The annual VCE Awards Presentation was held at our Clubrooms on 16 April 2019 together with the Royal Children’s Hospital Fundraiser, with awards presented to nine young descendants of Ithaca who successfully completed their secondary studies in 2018. (see profile on p. 3). Penny Vakalopoulos, past bursary recipient, was the guest speaker on the day. Her message to the VCE graduates was that it is okay to be uncertain about one’s future career. The tertiary years are a time to explore options, to network, to fine tune existing career dreams and discover what you are passionate about.

Dr. Spears Raftopoulos, co-sponsor of the Panioanissi Raftopoulos Awards ($1500 each) presented these awards to the two top performing students based on ATAR. The recipients were Christine Georgopoulos and Christina Paizis. All other applicants received the Ithacan Philanthropic Society’s bursary ($750 each). All other applicants received the Ithacan Philanthropic Society’s bursary ($750 each).

Over 80 members and friends gathered at the club rooms on Thursday 16 May for a Biggest Morning Tea event to raise funds in aid of the Australian Cancer Council. Guests viewed a video on the inspirational work being undertaken by Australian medical researchers supported through the funds raised by the Cancer Council. $2,715 was raised on the day and the Ithacan Philanthropic Society contributed $2500 to bring the total contribution to $5,210.

Guests also enjoyed some fun and frivolity. Once again, a highlight of the morning was the trivia competition generating lots of laughs and testing our knowledge of all things Greek and Ithacan. Congratulations to the winning team, from left, front row – Marina Megalogenis, Helen Karaneto, Nina Black, Niki Portelli, (back row) June Black, Freda Coutsouvelis; Katerini Manolatos – ‘A Musical Odyssey’ and Anna Vlass; and to all those who brought home-made sweets and savouries which were enjoyed along with a delicious Devonshire tea.

The success of the day was due to the hard work and support of a number of people. Thanks to the Events Team and to George Coutsouvelis and Paul Caravias for their work behind the scenes; to the sponsors of our raffle fundraiser: Debbie Argyropoulos of Fresh Connection Brighton, and Loula Coutsouvelis; Katerini Manolatos – ‘A Musical Odyssey’ and Anna Vlass; and to all those who brought home-made sweets and savouries which were enjoyed along with a delicious Devonshire tea.

The exhibition, mounted by the Ithacan Historical Society, was launched at the Society’s Clubrooms on 19 May 2019. Throwing Light on Homeric Ithaca is a project of fifteen years of research by the late Dimitri I. Paizis-Danias, a passionate amateur Homerist. He was a founding member of the ‘Ithacan Friends of Homer Association’ and author of numerous publications on Ithaca’s cultural heritage and Homeric history. His hope was that the exhibition would serve to strengthen the irrefutable right of Ithacians to call themselves Ithacians, in the way that Homer marked their race approximately 3200 years ago.

The exhibition was first launched in Stavro, Ithaca in July 2013 and was a labour of love by Dimitri who was supported in his work by a group of volunteers. Lila Kouvara-Alimantiri, a member of the ‘Ithacan Friends of Homer Association’ and author of numerous publications on Ithaca’s cultural heritage and Homeric history. His hope was that the exhibition would serve to strengthen the irrefutable right of Ithacians to call themselves Ithacians, in the way that Homer marked their race approximately 3200 years ago.

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On 12th August 2018, George Adam, son of Adam and Eleni Tsioutsias was christened at Metamorphosis Tou Sotiros Church in Stavros, Ithaca. Celebrations continued at Rementzo in Frikes. Godparents were Nicholas and Elizabeth Georgakopoulos. George is the grandson of George and Adriana Bouras and George and Alexandra Tsioutsias. The grandparents were honoured that their grandson was named after them. To the godparents, Georg and Alexoula Tsioutsias. The grandson of George and Adriana Bouras and the late Speros Beasley and the grandson of George and Jim and Ian and Eula and seven grandchildren. Her late husband Jack OAM was her true love and I am sure was with her in spirit on her birthday milestone. Her wish this year is to see her beloved football team Richmond win the AFL Grand Final. Many Happy Returns and Na τα Εκατοστίσεις. Happy Returns and Να τα Εκατοστίσεις.

Congratulations to Marika Bisas OAM on the celebration of her 90th Birthday on 25 March 2019. A party for family and friends was held at the clubrooms of the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria. Over the years, Marika has worked tirelessly in the community for numerous organisations, on a voluntary basis: the Australian-Greek Welfare Society (Pronia), Pnevmatiki Estia and AHEPA, just to name a few. She is blessed with two sets of twins, Eula and Ian and George and Jim and seven grandchildren. Her late husband Jack OAM was her true love and I am sure was with her in spirit on her birthday milestone. Her wish this year is to see her beloved football team Richmond win the AFL Grand Final. Many Happy Returns and Na τα Εκατοστίσεις, Marika is pictured with her children from left to right, George and Jim and Ian and Eula and holding her beloved Richmond guernsey.

On Sunday 10th of March, the Tsakis family together with the Karabatsos family celebrated the engagement of Elena and Andrew. The much anticipated event was held at Bistrot d’Orsay on Collins where the couple’s closest family members and loved ones shared in a barrage of fine French food and bubbling champagne. The couple along with forty of their closest friends, continued the festivities at The George on Collins. We congratulate Elena and Andrew and wish them all the best as they prepare for their upcoming nuptials in 2020.

On 9 December, 2018 the Razos and Tsakis family hosted a surprise 80th birthday party for the matriarch of their family, Freda Razos. We have obtained a high resolution photo of this wonderful day for publication in this issue.

Congratulations to Mark Collins graduated with a Diploma of Business from Swinburne University. Mark is the son of Peter Collins and the late Donna Collins.

Jackie Collins graduated from Deakin University with a Bachelor of Communications (Digital Media). Jackie is the daughter of Peter Collins and the late Donna Collins.

On Saturday 18 May, Maria Kapotis celebrated her 50th birthday with family and friends at an intimate gathering on the 37th floor of Crown Towers. Maria is the daughter of Diamando (Mandy) and the late Fotis Kapotis. Together with her husband, Lucky Vlassopoulus, Maria set off for a ten-day whirlwind trip to Greece, and of course Ithaki, where further birthday celebrations are sure to take place. Congratulations and Χρόνια Πολλά.

Tasia Dellas
Touda Kandiliotis & family
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Graciela Collins and Katherine Zervas are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter Emilia to Christopher Zervas. The engagement celebration was held on 30 March 2019, at Green Acres Golf Club, Kew on the banks of the Yarra. A great time was held by all. Emilia is the granddaughter of Andriana and the late George Zervas and Yiannko and Milia Callinicos. Christopher is the son of Bill and Regina Zervas. Congratulations.

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Edgar Adam, son of Adam and Eleni Tsioutsias was christened at Metamorphosis Tou Sotiros Church in Stavros, Ithaca. Celebrations continued at Rementzo in Frikes. Godparents were Nicholas and Elizabeth Georgakopoulos. George is the grandson of George and Adriana Bouras and George and Alexandra Tsioutsias. The grandparents were honoured that their grandson was named after them. To the godparents, Georg and Alexoula Tsioutsias. The grandson of George and Adriana Bouras and the late Speros Beasley and the grandson of George and Jim and Ian and Eula and seven grandchildren. Her late husband Jack OAM was her true love and I am sure was with her in spirit on her birthday milestone. Her wish this year is to see her beloved football team Richmond win the AFL Grand Final. Many Happy Returns and Na τα Εκατοστίσεις, Marika is pictured with her children from left to right, George and Jim and Ian and Eula and holding her beloved Richmond guernsey.

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Georgina Bartlett is the daughter of Kathryn and Cliff Bartlett and granddaughter of Marigold Bentas of South Africa and the late George Ioannides. Georgina completed her VCE at Haileybury in Keysborough and was the recipient of the prestigious Barney Allen Award for outstanding achievements in the fields of academics, sports and the arts. Georgina was accepted into Monash University and is undertaking a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in both Theatre and Film. She hopes to develop her creative talents and become a director of films and plays in the future. She enjoys acting, reading and creative writing.

Charlie Beasley, the son of Liz Beasley and the late Speros Beasley and grandson of Sia and Reg Beasley, completed his VCE at Trinity Grammar. A keen sportsperson, Charlie is now studying Physical Education at Deakin University. As well as becoming a physical education teacher, his dream is to become an AFL football player. He is currently playing for Port Melbourne in the Victorian Football League.

Christine Georgopoulos is the daughter of Denise and Andrew Georgopoulos and granddaughter of Maria Paxonos and the late Jerry Antypas. Christine completed her VCE at East Doncaster Secondary College and is now at RMIT undertaking a Bachelor of Fashion Design Honours. Her goal is to develop and express her creative voice and see where it leads her in the fashion industry. Christine's interests include art, design, photography, fashion and musical theatre.

Emily Kanellos is the daughter of Terry and Stav Kanellos and granddaughter of John and Evangelia Kanellos (nee Coutsouvelis). Emily is studying a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne after completing her VCE at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School. Her career dream is to become a psychologist. A highlight of her secondary schooling was spending three weeks in Vietnam on a Leadership Challenge program. She enjoys caring for animals and watching her favourite AFL team, the Hawks.

Christopher Koukouzakis is the son of John and Vassiliki Koukouzakis and the grandson of Sotiria Grazioukas and the grandson of Sotiria Grazioukas and the granddaughter of Sia and Terry Grazioukas and the grandson of Sia and Terry Grazioukas and the granddaughter of George and Evangelia Vlass-Tsalikis.

Zoe Paxinos is the daughter of Joanne Paxinos and the late Dr Anastasia Paxinos and the granddaughter of Peter and Georgia Paxinos. Zoe completed her VCE at Caulfield Grammar and is now studying a Bachelor of Design - Communication and Design at RMIT University. Her career dream is to have her own graphic design company so she can pursue her creative abilities. Her 2018 Visual Communication Design Folio was shortlisted by TOP DESIGNS for their 2019 exhibition.

Lana Rafopoulos is the daughter of Matthew Rafopoulos and Rebecca Rafopoulos and the granddaughter of the late Marino and Stathoula Raptopoulos. She completed her VCE at Rowville Secondary College and this year is talking a gap year to complete an Associate Diploma with the AMEB. Lana is talented musically and an accomplished pianist. Her career dream is to be a music teacher and perform in the music industry especially in theatre productions. She also enjoys writing music and is currently learning to play the clarinet.

Emily Kanellos is the daughter of Denise and Andrew Georgopoulos and granddaughter of Maria Paxonos and the late Jerry Antypas. Christine completed her VCE at East Doncaster Secondary College and is now at RMIT undertaking a Bachelor of Fashion Design Honours. Her goal is to develop and express her creative voice and see where it leads her in the fashion industry. Christine's interests include art, design, photography, fashion and musical theatre.

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Spearos Gerasimos Raftopoulos was born between 1880 and 1883 in Stavros, Ithaca. He was the third of five brothers. The oldest was Constantine, then Arthur, Spearos, Platou and Dimos. He also had two sisters Evangelia and Efthalia. Documentary evidence suggests he came to Western Australia to join his brothers in 1896. He probably returned to Greece for a while as we also have a record of him arriving in Fremantle or Albany in 1903. He was naturalised in 1924.

Very little is known about what the brothers did in Western Australia but anecdotal family history says they may have worked in some capacity on the goldfields in Coolgardie. They returned to Greece mainly in the early twentieth century. It is known that Spearos, probably with his brothers, ran two cafes. The first called the Regal Cafe was in Swanston Street. The exact address is unknown. The second was at 198 Chapel St Prahran. Both were a cafe and a tea Denios Flocks at 199 Chapel St. Windsor.

Spearos married Katina Dracoulis in Melbourne in 1921 and after the birth of their daughter Evgenia (her mother), the family left for Greece in 1924. It appears that their intention was to stay in Greece permanently but for ap the brothers returned to Melbourne in 1925. On his return from Greece, Spearos joined three of his brothers, Constantine, Arthur and Platou, to start Raftopoulos Brothers, presumably as partners initially, a business which was the main family business until 1974. Dimo worked occasionally in the business but was never a partner.

The business packed and supplied glazed and crystallised fruit and nuts to various businesses, under the brand name Raftopoulos Bros, right up until the business ceased to trade a few years after it was sold in 1974. It appears that the brothers had a method of packing which enabled the brothers to commence a different business to the usual cafes, fruit and vegetable shops, fish shops or milk bars which was a different business to the usual cafes, fruit and vegetable shops, fish shops or milk bars which had a magnificent photograph of the Capitol Theatre with its famous ceiling and another photo which I thought may have been of the refreshments stall (see below). I showed it to my mother and she recognised it. It was a delightful moment for both of us. I knew that the photo was clearly taken AFTER 1936 since it featured a photo of King George VI and should not have been in the book about the 1920s at all! Lucky I have in my possession a complete record of the AGMs and directors’ meetings of the Regal Trading Company right up until 1974. There is reference there to Spearos being authorised to sell the Capitol Theatre franchise in 1941 which presumably happened. Perhaps the franchise was regarded as part of the company business.

In 1942 it was arranged that Panoyiannis (Peter John) Raftopoulos would marry Spearos’ daughter Evgenia.” Born in Romania but raised in Ithaca, Peter had arrived in Australia in 1937 after serving in the Greek Navy. They were married on 1943 at the Evangelistos Church. At some point in this period Peter began working at the Regal Trading Company. Spearos had arranged that Peter be relieved of duty with the labour battalion for which he had been conscripted in World War 11 so he could work with the company. The couple had two children, Loula was born in 1944 and I followed on 1947.

Spearos passed away in 1949 aged sixty-eight years. Peter now became Managing Director of the Regal Trading Company. He continued to run the company, until he retired in 1974 at my mother’s urging. Peter worked very hard and often long hours to keep the business running, dealing with bad debts (usually from the wholesale grocery side) and always worrying that he would lose his biggest customer S. E. Dickens (Coles). Fortunately, the latter never happened. He would work long hours with hot cooking oil to cook the cashew nuts. Fresh cashew nuts were always a great favourite of ours and he always made sure we had a supply. I never knew what a stale cashew nut tasted like until Dad retired!

Evgenia, and even her mother Katina, would sometimes pitch in and help in the business. Katina and Evgenia also had directors and shareholders as were Cora Milne, the widow of Arthur, and Platon Varvaregos who had married my grandmother Katina’s younger sister Loula Dracoulis. Loulou, one of Platon and Loula’s three daughters, worked for some years in the business performance when later became my mother’s role as did Gwyneth, one of my mother’s close school friends. Peter and Evgenia lived a mostly happy retirement watching the younger generation grow up until Peter passed away in 2004 aged ninety-three. Over a period of ten years in his retirement, Peter would volunteer as a Greek interpreter at the Royal Children’s Hospital. Evgenia struggled with various ailments for many years before passing away in 2010 on her sixty-seventh wedding anniversary, aged eighty-seven. Most sadly of all, my sister Loula, passed away after a massive stroke in 2013 aged sixty-eight, the same age as her grandfather.

“My mother Evgenia was born a Raftopoulou and married a Raftopoulos. They were not related.

THE FAMILY LEGACY

My father, Peter suggested the creation of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society’s VCE Awards. Two of the awards now bear his name. I am now honoured to sponsor the two Panoyiannis Raftopoulos VCE Awards and intend to do so for as long as I can and the Club wishes to continue them. My sister Loula also made an enormous contribution both to the community and to Victoria as perhaps the first full time women’s worker from a Greek background. The Victorian Women’s Trust, which she was instrumental in establishing, has now taken on her name to sponsor young women writers and to help women recovering from mental health problems. I am very proud of my family legacy.
Ο Δήμαρχος Παλίδης ήταν για τον Ιωάννη και Σπυρίδωνα Παλίδη, έναντι στο Κόνι το χωρίο του πατέρα του, του γιατρού Δανί, όπως όλων των ξέρω, αλλά μεγάλωσε στον Σταυρό το χωριό της μητέρας του. Ακολουθώντας την Ιθακεία κληρονομιά, έγινε καταφύγιο και εγκατέστησε για χρόνια στην εποχή του Αχώνας με επαγγελματική σταθερότητα και ακόμη πλούτρωσε ένα από τα μεγαλύτερα δεξαμενόπλοια του κόσμου του Ολυμπιακού Thunder. Από το 1965 συνεργάστηκε με διάφορες επιχειρήσεις σεκτώρες τον πολύ τετελεσμένο περίπου 750 μέτρα. Οι εργασίες για την αναστήλωση συνεχίζονται.

...δρόμο που πάει στην Ανωγή, στην πρώτη απότομη στροφή δεξιά αρχίζει ένας χωματόδρομος...
DENNIS LIVITSANIS

The Society was informed of the passing of esteemed member Dennis Livitsanis, Livitsanis of Ballarat on 6 April 2019. Dennis was the son of former member Andrew Livitsanis of Kandila, Greece and Dionisia Mavromati of Exoghi, Ithaca, and the loving brother of Chris, Stan (dec) and Leah (dec). Dennis was a Senior Teacher with many years experience in education in Ballarat, Melbourne and Dallas, Texas. Dennis leaves behind his wife of fifty-three years, Valerie, their three sons, Peter, Chris and Michael, daughters-in-law Tracey and Natasha and his grandchildren, Imogen, Astrid and Finn.

JEAN SIKIOTIS (ΣΥΚΙΩΤΗ)

1926-1999

A long-lasting love was the Ithacan Philanthropic Society. A past President of the Melbourne Ithacan Club, Herbert Sikiotis was a highly respected community figure and passionate club supporter. Together with Sotiris Sikiotis they catered for the Melbourne Ithacan Community and had emerged as one of the most successful and respected members of the Melbourne Greek Community.

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At a time when the Melbourne Ithacan Community was mourning the loss of famous club president and well-known figure, Jean Sikiotis, the story of her remarkable life was revealed. Jean was a woman who left her mark on the Ithacan community and was remembered for her warmth, kindness and unwavering support of the club.

Our mother Jean Sikiotis, who passed away aged ninety one on 11 May 2019, was born Jean Ryan in Perth, Australia. After graduating from university, she 'came east' in the early 1950s and met Dionysios (Denis) Sikiotis at Camp Eureka. Together they were the club's most hard-working and dedicated members. For many years, the Ithacan Club was a place of escape and refuge for Jean and Denis, and a place where they could reconnect with their Greek heritage.

When a military dictatorship seized power in Greece, Denis and Jean threw themselves into efforts to restore democracy in its birthplace, with a very active committee held in Melbourne organising meetings and educational events. In 1986, they organised a trip for members to visit Greece, including memorable summer months in Lesvos, Athens and Ithaki, particularly after Denis finally retired, having built his own house in Stavros.

Jean reached her ninetieth birthday in October 2018 and was still enjoying an active social life, despite mobility problems. As late as March this year she attended the Rebetiko Festival at the Recital Centre and enjoyed every minute. Soon after that she was hospitalised twice with a minor ligament injury, but was discharged home after a week. Jean's health began to deteriorate and she stayed revealed more serious symptoms and from that point she declined rapidly, passing away just six days after confirmation of a diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Jean died peacefully, without pain and surrounded by family, which as exactly as she wanted it; she was completely calm throughout her final weeks.

Jean was remembered and farewelled in a beautiful service at Victorian Funerals. She asked that following cremation her ashes be shared between Melbourne, Perth and Ithaki – three places of great significance in her life. In time her remains will mingle in Stavros with those of Dionysios, the Ithacan man she met in Melbourne and with whom she shared a rich and long life.

Mum was proud of many things – her family and her Irish ancestry, her radical politics and long-standing connection to Greece, and not least of being a social member of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society.

Panos and Fionn Sikiotis
age of fifty-one. Jim, already embedded in the ethos of his family would as always, unobtrusively provide consolation and generous support for his sister and her family until the day that he was diagnosed with no family of his own, Jim displayed sensitively paternal qualities toward the family quietly complementing, without usurping, Andrew's legacy.

Jim was talented academically and was awarded the honour of Dux of the School at Collingwood Technical School in his final year. His education was then interrupted by his enlistment in the RAAF during World War II. Jim had a passion for flying and joined the Air Sea Rescue Unit as a Leading Aircraftman in Papua New Guinea. He was involved in many rescues during that time and with his comrades helped rescue the wounded as well as retrieving the fallen. Jim did not dwell on his service for he was only too very rarely able to share with us an occasional amusing anecdote.

In July 2017, Jim was honoured by the Greek Branch of the RSL, led by returned serviceman and author, Steve Kyritsis OAM, in a ceremony held at the Victorian State Parliament to launch his book 'Kokoda', that honoured Greek Australian participants in World War 2. Despite his reticence over the years to consciously mark his war service, Jim was genuinely touched by the gesture and felt truly honoured to be acknowledged.

Following the war, Jim undertook studies at Swinburne that gained him qualification as a drafter and civil engineer, that lead to a distinguished forty professional career with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. Forever busy, even in retirement, Jim launched himself into what became a consuming passion that gave him huge pleasure and creative satisfaction until his recent illness. Ever the 'Renaissance' man, Jim turned to his prodigious drawing skills, to produce in the 'Renaissance' man, Jim turned to his prodigious drawing skills, to produce in his book 'Kokoda' , that honoured Greek Australian participants in World War 2. Despite his reticence over the years to consciously mark his war service, Jim was genuinely touched by the gesture and felt truly honoured to be acknowledged.

Dr Vrasidas Karalis, Associate Professor in Modern Greek Studies at the University of Sydney. Apart from being a prominent scholar, he was also a 'nice, remarkable, dignified and loveable person, a close friend, who together with another late philanthelle and intellectual, Phillip Grundy, constituted the most important pillars of the Greek Australian community in Sydney'. Vasilikakos expressed the sentiment that the Greek community of Australia, especially those who benefited from Con's scholarship such as D. Tsaloumas, D. Tsanakas and K. Kalamaras amongst others, are indebted to Con and will always remember him with respect, love and gratitude for his invaluable legacy. Dr. Con Castan, OAM, is the half-brother of Dr. Voula Castan who is Vice-President of the Ithacan Society of Queensland.

CHARITY EVENT

On Sunday 5 May, 150 loyal and generous supporters of the Ark of the World Aegean (Kivoto tou Kosmou) gathered in the Olympic Room of The Greek Club in Brisbane to raise funds for the orphaned children on the island of Chios. The charity event was organized by Dialekti Helios and Mary Paradissidh with the assistance of Voula Castan and Barbara Vasdekis. The Ark of the World Aegean was launched in September 2014 in Chios, Greece by Father Antonios Panapkouloau. It currently accommodates thirty children and its numbers are constantly increasing. The Ark’s home in Chios aims to provide protection, warmth, love and comfort to all wounded and suffering children of the Aegean.

In addition to the funds raised through the charity event, the Ark will also receive donations from a number of individuals and associations in the Brisbane Greek community and beyond. At the afternoon tea, Voula Castan presented a cheque for $2000 which will be an annually recurring donation from AHEPA Queensland. Generous donations were also received from the Greek Ladies Auxiliary at St George, the Chios Association of Queensland and the Kastellorizian Association of Brisbane. Three Ark representatives and all donations gathered at the charity event will be presented to Father Antonios in June when Dialekti Helios, Mary Paradissidh and Voula Castan will travel to Chios.

The Brisbane supporters of Ark of the World Aegean provide more than monetary support. Dr Voula Castan, has created a personal resilience program called Dream Big to Achieve to share with the psychologists and teachers who work with the children of Kivoto.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

On March 22 2019, the Courier Mail reported the development of a new test by University of Queensland, Associate Professor and Microbiologist, David Whaley that is designed to quickly identify antibiotic-resistant mutations of gonorrhoea, a sexually transmitted bacteria, to better guide treatment options and to eventually help slow the spread of infection. The research is now published in the journal of Antimicrobial and Chemotherapy. A highly relevant donor who was always of his fate would have been otherwise. After the war he returned to the Kefo factory.

In 1949, with a group of friends, Con left Cyprus to migrate to Australia. The Yallourn Power Station in Victoria was under construction at the time and the company was recruiting men to build as projects on the job. The offer to the group who went to Yallourn was that if they were willing to make the tea and coffee, they would receive training. Con accepted the offer and became a builder/carpenter.

Before moving to Brisbane in 1952, he worked in a glass factory, and for a brief period he and his friends owned a banana farm. For Jim, there was no life without a good laugh and his family will sorely miss his witty anecdotes and stories. A devoted family man who loved and lived for his family. And a man who was loved. Con will be sorely missed by all his family, friends and colleagues. He leaves behind his wife Helen Elefantis, daughter of George and Arthur Elefantis. Helen's mother, Georgia (nee Zambati), was born in Kalamata, Greece in 1906. Kalamata was a major city in the Peloponnese in 1928. Con and Helen married in October 1954 and had two children Francesca in 1957 and Melita in 1960.

Con was a man who could turn his hand to almost anything. He built beautiful cabanettes, was a fantastic scout leader and made the best whitebait fritters. He had read whole encyclopedias and any other reference book he could get his hands on.

Most of all, Con was a kind and gentle man, a true gentleman; a man of strong principles, a good and a little stubborn. A man who loved and lived for his family. And a man who was loved. Con will be sorely missed by all his family. Con and Helen were well known for the sumptuous suppers they provided to Solomos. Con was a man who could turn his hand to almost anything. He built beautiful cabanettes, was a fantastic scout leader and made the best whitebait fritters. He had read whole encyclopedias and any other reference book he could get his hands on.

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Celebrating her 18th birthday is Athena Nicolas, pictured above with her mother, Nikki. Athena is the granddaughter of Effie (nee Davias from Lefki) and Stewart Roach. Nikolas Sykontos also celebrated his birthday. It happened to be the same weekend as the visit to Newcastle. It happened to be the same weekend as the visit to Newcastle.

Lots of Ithacan connections!

NEWS FROM NEWCASTLE
By Dimity Megalos

BIRTHDAY

Nina Raftos (Cominos) and her first cousin Nick Paxinos from South Africa together for the first time since 1956!!! Of course with surnames like Paxinos and Cominos their heritage is Lefki, the beautiful balcony of Ithaca. It was lovely to have him visit Newcastle. It happened to be the same weekend as the visit to Newcastle by the Melbourne Ithacans, so lots of Ithacan connections!

NEWS FROM PERTH
By Mary Raftopoulos

WEDDING

Chryssella Georgiou, a granddaughter of Anastasia Nicolai (nee Lecatsas) of Stavros married Adam Maskos at a ceremony officiated by Rev. Epiphan at the church of Constantine and Helen, Perth on 4 January 2019. Chryssella is the daughter of George and Marina Georgiou of Johannesburg. Adam is the son of Sam and Elizabeth Maskos of Fremantle. An enjoyable reception was held at Frasers Kings Park with guests from South Africa, England, Cyprus and Sydney.

NEWCASTLE TRIP

In late March, a group of Melburnian Ithacans visited beautiful Newcastle; a trip which included the scenic Hunter Valley and Nelson Bay. They also met up with their Novocastrian counterparts getting together at a Tavern Night at the Hellenic Community Centre followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea at the home of Dimity and Con Megalos. It was a most enjoyable trip and we thank our Newcastle friends for their generous hospitality.

ENGAGEMENT

VERY exciting news with the engagement of Jonathon Megalos and Aliki Drokopoulos in London. Jonathon is the son of Con and Dimity Megalos (Raftos) and Aliki is the daughter of Yianni and Katrina Drokopoulos (Mavrokefalos). Their families in Newcastle, London, Athens and Ithaki are ecstatic with the news.

BELIEVE THERE IS HOPE FOR A CURE

In December 2015, Mimika (Raftopoulos) Xanthis and Natalie (Raftopoulos) Raitopoulos (pictured from left) lost their beloved older sister to breast cancer after battling the disease for nine months. They knew that she would have wanted to make a difference to others with the same condition and to families suffering the devastating loss of a loved one. They were inspired by the work of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and so participated in Triathlon Pink. They hope that by 2030 there will be zero deaths from breast cancer. In Australia, fifty people are diagnosed everyday with breast cancer and eight people die daily from the disease.

Me κατάντηση και μεγαλοπρέπεια συγκροτήματα. χορούς και τραγούδια από τα διάφορα σχολεία μέχρι το Opera House, όπου μαθητών των κολλεγίων και όλων των κόσμου. Ακολούθησε η παρέλαση των και πολιτικών επισήμων και πλήθους δέηση και η κατάθεση στεφάνων εις τον Καθεδρικό Ναόν του Ευαγγελισμού κάθε χρόνο με μεγάλη επισημότητα. Το ΓΙΟΡΤΕΣ - ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΙ

Θανάτοι

Αρκετοί πατριώτες αναχωρούν εφέτος για ταξίδια του οικογενειακώς, σε όλη την πατρική του Botany Bay. Στην συζυγό του, παιδιά του οικογενειακώς, σε όλη την πατρική του Με κατάντηση και μεγαλοπρέπεια συγκροτήματα. χορούς και τραγούδια από τα διάφορα σχολεία μέχρι το Opera House, όπου μαθητών των κολλεγίων και όλων των κόσμου. Ακολούθησε η παρέλαση των και πολιτικών επισήμων και πλήθους δέηση και η κατάθεση στεφάνων εις τον Καθεδρικό Ναόν του Ευαγγελισμού κάθε χρόνο με μεγάλη επισημότητα. Το ΓΙΟΡΤΕΣ - ΕΠΕΤΕΙΟΙ