves at Palaioiopolis and the sea.

Incredibly green ravines and gorges lie below the plateau that is the town square. The church of Aghia Triatha (Holy Trinity), the focal point of the local parish, dominates the plateia. To one of Mitata's famous sons, the Greek-Australian movie director, George Miller (Miliotis) the church always had a special symbolism. As is recounted by the journalist Anthony Stavrianos, every time George or one of his three brothers returned to the island their father, James Miller, would take that son up the belltower and ring the bells in a joyous celebration of their reunion. The sound of the church bells would resonate down the valley and the ravines from this natural balcony.

The Mitata town square enjoys wonderful views to the splendid gorge of Tsakonas below and to the town of Viaradika on the opposite side. It also is the setting for the traditional Mitata Wine Festival in August each year when islanders and tourists alike come together in a Bacchanalian-like wine and dance festival that has become one of the island's most famous and popular festive celebrations.

For the walker, the forest and ravines of Mitata present as an unspoilt natural environment and the chance to contemplate. The gorge is a delirium of dense vegetation as well as plentiful spring water with place names such as the Stamnareas well, the vrisakia and potistra. There are also the ruins of nine watermills and an old Byzantine chapel which once housed the hidden school of Aghios Georgios. Mitata is also famous for a unique variety of nectarine grown in the region, known as "breasts of Aphrodite", which feel nice and taste great.

Mitata is one of the oldest settlements on Kythera. It is thought that the name Mitata (which is also spelt Metata) is derived from the Homeric word “Mela”, meaning place of pasture. Over the centuries the name gradually evolved to Mitata. There is evidence that after the Minoan settlement in Kastri near Avlemonas, Mitata became an important centre on the island as it was regarded as a safer settlement in the hills and not as exposed to the sea. During the twelfth century the fertile land around Mitata was controlled by a Monemvasiot, Georgios Pachys, who was a powerful if unofficial governor before the island passed into Venetian control. According to Peter Vanges, the author of *Kythera: a history*, the original family names of Mitata are Firos, Sklavos, Protopsaltis, Samios, Miliotis and others. Another family name is Prineas who feature prominently in the eighteenth century census records of the island.

During the British occupation, the villagers of Mitata were renown for their hard work. The English Resident on the island in 1825 was moved to praise Ioannis Feros, the *proestos* of Mitata, for his work in stimulating the “zeal of the good people of Mitata in the construction of the Mitata bridge and road” and noted that the villagers had worked tirelessly and without payment to complete these projects.

Earthquakes and Kythera are no strangers. The island lies on the edge of the Hellenic arc where the African and Eurasian tectonic plates interact. In 1903 a catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.3 struck the island and Mitata in particular suffered considerable damage with most buildings flattened although there was minimal loss of life. According to the Greek seismologist Vassilis Papazachos in his book *Earthquakes of Greece*, a loud noise, similar to the firing of a canon, preceded the earthquake. In Mitata, rifts were created in the ground, one as much as 200 metres long. The church and some of the schools collapsed. One exception was the single arch stone bridge built by the British in the late 1820s linking Mitata with Viaradika which emerged unscathed.

The intermediate depth earthquake in January 2006 which struck the island, registering 6.9 on the Richter scale, had the potential to cause extensive destruction if it had occurred closer to the surface. As it was, the earthquake’s force was nowhere more apparent than in the severe damage to the church of Aghia Triatha. The structural system of the church and the belltowers was extensively damaged and the domes and arches suffered major cracking. The most dramatic pictures from the village were of the tragic landslide in the village square that resulted in the detachment of part of the famous balcony of Kythera onto the road below. According to Greek seismologists the extensive damage to Aghia Triatha in Mitata was largely due to the fact that the church was constructed of porous limestone blocks cemented with lime wash without reinforced concrete columns. The two belltowers were apparently added on at a later date and, as a result, the different mass and height caused out-of-phase vibration leading to the detachment of the two sections of the building.

The collage of photos on page 4 depicts various scenes of the Mitata town square during the Wine Festival and the wonderful vista that beholds the visitor from the plateau in front of Aghia Triatha. The splendid view from the *plateia* is there for all to see. Unfortunately, the 2006 earthquake severely damaged the church, possibly rendering it beyond repair. Part of the town square also slipped onto the road below. In the wake of the earthquake the gorge and ravines below Mitata had in a sense become a “weeping meadow” (to borrow from the title of Theo Angelopoulos’ latest epic).

But the town of Mitata will surely recover from this setback, as it did in 1903, and will forever remain in the hearts and minds of Kytherians as the “balcony of Kythera”. As an old Kytherian verse reminds us:

“Μητάτα όμορφο χωριό όποιος σέ λησμονήσει
Θά χάσει άηδόνια και δροσιά και τό νερό στη βρύση”

George Vardas

KYTHERIAN LADIES' AUXILIARY **MOVIE DAY AND LUNCHEON**

Tuesday, 7th August 2007

“LICENSE TO WED”

*starring John Krasinski, Mandy Moore and
Robin Williams*

*Follows a newly engaged couple in their quest to live
happily ever after. However there is a slight problem,
as the Reverend of the local parish church will not
bless the union until they pass his patented,
‘foolproof’ marriage-prep course.*

**Lunch to follow movie.
(Further details to be advised in the next newsletter).**

KYTHERIAN LADIES' AUXILIARY **MOTHERS' DAY MORNING TEA**

The recent Mothers' Day Morning Tea at Vacluse house was an overwhelming success with over 100 ladies in attendance. We were delighted to have Ronda Smart from Vacluse House to give us an in depth talk about the history of the house. The ladies were both fascinated and enlightened to hear all about the original owner of Vacluse House, W.C. Wentworth and his family. The highlight of the morning was the announcement of the oldest and the youngest mothers, who were **Mrs Effie Zaunders** and **Mrs Marina Venetoulis** respectively. Many thanks must go to the hardworking committee, in particular, Paula Giaouris who organized this function. The following are the prize winners from the raffle: 1st Prize – **Maria Castrission**; 2nd Prize – **Diamantoula Frilingos**; 3rd Prize – **Anuja Sharma**; 4th Prize – **Helen Prineas**; and 5th Prize – **Melinda Patete**. A beautiful morning was had by all in a most relaxing and tranquil atmosphere. We thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you again at our next function.

Kyrranne Thomas

This is a letter to the Editor that is worth sharing with our readers.

MY STORY

I arrived in Sydney in 1951. I didn't have any relatives and I didn't know anybody. I got a landing permit and permanent visa due to the fact that I was an ex-serviceman of the Greek Air Force attached to the R.A.F. in the Middle East during World War II.

I found a job as a shop assistant, in a milk bar-café in Summer Hill which was owned by two cousins, **Andy (Evangelos) Zantiotis** and **George Zantiotis**. They asked me if I had any previous experience in cafés and I said "no".

When I told them that before coming to Australia, I was a flight radio officer with Ethiopian Air Lines in Addis Abba, they were surprised and thought that I wouldn't like the job, but I stayed two years with them. They were very good to me. When I bought my business, Andy, who was a carpenter came out and fitted shelves, etc. George brought me a basketful of stock as a present.

When I brought my fiancé from Egypt, Andy threw a surprise party for her and she stayed in George's house till we got married. He was my Koumbaro and we were always good friends with both cousins until they passed away.

Through them I met quite a few other Tsirigotes and one day at a party, one Tsirigotis asked me which village of Kythera did I come from, because he had seen me at Kytherian functions. That is how close we were and how many good relationships I had here in Australia with Tsirigotes.

I value their friendships and I consider myself a lucky new Australian who became stronger through having met so many good people without being their relative!

Peter Paraschos Pezas,
Lourandos Village,
Lakemba.

Members are invited to send their stories to the Editor.

Congratulations

For the attention of all you golf enthusiasts, **Theodore Coroneo**, son of **Peter & Andrea Coroneo** of Earlwood, recently became the NSW 14 year old State Match Play Champion for 2007 and last year he was the 13 and Under NSW State Champion for 2006. Congratulations **Theodore** –

keep
great

up the
golf.



Social News

Births



Congratulations to **Michael & Mersine Kalos** of Denistone, on the birth of their first child, **Andrew**. **Andrew** is the seventh grandchild for **Helen Kalos** of Auburn, first grandchild for **Andrew** of Kythera and the third grandchild for **Alex & Nicky Yiamarelos** of Casula.

Congratulations to **Stavros & Dianne Sofios** of Bangor, on the arrival of their first child, **Emily**. **Emily** is the second grandchild for **Mick & Gloria Sofios** of Belmore, and the first grandchild for **Peter & Lorraine Phillips** of Dubbo.

Congratulations to **Theo & Aneta Vlandis** of Mardi, on the birth of their first child, **Paul**. **Paul** is the first grandchild for **Paul & Phillis** of Tumbi-Umbi and the third for **John & Katina Magoulas** of Liverpool.

Engagements



Congratulations to **Paul Summers (Calokerinos)** formerly of Tamworth and **Betty Notaras** formerly of Grafton on their recent engagement announced at the Kytherian Ball. The couple plan to marry in Greece Kythera (Potamos). Father Milton has given his blessing.

Paul has recently toured China and played table tennis in the major capital cities and an exhibition match against the Chinese Olympic Team in the Shandong province.

THE KYTHERIAN YOUNG MOTHERS GROUP

The Kytherian Young Mothers Group hosted yet another successful Movie Day at Hoyts Eastgardens for "Shrek The Third".

Even though it was raining continuously throughout Sydney, 68 loyal fans came and enjoyed the movie and company.

Lucky seat prizes were won by:

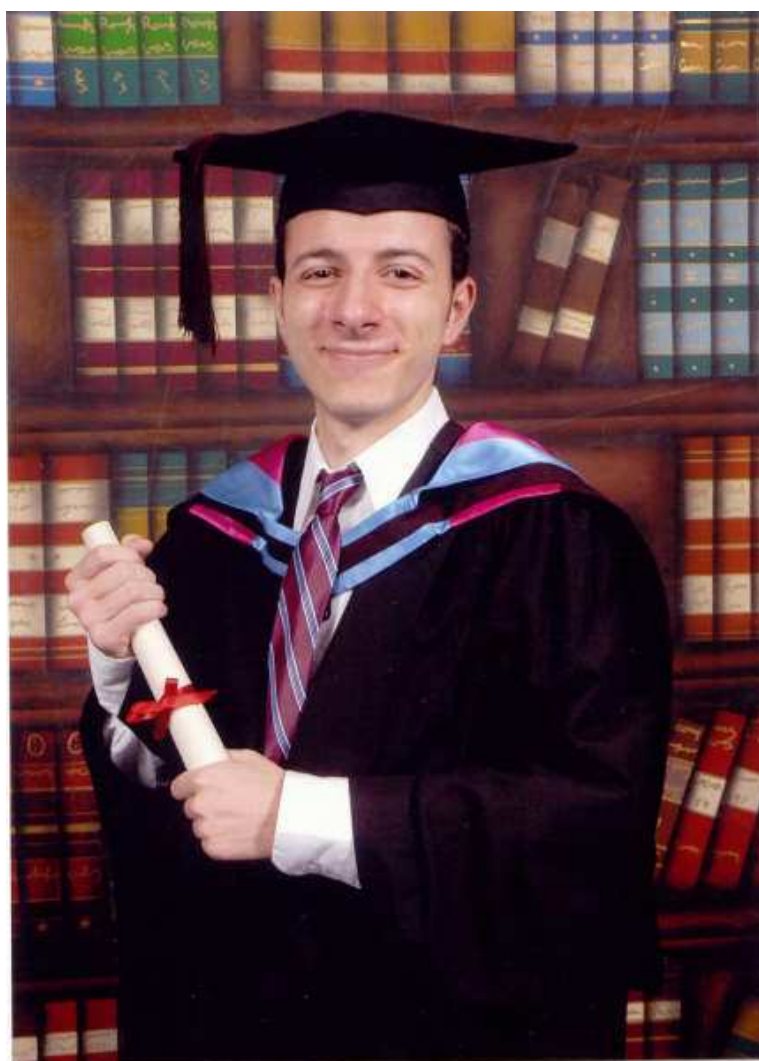
- 1st PRIZE Motion Picture Soundtrack-
Samantha Varipatis
- 2ND PRIZE The Essential Guide-
Bill Lazarus
- 3RD PRIZE The Movie Storybook-
Christopher Andrew

Stella Preneas

Congratulations

Congratulations to our resident cartoonist, **Luke Kepreotis** for graduating from the University of Western Sydney with a Bachelor of Communications (Writing and Publishing) Degree with Honours.

Luke is the eldest son of **Peter & Sandra Kepreotis** of Mt. Lewis. Celebrations were held recently at his home with family and friends. Well done **Luke**!



**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 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: 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

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 3 Fridays

**20th July - 28th Sept.
2007**

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- |

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

OR **Angelo Notaras** Ph: 02 9810 0194

KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION of AUSTRALIA

NEW Website is

www.kytherianassociation.com.au

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