



ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

50th YEAR

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Publication of the Ithacan Philanthropic Society



2023 ANNUAL PICNIC RACE WINNERS

(In first, second, third order): **Babies Race 3 and under:** Maddeline Marinos, Anna Pirera, Axel Harris **50 metres 4-5 mixed:** Francesco Pirera, Nico Palmieri, Sam Macri, **50 metres 6-7 mixed:** No participants **50 metres 8-10 girls:** Ava Connock, Luca Techera, Aristeia Raftopoulos **50 metres 8-10 boys:** Dion Raftopoulos, Luca Palmieri, Jason Raftopoulos **75 metres 11-14 girls:** Irene Yannelis, Alexandra Coutsouvelis, Isla Critelli **75 metres 11-14 boys:** Yianni Vasilopoulos, Thomas Raftopoulos, George Yannelis **100 metres 15-40 women:** Georgia Lourantos, Christina Lourantos, Lucy Ede/Alexandra Knight **100 metres 15-40 men:** Harry Katopodis, Iggy Andrews, Anthony Drake **100 metres open 40 plus mixed:** Alexander Kaimakamis, John Pirera, Adam Tsioutsias **400 metres (around the oval):** Iggy Andrews, Harry Katopodis, Yianni Vasilopoulos

NEWLY COMPLETED VIRTUAL NAVIGATION LABORATORY

Με χρηματοδότηση Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης σύγχρονο ολοκληρωμένο Ναυτικό Εργαστήριο Προσομοιωτών για μαθήματα εικονικής πλοήγησης στο Επαγγελματικό Λύκειο Ιθάκης. Γραφειακός εξοπλισμός εργαστήριο προσφορά Φιλανθρωπικού Συνδέσμου Ιθακισίων

2022 saw the completion of a virtual navigation laboratory at the Vocational Lykeio in Vathy. Designed to give hands-on navigation experience to students pursuing maritime studies, the virtual laboratory was funded by the European Union. The EU has allocated more than 21 billion euros in funds to Greece for 2021-2027 to support a greener and digital economy, more social cohesion and a new approach to its fisheries and maritime sectors. The Vocational Lykeio was lucky to get a slice of the cake.



The Ithacan Philanthropic Society assisted with the fit-out of the laboratory with the purchase of chairs for students and staff. A snapshot of the laboratory above shows the state-of-the-art facility with computers, smart boards as well as the chairs donated by the Society. Acknowledgment and appreciation of the Society's financial support is expressed in the letter below from the Principal Ioannis Dendrinou.

Ευχαριστήρια Επιστολή από τον Διευθυντή Ιωάννη Δενδρινό και το Σύλλογο Εκπαιδευτικών του 1ου ΕΠΑ.Λ. Ιθάκης

Με την παρούσα επιστολή, η οποία αποτελεί την ελάχιστη ένδειξη εκτίμησης της αξιόπαινης πράξης σας, το 1ο Επαγγελματικό Λύκειο Ιθάκης ευχαριστεί θερμά τον Φιλανθρωπικό Σύνδεσμο Ιθακισίων Μελβούρνης «Ο ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ», για την υποτροφία που προσέφερε σε αριστούχο μαθητή μας και τον γραφειακό εξοπλισμό με τον οποίο ολοκληρώσαμε το Ναυτικό Εργαστήριο Προσομοιωτών.

Σας ευχαριστούμε πολύ για την ανιδιοτελή σας στήριξη στο σχολείο μας, η οποία αποδεικνύει την κοινωνική σας ευαισθησία και την έννοια της προσφοράς, ενώ παράλληλα δημιουργεί κίνητρα και γεμίζει με αισιοδοξία τόσο τους μαθητές μας και τους γονείς τους, όσο και τους εκπαιδευτικούς. Σας ευχόμαστε ολόψυχα υγεία και καλή συνέχεια στο έργο σας.

FUNDRAISER TALLY - \$7,800

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to members and friends of the Society who supported the fundraiser for the purchase of a portable ultrasound for the Stavros Medical Centre. All donations are acknowledged on page 8.

In addition to the \$7,800 raised, the Society donated the balance to cover the cost of the ultrasound and tablet equipment (approx. AUD \$9,500). The fundraiser was initiated by sisters Kathy and Georgia Vlassopoulos in appreciation of the care provided by Dr Anastasia Skarmea to their mother Melita Vlassopoulos who required urgent care while on Ithaca in 2022. The purchase of the ultrasound for the Stavros Medical Centre will benefit the entire community in northern Ithaca. In most instances, residents will not have to go to Vathy for an ultrasound and it will be possible to conduct the scan in residents' homes if necessary.

The following letter of appreciation from Dr Anastasia Skarmea was received by the Society.

Many thanks to the Ithacan Philanthropic Society of Melbourne for its continuous and invaluable support to our island! A special thank you to the family of our dear aunt Melita, Katerina and Georgia Vlassopoulou for this wonderful initiative!

With your help we hope to purchase a portable ultrasound (Vscan Air), which will be of great help in the initial assessment, especially in emergency cases. As our island is small and remote and lacking in medical facilities, especially northern Ithaca, the portable ultrasound will be an additional valuable tool in our work enabling timely diagnosis in life-threatening situations which need immediate treatment.

Through your support, the health services of our island will be improved for permanent residents, as well as for visitors. Once again, a huge thank you! We hope to see you soon on our beautiful island!

Ευχαριστούμε πάρα πολύ τον Σύλλογο Ιθακισίων Μελβούρνης για την συνεχή και πολύτιμη βοήθεια που προσφέρει στο νησί μας! Ένα ιδιαίτερο ευχαριστώ στην οικογένεια της αγαπημένης θείας Μελίτας, την Κατερίνα και την Γεωργία Βλασσοπούλου για αυτήν την εξαιρετική πρωτοβουλία!

Με την βοήθεια σας ευελπιστούμε να αγοράσουμε έναν φορητό υπέρηχο (Vscan Air), ο οποίος θα βοηθήσει πολύ στην αρχική αξιολόγηση κυρίως των επειγόντων περιστατικών. Καθώς το νησί μας είναι μικρό και απομακρυσμένο, προπαντός η βόρεια Ιθάκη, στερημένο από ιατρικές παροχές, ο φορητός υπέρηχος θα αποτελέσει ένα επιπλέον πολύτιμο εργαλείο στην δουλειά μας. Με την χρήση του μηχανήματος αυτού θα μπορούσαμε να διαγνώσουμε έγκαιρα απειλητικές για την ζωή καταστάσεις, οι οποίες χρήζουν άμεσης αντιμετώπισης.

Με την συνδρομή σας θα αναβαθμίσουμε τις υπηρεσίες υγείας του νησιού μας, τόσο για τους μόνιμους κατοίκους, όσο και για τους επισκέπτες. Και πάλι ένα τεράστιο ευχαριστώ! Ελπίζουμε να ανταμώσουμε σύντομα στο ωραίο μας νησί! Με απέραντη εκτίμηση,

Αναστασία Σκαρμέα, Παθολόγος, Κέντρο Υγείας Ιθάκης



2023 Annual Picnic Photos

WEDDINGS



On 6 November 2022 **Alexia Maroudas and Kosta Butrev** were married at the Archangels Greek Orthodox Church Mentone. It was a beautiful sunny day. Celebrations followed at *Carousel* in Albert Park, with spectacular lakeside panoramic views of the city. The evening was filled with *kéφι*, dancing and joy, and live bouzouki music. A memorable time was had by all. The couple were thrilled Alexia's grandmother Marigoula Joannides, travelled from South Africa, to share in the celebrations, and Kosta's grandparents surprised him, travelling from Uzbekistan.

Alexia is the only daughter of Peter and Christine Maroudas, and the great granddaughter of the late Varvara Athenellis Benias (born Malitsi) from Frikes, the granddaughter of Marigoula Joannides (nee Benias) from Lacho (residing in South Africa) and the granddaughter of the late Alexander Maroudas from Anoghi. Kosta is the eldest son of Dr. Andrea and Natasha Butrev. Kosta's great-grandfather was from Magoula, Karditsa in Greece. Alexia and Kosta have visited beautiful Ithaca, and can't wait to return. Congratulations Alexia and Kosta. We wish you endless love and happiness. Να ζήσετε!



On 7 January 2023, a lovely summer's day in Sydney, **Margarita Varigos and Rolf Koenig** were married at St George Greek Orthodox Church, Rose Bay. The ceremony was followed by an intimate reception at *Watsons Bay Boutique Hotel*. Margarita is the daughter of Nick and Rena Varigos. Congratulations!

BIRTHDAYS



Tasia Couvara, pictured above with her sons, Dimtri (left) and Andrew Razos, celebrated her 60th at The Hotel Westin, Collins Street. with 61 guests, for a High Tea with live music, speeches, poetry and magic. It was a memorable event with a slideshow depicting Tasia's wonderful life in South Africa, Ithaca and Melbourne. Distinguished guests were also present with four Executive Managers from Alfred Health, internationally acclaimed opera Diva Stella Axarlis AM with her niece Maria Axarlis-Coulter, Manager Multicultural Services, Advocate for the Elderly and Asylum Seekers Group, also Banyule Council Liaison and IPS President Loula Coutsouvelis. **Happy Birthday Tasia!**



In March 2023, **Chris Livitsanos** celebrated his 90th Birthday, a great milestone. He celebrated the big day with his wife Freda, daughter Denise and his three grandchildren at *Conservatory* at Crown Towers. We wish him many more happy birthdays. Chris is the eldest son of the late Andreas and Dionisia Livitsanos of Ballarat.



Friends and family spent a lovely afternoon on the 26 February 2023 celebrating **Maria Dellas** (nee Kostopoulos) 90th Birthday. Maria has been living at The Gables aged care facility for the past couple of years so it was a treat for her to celebrate this milestone in the garden at the family home in Hawthorn.

In true Greek fashion friends and family cooked up a storm with traditional Greek/Ithacan sweets for afternoon tea.

Koumbaro James Megalogenis made *rovani*, Nina Raftopoulos *halva* and *finikia* and Tasia Dellas an orange cake.

Maria loved being surrounded by familiar faces and in particular some special friends - Nina Black (her cheeky partner in crime), Sophia Paizes, Sia Beasley, Joan Kostos, Nina Raftopoulos and Stavroula Dellas. Maria was in good spirits which made for a lovely, happy afternoon.

Celebrations continued on the 27th (Maria's actual birthday) at The Gables where Maria was presented with a cake and residents and staff sang Happy Birthday. Maria is pictured above (left) with her grandchildren Peter, Hannah and Abby, and left with daughter Stacey.

BIRTHS



Congratulations to Nicholas Evans and Emma Racky who welcomed their beautiful baby daughter **Olive Racky Evans** on 10th May 2022. Nicholas is the son of Robert and Euanna Evans (nee Varigos) and grandson of the late Nick and Elsie Varigos and the late Joan and Bill Evans. Emma is the daughter of Geoff and Arpy Racky. Wishing them a wonderful and healthy family life together.



Penelope Irene Partsanis was born on 15 December 2022 at Frances Perry House weighing a healthy 3.1kg. She is the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents so is very spoilt! In terms of her family - she is the first child of Louise Kostos and Nik Partsanis, the grandchild of Maree and Philip Kostos and Margaret and Chris Partsanis, and great-grandchild of Joan and the late Chris Kostos. We plan to take her to visit Ithaca but are not game just yet!

NEWS FROM PERTH



Arthur and Katrina Ventouras celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, on 2 December, 2022. They were married at Saint Constantine and Helen Church in Northbridge in Perth in 1962. Their reception was held at the *Embassy Ballroom*. Arthur is the son of Panoyannis Ventouras of Kioni and Theoni Artelaris of Vathi. Katrina is the daughter of George and Evangelia Kailis [Kastellorizo]. They celebrated this wonderful milestone with their three children Peter, Theona and George, their partners, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

NEWS FROM NEWCASTLE



In February 2023, Con and Dimity Megalos had a lovely catchup in Melbourne with cousins Rob and Euanna Evans and John & Wendy Varigos.



Nina Teterin, pictured with her son Con and daughter-in-law Dimity, celebrated her 91st Birthday together with her family at a local Newcastle restaurant in January 2023.



90th Birthday Celebration - Tasia Argiris nee Moraitis (*Kolestsi*) had a lovely 90th birthday celebration with her much-loved friends. From left standing: Lola Sklavos, Nina Raftos, Stella Raftos, Nikki Sofianos, Jenny Cominos, seated Olga Moschous, Tasia Argiris and Nina Teterin.

SEND US YOUR SOCIAL NEWS & ARTICLES OF INTEREST FOR PUBLICATION
 Editorial discretion may be applied
 Post:
 PO BOX 311 Balwyn North VIC 3104
 Email:
news@ithaca.org.au

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY



Ithacan Philanthropic Society member **Ioannis Coutsouvelis** was recently awarded his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) for his thesis on *Optimising the use of supportive care medicines in cancer treatment*. Dr Coutsouvelis is the Lead Cancer Pharmacist at the Alfred Hospital. With the support of his family, Dr Coutsouvelis invested a number of years completing his research. His thesis advocates for protocols guiding novel dosing regimens of treatment criteria, leading to effective clinical management of cancer therapy complications for a larger patient population. Congratulations on an exceptional achievement! Ioannis is the son of George and Spyridoula Coutsouvelis.

GRADUATIONS



Thomas William Paizes graduated from RMIT completing his Bachelor of Communication (Journalism) on 14 December 2022 after remote study for the best part of two years during Covid lockdowns. The graduation ceremony was held at Marvel Stadium. Thomas achieved stellar results and is now working as a cadet at *Neos Kosmos* newspaper. His family and friends are immensely proud. Thomas is the son of Stephen and Christina Paizes and the grandson of Tom and Sophia Paizes.



Mary (Paxinos) Weaver graduated with a Diploma of Leadership at the Sunday service of the Planetshakers Church on 11 July 2021. Mary dedicated her achievement to her father the late Thomas Paxinos, her uncle the late Archie Paxinos and to many others who inspired and supported her in her studies and personal journey.

Congratulations to our VCE/VCAL Graduates

Συγχαρητήρια στους απόφοιτους που τους απενεμήθηκαν τα βραβεία VCE από τον Συνδεσμό μας

On 2 April 2023 six successful VCE graduates were presented with the Society's Year 12 awards. **Natasha Anagnostou** and **Georgios Geitenbeek** were the recipients of the *Panoyiannis Raftopoulos Awards* which are valued at \$1500 each. These awards are co-sponsored by **Dr Spearos Raftopoulos** and awarded to the applicants with the highest ATAR. *The Ithacan Philanthropic Society Awards* valued at \$500 each were presented to all other applicants.

Natasha Anagnostou (6) is the daughter of Nick Anagnostou and Georgina Ednie and the granddaughter of the late Loula (Raftopoulos) and Dimitrios Anagnostou. Natasha completed her VCE at Methodist Ladies College. She achieved an ATAR of 90.40 and was accepted into The University of Melbourne's Bachelor of Arts. Her dream career is in the area of investment banking which will give her the opportunity to travel the world. Natasha was the driver behind the 2020 Ithacan Cyclone Recovery Appeal. She coordinated the GoFund Me campaign on behalf of the Society, which raised over \$50,000. She has travelled to Ithaca once, the birthplace of her *yiayia*, and found the island peaceful and relaxing; but most of all she liked it because there were lots of dogs!!

Shari Defteros (3) is the daughter of Peter Defteros and Megan Jenkins and the granddaughter of June Defteros and the late Spero Defteros. Completing her VCE at Albert Park College, Shari received school awards for student cinematography and



21st BIRTHDAY

On Wednesday, November 16th, **Richard Dean Lucas**, son of Geremy Lucas and Nickie Whitham, and the grandson of Iris Lucas and the late Honorary Life Member of the Society, Peter J Lucas, celebrated his 21st Birthday with close family, having cocktails followed by an intimate dinner at the Flower Drum. Congratulations Peter! Richard is pictured left with his father, and above with his grandmother Iris Lucas (centre) and extended family



excellence in Media. She was accepted into the Bachelor of Film & Television at Swinburne University but in 2023 she is taking a gap year, planning to travel to Europe and hopefully working as an *au pair* in France. Shari's career dream is to be a filmmaker, writing for and directing films. She visited Ithaca in 2019 and in her words, spent one of the best days of her life, walking around the village of Kioni with her friend listening to ABBA's *Mama Mia* soundtrack!!

and aspires to have a career in law specialising in international law. The highlights of her high school years were a three-month exchange to Germany as a student of the German language, receiving the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and being appointed a College Prefect. Not having visited Ithaca yet, she is looking forward to a planned holiday very soon.

Paris Royal (5) is the daughter of Cathy and Sean Royal and the granddaughter of Christina Barcham and the late Nick Sofarnos. Completing her VCE at Westbourne Grammar School, Paris is now at RMIT studying a Bachelor of Psychology. She hopes that by the end of the course she will have a better idea of the area of psychology she would like to specialise in. Paris has special memories of visiting Ithaca with her papou in 2016 and visiting the family home of her ancestors.

Alexia Tsaraliki (4) is the daughter of Kathy and Xenio Tsaraliki and the granddaughter of Sam and Leah Koutsounis. Alexia completed her VCE at Our Lady of Mercy and is now studying International Relations and Human Rights at La Trobe University. She hopes to continue with studies in law in the future. Alexia has participated in various leadership roles at school as well as community service activities such as meal services and charity events. Alexia has had the good fortune to have travelled to Ithaca three times. She has enjoyed the beauty of the island but also has a connection to Pyrgos in the Peloponnese where her grandfather Sam comes from.





Ithacan Archive Fund

The Ithacan Historical Society is proud to launch a new fundraising drive to support the conservation of historical documents at the state archives in Ithaca. The IHS has a record of providing aid to the Ithacan archive in the past. After the reopening of the archive in December 2021 following a long period of closure, the IHS again provided significant aid to meet the most urgent needs of the archive. While these efforts have made an important contribution, there remain many more areas of need. Our goal is to ensure Ithaca's rich heritage will be preserved for future generations.



We are now appealing for contributions to the fund which will allow us to support the archive into the future. The **Ithacan Archive Fund** is a perpetual project of the IHS and welcomes individual contributions from all who are interested in the history of Ithaca and its region. We also welcome corporate contributions and bequests.

Tell me more about the Ithacan archive

Ithaca is home to a small but significant branch of the Greek state archives. Its collections include notarial registers, church records, maritime and administrative documents dating back to around 1600.

Unfortunately the extensive collections at the Ithacan archive have suffered decades of neglect. This means that many series of documents are unclassified and there are no published catalogues to aid research. The result of this neglect is that the riches of the Ithacan archive are little known and have not been seriously studied.

Upcoming Jonathan Brown Lecture

Gods and heroes around Troy - Mt Ida, Odysseus' camp, and the tomb of Achilles

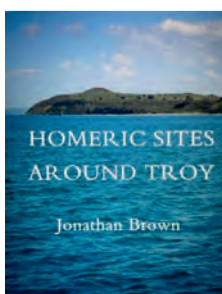
at Ithaca House, Sunday 27th August 2pm

After a spellbinding lecture about Homeric Ithaca in 2022, eminent Canberra scholar of Ithacan history, Jonathan Brown is returning to Ithaca House to present another engaging seminar. Last year Jonathan discussed the numerous similarities between Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey* and the place we still know as Ithaca, three millennia later. He presented many topographical facts, which he published in his beautifully colour-illustrated book *In Search of Homeric Ithaca*.

The upcoming lecture will delve into the fascinating details in his book *Homeric Sites in Troy*, including Homer's *Iliad* and Odysseus' involvement in those events.

All are welcome for an interesting afternoon, along with refreshments and a chance to catch up with your fellow Ithacans and those interested in Ithaca's rich and long spanning history.

Homeric Sites Around Troy will be available on the day for \$30



How can I donate

Donations from Australian banks, via transfer to:

Bank BSB/Branch Number: 033 005

Account Number: 116628

Please note your name and write 'Archive' in the bank transfer description.

For international transfers, you can contact us here for help: ih@ithaca.org.au

We will gladly acknowledge your generous donation in the *Odysseus* newspaper. If this is not your wish, please contact us at ih@ithaca.org.au

Where will my money go

Our strategy for supporting the Ithacan archive has been based on broad consultation. We are guided by four main objectives:

1. Conservation and preservation of documents

- Provision of appropriate professional-standard, acid-free conservation materials to preserve records currently conserved inappropriately

2. Improvement of the archive environment

- Modern digitisation equipment for fragile documents
- Exhibition cabinets for the safe public display of selected documents
- Climate, fire-safety and humidity controls

3. Classification of the collections

- Support for the classification of documents, and the publication of catalogues to the archive's collections

4. Support for research

- Support for researchers to publish primary sources (notarial registers, ecclesiastical/civil registry records, etc) and related studies

Οικονομική ενίσχυση για το Αρχείο της Ιθάκης



Ο Ιθακήσιος Ιστορικός Σύλλογος (Ithacan Historical Society) έχει την τιμή να ανακοινώσει μια νέα πρωτοβουλία για τη συγκέντρωση χρημάτων με σκοπό την υποστήριξη της διατήρησης των ιστορικών εγγράφων στο Αρχείο της Ιθάκης. Ο Σύλλογος έχει ήδη προσφέρει βοήθεια στο Αρχείο της Ιθάκης στο παρελθόν. Μετά την επαναλειτουργία του αρχείου τον Δεκέμβριο του 2021 ύστερα από μια μακρά περίοδο κλεισίματος, ο Σύλλογος παρείχε και πάλι σημαντική βοήθεια για την κάλυψη των πιο επείγουσών αναγκών του αρχείου. Ενώ οι προσπάθειες αυτές συνέβαλαν σημαντικά, παραμένουν πολλές ακόμη ανάγκες. Στόχος μας είναι να διασφαλίσουμε τη διατήρηση της πλούσιας κληρονομιάς της Ιθάκης για τις επόμενες γενιές.

Απευθύνουμε τώρα έκκληση για συνεισφορές στο ταμείο που θα μας επιτρέψει να στηρίξουμε το αρχείο στο μέλλον. Το Ταμείο για το Αρχείο της Ιθάκης είναι ένα διαρκές έργο του Συλλόγου και δέχεται ιδιωτικές συνεισφορές από όλους όσους ενδιαφέρονται για την ιστορία της Ιθάκης και της περιοχής της. Δεχόμαστε επίσης επιχειρηματικές εισφορές και κληροδοτήματα.

Περισσότερα για το Αρχείο της Ιθάκης

Η Ιθάκη στεγάζει ένα μικρό αλλά σημαντικό παράρτημα των Γενικών Αρχείων του Κράτους (ΓΑΚ). Οι συλλογές του αρχείου περιέχουν νοταριακά πρωτόκολλα, εκκλησιαστικά, ναυτιλιακά και διοικητικά έγγραφα, που ξεκινούν περί το 1600.

Δυστυχώς, οι εκτενείς συλλογές του Αρχείου της Ιθάκης έχουν υποστεί δεκαετίες παραμέλησης. Συνεπώς, πολλές σειρές εγγράφων είναι αταξινόμητες και δεν υπάρχουν δημοσιευμένοι κατάλογοι που να βοηθούν την έρευνα. Αποτέλεσμα αυτής της παραμέλησης είναι ότι ο πλούτος του Αρχείου της Ιθάκης είναι ελάχιστα γνωστός και δεν έχει μελετηθεί σοβαρά.

Read more about our recent contributions to the archive on the website below

Διαβάστε περισσότερα για τις πρόσφατες συνεισφορές μας στο αρχείο εδώ:

<https://ithaca.org.au/historical-society/historical-archive-ithaca>

Πώς μπορούν να γίνουν οι δωρεές

Δωρεές από τράπεζες στην Αυστραλία, μέσω κατάθεσης στην ακόλουθη διεύθυνση:

Bank BSB/Branch Number: 033 005

Account Number: 116628

Σημειώστε το όνομά σας και γράψτε "Archive" στην περιγραφή της τραπεζικής κατάθεσης. Για διεθνείς τραπεζικές καταθέσεις, μπορείτε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μας εδώ για βοήθεια: ih@ithaca.org.au

Με ευχαρίστηση θα αναγνωρίσουμε τη γενναιόδωρη δωρεά σας στην εφημερίδα *Οδυσσεύς*. Σε περίπτωση που δεν το επιθυμείτε, παρακαλούμε να επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μας στο ih@ithaca.org.au

Πώς θα διατεθούν τα χρήματα

Η στρατηγική μας για την υποστήριξη του Αρχείου της Ιθάκης βασίζεται σε ευρεία συμβουλευτική διαβούλευση. Κατευθυνόμαστε από τέσσερις κύριους στόχους:

1. Συντήρηση και διατήρηση των εγγράφων

- Παροχή κατάλληλων υλικών συντήρησης επαγγελματικού επιπέδου, αντιόξινα, για τη διατήρηση εγγράφων που σήμερα συντηρούνται με ακατάλληλο τρόπο

2. Βελτίωση του χώρου του αρχείου

- Σύγχρονος εξοπλισμός ψηφιοποίησης για εύθραυστα έγγραφα
- Εκθεσιακές προθήκες για την ασφαλή έκθεση επιλεγμένων εγγράφων στο κοινό
- Έλεγχοι κλίματος, πυρασφάλειας και υγρασίας

3. Ταξινόμηση των συλλογών

- Υποστήριξη για την ταξινόμηση των εγγράφων και την έκδοση καταλόγων για τις συλλογές του αρχείου

4. Υποστήριξη της έρευνας

- Υποστήριξη προς τους ερευνητές για τη δημοσίευση πρωτογενών πηγών (νοταριακά πρωτόκολλα, εκκλησιαστικά/ληξιαρχικά έγγραφα κλπ.) και σχετικών μελετών

The Ithacan Historical Society New Committee 2023-2025

President: Peter Raftopoulos

Vice President: Kyriacos Nikias

Treasurer: James Morris

Secretary: Athena Connock

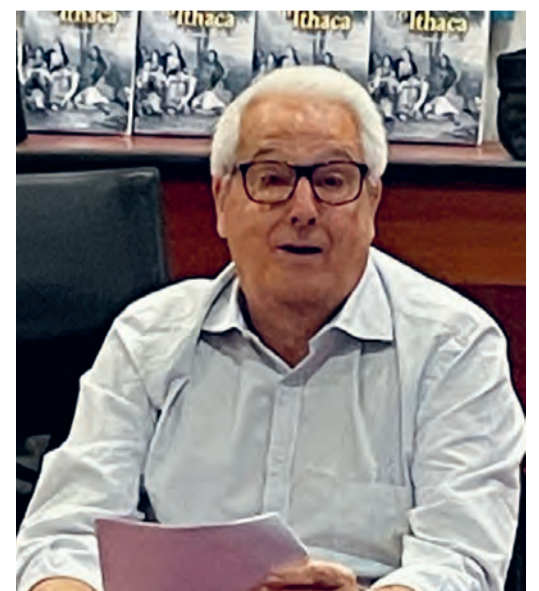
Assistant Treasurer: John Paizis

Assistant Secretary: Leah Koutsounis

Committee Members:

Greg Deftereos Nick Galatis Christine Georgopoulos
Andrew Raftopoulos

Launch of George Paxinos' Second Edition of *Passage to Ithaca*



On 5th March 2023 at Ithaca House, the Ithacan Historical Society held the launch of George Paxinos' second and updated edition of *Passage to Ithaca*. George presented his scholarly insights into Ithacan history dating back half a millennium and afterwards engaged in a lively question-and-answer segment with the audience who were able to ask questions relating to their families' Ithacan history.

George also gave a fascinating background to his book that took him a couple of decades to research and to the many issues that one may encounter when researching their own Ithacan family history. A pleasant afternoon continued over refreshments as attendees discussed their family origins and the peculiarities of Ithacan nicknames.

Copies of *Passage to Ithaca* are still available for purchase for \$40. If you would like a copy, please send an email to ih@ithaca.org.au for details.

The Hidden Eye – A journey back to Ithaca that raises more questions than answers

Katina never married, nor had any children, so her great-niece Lucy Helen Kostos returned to her birthplace in the hope of finding a new narrative. She made a film about it.

**Nelly Skoufatoglou, Neos Kosmos
3 May 2023**



Lucy Helen Kostos' journey to uncover the story of her great aunt, Katina, has been captured in the essay film *The Hidden Eye*. The film is shot on expired 16mm film and tells the story of Lucy's search for a new narrative about her ancestor, who immigrated to Australia as an infant and had a significant presence in the Ithacan community in Melbourne.

The film will be screened publicly for the first time on Sunday, May 7, at Ithaca House, with all proceeds going to the Ithacan Historical Archive. The screening will be followed by a discussion with writer Arnold Zable and a performance by musicians Conor and Lloyd O'Hanlon.



Lucy's interest in Greece and immigrant identity led her to Ithaca, Greece, Katina's birthplace, to find answers about her great aunt's life, including why she never married or had children. The process enabled Lucy to reflect on her own journey as a woman of Greek heritage and understand the complexity of family dynamics. The film is a poetic celebration of culture and generations, connecting the old with the new.

What prompted her to travel to Ithaca to try to find answers about Katina, who lived in Australia, in the place of her birth?

"I guess it's just a curiosity. And my grandfather being part of that too. She was my grandfather's sister, I'd always hear so much about Ithaca. It is an island beyond beautiful, blessed by nature and praised in Greek mythology and history." Mythical.

And Katina was kind of like that, Lucy says, trying to find the words to describe the undecipherable but strong aura of this matriarch who never had her own children, but held everyone in her strong and unconditionally loving embrace. Speaking to *Neos Kosmos*, Lucy shared that her great aunt was a significant inspiration that filled the role of a great-grandmother figure not only in her life but also became a pillar for the lives of many around her.

"Katina had this aura about her, she was really maternal to me," she tells. "She was kind of like a grandmother figure to me. Katina really filled this role for all the grandchildren. She just emanated love."

She also reflected on the challenges of making a film that is about her family, and treading through past conflicts that needed to be handled subtly and understood.

"My journey into my family's past has been a challenging one, but I hope the film will inspire others to reflect on their family history and identity."

The *Hidden Eye* is not from a commercial realm but has attracted a diverse audience that includes members of the Ithacan club who knew Katina, her contemporaries, and people from the experimental film world. Lucy gets to rediscover her ancestor from the beginning of the end as she herself attempts something completely new. Lucy is an artist, primarily working with glass.

"It's like a very artist DIY film. It's not like your regular film. It's shot in an introspective, experimental way. It's very abstract and sentimental. A lot of people will be coming at people from the Ithacan club who knew her growing up, her contemporaries. It's an ode to her as she was a big part of the Ithacan Community and was on the historical committee. There will also be quite a few people from my world, the experimental film world meeting us both there as the film is a lot about myself. In figuring out who she was I am putting myself out there for the first time. The first time I am showing my work publicly. She helps me hold some of that responsibility."

Their similarities go past the external; the similarities are noticeable comparing their photos (see below), however, they both shared a passion for history and bringing different vantage points together. "Everyone says I look like her, too. Especially in her youth," Lucy says.

Like Katina, I like uniting different timelines and perspectives. The Ithacan Society was her favourite place and she was passionate about history and heritage. We have that in common. With this event, I wish to connect the old with the new, the Ithacan Society does not host events like this often. It will be a celebration between generations and culture. The discussion with Arnold Zable, and then a performance by musicians Conor and Lloyd O'Hanlon. My friends meeting with her friends... Keeping the legacy alive and giving it a new spin. A journey into the future through the past."



Lucy Kostos writes:

The title "The Hidden Eye", shot on expired 16mm colour film, was inspired by an evil-eye (mati) necklace that Katina bought in Greece, and gifted to me as a young child. I wore this necklace on a visit to Ithaca in 2019, but lost it when swimming in Frikes Bay. It is symbolic for me that the necklace found its way back to Ithaca, Katina's birthplace. As a great niece of Katina, I remember her generous spirit and love of extended family. It was great to see so many family members attending the screening of my film including great nieces pictured:

1. Louise Kostos with baby Penelope wearing a Parthenon t-shirt gifted by Katina in the early 1990s. 2. From left, Ioanna Markham (from Canberra) & Erin Kostos 3. Denise Dellas (left) & Emily Kostos 4. Jessica Kostos with grandmother Joan Kostos 5. Stacey Lethlean (right) & cousin Tina Dellas.

**Recent Election Results
Ithacan Philanthropic Society
"The Ulysses"
Executive Committee 2023 - 2025**

President
Spyridoula Digaletou Coutsouvelis

Vice President
Peter Andrews

Treasurer
Eugenia Vlass-Tsalikis

Secretary
Tania Soulis

Assistant Treasurer
Tania Soulis

Assistant Secretary
Marguerite Metaxas

Officers
Kristalena Collins Anastasia Couvara
Anthony Drake Antonios Drakopoulos
Costa Kaimakamis

Sincere thanks to all members who voted and to the Election Committee for carrying out their duties with diligence and integrity.

Election Committee
Maria Lourantos-Evangelou
Nick Lourantos Gino Metaxas
James Morris George Paxinos-Kalatzis



c.1935 Young Katina Kostopoulos, standing left, together with her parents Anastasia Varvarigos and Laerte Kostopoulos and her siblings Maria, John and Chris (babe in arms). Both parents hailed from the village of Agioi Saranta.



TASIA KALLINIKOS-ARGYRIS
ΤΑΣΙΑ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΥ-ΑΡΓΥΡΗ
1944-2022



Tasia was born in Ai Yianni Ithaki in 1944, daughter of Panayioti and Xryssoula Kallinikos, and grew up with her three siblings Spiros, Eleni and Agelikoula. After spending some time studying in Athens, she returned to Ithaki and worked as a dressmaker in Stavros where she met and married her husband Thomas Argyri. Together they moved to South Africa where they raised their beloved children Paola and Peter before returning to live in Greece.

Everyone who met Tasia was taken by her kindness, love and care for all. My heart is broken. I still can't believe she is gone. Rest in peace my sweet sister. You will always be remembered.

Agelikoula Kallinikos-Raftopoulos
Sydney

EFFIE PALMOS-DETSIMAS
ΕΥΤΥΧΙΑ ΠΑΛΜΟΥ-ΔΕΤΣΙΜΑ
1930 – 2022



Effie was the daughter of George Palmos and Helen Syrmis, sister to Tessie, Betty, Peter and Denny, mother to Nick and Helen, grandmother to Nicole, Michael, Declan and Conor, great-grandmother to Maximus.

Born 1930 in Glebe, Sydney, Effie travelled to Ithaka when she was four years old, with her mother and sister Tessie. She lived in Ithaka until, after the passing of her mother when she was 15, she returned to Australia in 1949 and set down roots in Brisbane.

It is difficult to sum up a life as rich and full as Effie's without writing a book. Thankfully, she has already done that – twice - with her books *Bread Olives and Vegemite Broth* (1996) and *No Speak English* (2005). So, I have focussed on just finding a few key words that best capture everything she was.

ARTISTIC obviously came to mind first. Nona was an energetic, self-taught artist – her style reflected her unrestrained and vibrant personality. She taught me art from when I was young, and when I learnt to paint she encouraged me not just to paint what I saw, but how what I saw made me feel. A skill she taught many others at the art classes she held at her home in Victoria Point.

CREATIVE is another - she was a witty self-taught writer. Coming to learn English later in her youth never prevented Effie from expressing herself. I mentioned her books, but she also enjoyed writing short stories and poetry. I have a copy of a poem she wrote during the COVID lockdown – a little ditty called *The Salford Prison Blues*, a parody of Johnny Cash's famous song set in her retirement village. The humorous line *I'm not after treasure, but the elusive toilet roll* captured the chaos of the time perfectly, with true Effie humour.

THEATRICAL is a good one. She honed her skills at *Toastmasters*, as well as wrote and acted in a play. She also cameoed in a TV show where she played a YiaYia and she is even credited on IMDB for it. She was always the entertainer, and never failed to give an enthralling speech at milestone events. CHARISMATIC gets close to capturing her. Nona was both interesting and interested; she was funny, bold and opinionated. Anyone that met her could see her spark, and it gave her the energy to capture the attention of a room – and hold it.

But I feel the best way to describe Effie is COURAGEOUS. She lived through the war. She lost her mother when she was only young. She was a born communicator who returned to a country where she didn't speak the language but ultimately learnt it deftly. She left an unhappy marriage – a challenge for any woman, but particularly for those of her generation. She raised two children on her own, who are now strong, capable and caring adults. She fought her whole life to feel accepted within the Australian community whilst still maintaining her Greek heritage.

In pursuing a life that was her own, Effie made decisions that didn't always lead to the easiest path – but she took them and never looked back. Many people don't pursue their dreams or interests for fear of failure; and whilst I'm sure there were times throughout Effie's life that she was fearful, it never stopped her from learning new skills or living the life she wanted. She had courage to her core and her life was richer for it. When she decided she'd lived enough life for one person, her courage served her at the end. After sharing some last laughs with us in the hospital, she left. And, as always, it was on her terms.

She was an impressive woman, a force of nature, and I know I speak for all of us when I say we are proud to be her family. We love her and will miss her immensely.

Nicole Detsimas
Brisbane

PAUL RAFTOPOULOS
ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ ΡΑΥΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ
1933-2023

Apostolis (Paul) was born on 23 December 1933 in Kioni, Ithaca, the middle child of Panagioti and Zaharenia Raftopoulos (Glaros) and sibling of Yianni (John) and Gerasimos (Maki). Leaving school at age fourteen, he joined his father as a seaman in 1948 and two years later in 1950 he travelled to Australia by ship on the TSS Cyrenia where he was greeted on arrival in Melbourne by his brother John who had migrated earlier. The very day after his arrival Paul had a most memorable experience attending his first VFL game at Victoria Park. The score was Collingwood 14.14.98 to Richmond 16.11.107. The resulting win ensured that Richmond would run through the family's veins for generations to come.

He met his beloved wife Anna in 1956. They married in 1958 and two children followed, Peter in 1960 and Rena in 1962. Paul and Anna worked together in their own fruit shop businesses, firstly in Edithvale and then Mordialloc. Then in 1970, when the family moved to Mount Waverley, Paul began a new career as a driving instructor, a job he held until he retired. His children and grandchildren relied on him to teach them driving skills and to gain their licences.

Throughout his life, Paul loved fishing, gardening, sport and music. On annual holidays to Indented Heads, we have fond memories of many fishing trips on Paul's boat that he lovingly restored. He engaged in numerous sporting activities, including Greco-Roman wrestling, playing competition tennis, running the Olympic Dream 10K every year for nearly 20 years,

then eventually mastering lawn bowls at the Oakleigh Bowling Club. He excelled in his sporting activities and was a sought-after team player. Paul enjoyed playing games with his grandchildren and playing the piano for them. He loved his garden and was always reading and researching the best way to nurture and grow all kinds of vegetables and fruit. He also loved making wine and was a master at this, helping family and friends with their own winemaking.

Paul along with Anna returned only once to his beloved Ithaca, back in 1994. Dad would always tell us wonderful stories of his life on the most beautiful island imaginable. Only until we all completed that trip, did we fully understand what Dad was talking about. Ithaca was not only amazing but our home.

We will miss our Dad, Pappou and Great Grand Pappou and will always remember everything he did and sacrificed for his family. He will be forever in the hearts and memories of us all - Rena-Chris and Peter-Maria, grandchildren Jessie, Sonja, Anna, Jeni, Apostolis and great-grandson Charlie. Paul is finally at rest with his beloved Anna and perhaps on his way back home to Ithaca...



Ο **Αποστόλης (Πολ)** γεννήθηκε στο Κίονι Ιθάκης τέκνο των Παναγιώτη και Ζαχαρένιας Ραυτοπούλου, αδελφός των Ιωάννη και Γεράσιμου. Ο Αποστόλης αφού τελείωσε το σχολείο, δούλεψε ως ναυτικός με τον πατέρα του. Το 1950 ήλθε με το Κυρήνεια στην Μελβούρνη όπου τον υποδέχθηκε ο αδελφός του Γιάννης. Το 1958 παντρεύτηκε την αγαπημένη του γυναίκα Άννα και απέκτησαν δύο τέκνα τον Πίτερ και τη Ρένα. Με την Άννα δούλεψαν σε δικά τους μαγαζιά (fruit shops) ως το 1970 όπου άρχισε νέα καριέρα σαν δάσκαλος οδήγησης μέχρι που αποσύρθηκε στο τέλος των 60 χρόνων του. Του άρεσε ο αθλητισμός και συμμετείχε σε πολλές αθλητικές δραστηριότητες με επιτυχία και ήταν πολύ δημοφιλής. Με την Άννα αξιώθηκαν και ταξίδεψαν στην Ιθάκη το 1994.

Είχαν τη χαρά να καμαρώσουν πέντε εγγόνια και ο Πολ αξιώθηκε κοντά στο τέλος του να δει και δισσεγγόνι τον Charlie. Μεγάλη λύπη του προκάλεσε ο χαμός της αγαπημένης του συζύγου και η υγεία του άρχισε να χειροτερεύει, παρότι που προσπαθούσε να δείχνει δύναμη, έφυγε από τη ζωή τριγυρισμένος από την αγαπημένη του οικογένεια. Ήταν μέλος και υποστηρικτής του Συνδέσμου μας και δούλεψε αφιλοκερδώς κατά την ανέγερση του κτιρίου μας, όπου για αυτή την προσφορά του τιμήθηκε από τον Σύλλογο μας το 2001.

ΙΟΑΚΙΜ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΣ
ΙΩΑΚΙΜ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΣ
1936-2023

Ο **Ιωακείμ (Μάκης)** γεννήθηκε και μεγάλωσε στον Άγιο Ιωάννη Ιθάκης, τέκνο των Ευσταθίου και Ολυμπίας Καλλινίκου, αδελφός των Νίκου, Γεωργίου, Κώστα και Άννας. Ήλθε στην Μελβούρνη το 1955 όπου διέμενε στον πατέρα του το οπωροπωλείο στο Prahran, μέχρι το 1966 που παντρεύτηκε την Νίκη από την Καλαμάτα, Μεσσηνίας. Απέκτησαν δύο κόρες, τις Ιωάννα και Έφη και αξιώθηκαν τη χαρά πέντε εγγονιών. Ήταν μέλος του Συνδέσμου μας και με την Νίκη συμμετείχαν και υποστήριζαν τις εκδηλώσεις μας.

Μεγαλώνοντας στο όμορφο παραθαλάσσιο χωριό του, έμαθε να αγαπάει τη θάλασσα και την ελεύθερη ώρα του την περνούσε ψαρεύοντας. Ένοιωθε χαρά που έμεναν στο Brighton και μπορούσε να απολαμβάνει τη θάλασσα και να έχει εύκολη πρόσβαση με την βάρκα του. Ο Μάκης και η Νίκη για 27 χρόνια ταξίδευαν στην Ιθάκη όπου απολάμβαναν για πέντε μήνες το όμορφο Θιακό καλοκαίρι. Το 2022 και αγνοώντας τις συμβουλές των γιατρών, εκπλήρωσε την επιθυμία του για το τελευταίο ταξίδι του στο αγαπημένο του χωριό.



Son of Efstathios (Agios Ioannis) and Olympia Kallinikos (Vathi), Ioakim (Maki) Kallinikos was one of five children and grew up in Agios Ioannis together with his siblings Nick, George, Con and Anna. Maki arrived in Melbourne in 1955 and lived at his father's fruit shop on Commercial Road, Prahran until he married Nicky in 1966. He loved the sea and would spend his spare time fishing on Port Philip Bay. He had his own boat, a proud possession, and as the boats increased in size, so did the houses, or specifically the land size required to house the boat. Maki and Nicky moved house twice, from South Yarra, to Prahran and then finally to Brighton where he was very happy to be living close to the sea and could readily launch his boat and go fishing.

Maki prided himself on being a handy man; this included performing electrical work, plumbing and carpentry as well as servicing his own cars. In his late fifties, he took a year off work to construct his home in Brighton with a sole builder to support him. He was very proud of his efforts.

Over the past 27 years, apart from the two COVID years, Maki and Nicky enjoyed their annual double summer, summer in Australia and then holidaying for the entire Australian winter in Ithaca. In 2022, against doctors' orders he made his final trip to Ithaca, spending five months in Agios Ioannis, arriving home last October feeling triumphant for defying the odds. After a long illness, Maki passed away on 9 February 2023, aged 86 years, leaving behind his wife Nicky, daughters Joanne and Effie and his much-loved grandchildren, Alexandra, Annalyse, Lucas, Travis and Jasmine.

JERRY COMINOS
ΓΕΡΑΣΙΜΟΣ ΚΟΜΝΗΝΟΣ
1928 – 2023
Late of Newcastle

Ο **Γεράσιμος** γεννήθηκε στη Λεύκη Ιθάκης, τέκνο των Διονυσίου και Παρθενόπης Κομνηνού (Ταφλόρης), αδελφός των Θεοδώρου, Λουκίας, Ιωάννας και Ευσταθίου. Ήταν εγκατεστημένος στο Newcastle όπου ζούσε με την οικογένειά του, τα τέκνα του Ιωάννα (αποβ), Διονύσιο και Κατερίνη, εργαζόμενος σκληρά για να εξασφαλίσει σε όλους μια άνετη ζωή. Ήταν ανταποκριτής της εφημερίδας μας για αρκετά χρόνια (2001-2009) όπου μας ενημέρωνε για τα κοινωνικά νέα των εκεί Ιθακήσιων, αλλά και εκφράζοντας πάντα την αγάπη του για την Ιθάκη με ιστορίες και ωραία ποιήματα. Σεβαστός, αγαπητός και περιήφανος Ιθακήσιος.



We have said goodbye to the most important man in our lives - our Pappou, **Jerry Cominos**. You came from the mountains of Ithaki to Australia with nothing, in order to build a better life and give your family the best opportunities. You conducted business like it was war to give everyone the things you never had or received. We could always rely on you to be there for us, and catch us when we fell. Your name and voice is imprinted in all of our minds and memories and will remain there until we pass.

You were a father to us all; you taught us things and spent your time, effort, energy and money on us and asked absolutely nothing in return. You were a very proud and honest man and always told us to do what was right in this world and never cheat anyone, and we were all proud to call you OUR Pappou.

Growing up, you were my best friend and we have so many memories together I can't even begin to put them on paper. I remember whenever I saw a plane fly over us you would ask me *where is the plane going*, and I would reply, *Lefki Ithaka of course*, not knowing there was no airport there.

Like the poem goes, *Keep Ithaca always in your mind, arriving there is what your destined for*. Now your job here is done and we, your family have agreed you have received the highest honour of service. You can rest in peace and go back to Ithaca. I'm sure your dog Ramon is waiting to be reunited with you, and you can go back up on the mountains together..... Yiasou Pappou.

Nick Nicolas

**CATHERINE COUVALIAS
ΑΙΚΑΤΕΡΙΝΗ ΚΟΥΒΑΛΙΑ
1931-2023**

Η Κατερίνη γεννήθηκε στο Βαθύ Ιθάκης, θυγατέρα των Αλεξάνδρου και Σοφίας Φερεντίνου, αδελφή της Δώρας και των Ανθούλας και Πλάτωνος (αποβ). Εκεί μεγάλωσε και έζησε μια ωραία ζωή, έχοντας πολλές φίλιες καθώς ήταν μια πολύ όμορφη κοπέλα και πολύφερνη νύφη. Μετά τους καταστροφικούς σεισμούς του 1953, συνάντησε τον μέλλοντα σύζυγό της Παναγιώτη από την Λεύκη, οποίος είχε μεταναστεύσει στην Αυστραλία και είχε επισκεφτεί την Ιθάκη. Μετά τρία χρόνια δέχθηκε την προτασή του για γάμο και ήλθε στην Μελβούρνη το 1956 όπου αρραβωνιάστηκαν και το 1957 παντρεύτηκαν. Απόκτησαν τέσσερα τέκνα, την Αναστασία, Χαράλαμπο, Νίκο και Αλέκο.

Όταν ήταν 36 χρόνων, η ζωή της άλλαξε για πάντα, με τον θάνατο του συζύγου της στις 6 Ιανουαρίου 1968, όπου έμεινε με την τεράστια ευθύνη να αναθρέψει τέσσερα παιδιά ηλικίας από δέκα ετών μέχρι εννέα μηνών.

Η Κατερίνη ήταν μια δυνατή, θαρραλέα γυναίκα, αφοσιωμένη σύζυγος, μητέρα και γιαγιά, που δούλευε ακούραστα για να αναθρέψει τα παιδιά της και αργότερα τα εγγόνια της που λάτρευε. Μέλος και υποστηρίκτρια του Συνδέσμου μας, πάντα στη παρέα του Μπίγκο θα την θυμούνται με πολύ αγάπη. Ήταν σεβαστή και έτρεφε εκτιμήσεως όλων, μια εξαιρετική, μεγάλη κυρία.

Catherine was born in Vathy, Ithaca, Greece on the 20th August 1931. She led an idyllic life in Ithaca. She had many friends and was an exceptionally beautiful young woman who was pursued by many suitors. Soon after the catastrophic earthquake which occurred in Ithaca in 1953, she met her future husband Peter who was born in Lefki, Ithaca but had migrated to Melbourne, Australia many years earlier. He was visiting Ithaca at the time and he instantly became captivated and besotted with Catherine and after a three-year, long-distance courtship she accepted his marriage proposal.

She arrived in Melbourne during the 1956 Olympics and they became officially engaged. They married in Melbourne on the 18th of August 1957. They initially resided in South Melbourne and in 1958 their first child Anastasia was born, two more children followed, Robert and Nick, in 1962 they moved to Princes Hill, a fourth child Alec was born in 1967. The course of her life changed forever at the age of 36, when her husband Peter passed away on 6 January 1968 and she was faced with the daunting task of now being a single mother with four children all under the age of 10 with Alec the youngest only 9 months old.

Catherine was a woman of wisdom and courage, she worked tirelessly to nurture and support her children and later her grandchildren, who she absolutely adored. She was a strong selfless woman who sacrificed a lot and did everything possible to keep her children and grandchildren safe and secure after her husband passed away and she did this all on her own without any support. Catherine never asked for anything, she just got the job done She was the glue that kept our family together.

Catherine was a beautiful, dignified, strong woman and a true lady in every sense of the word We were privileged and honoured to call her our mother. We miss her terribly and it is difficult to think of a world without her. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and a genuine friend and confidante to many. She was very highly regarded and respected. Catherine was a very kind and forgiving person and would go out of her way to help others in any way she could and never expected anything in return. She was an amazing woman, easy to talk to, trustworthy and thoughtful and never judged other people harshly or unfairly. She was welcoming and accommodating, her door was always open. Her passing on 6 April 2023 leaves a void in so many lives but her memory will live on forever.

**APOSTOLIS (PAUL) KONTOSSIS
ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ ΚΟΝΤΟΣΗΣ
1933 – 2022**

Ο **Αποστόλης Κοντόσης** γεννήθηκε στις 28 Φεβρουαρίου 1933, στο όμορφο παραθαλάσσιο χωριό της Παλαίρου Αιτωλοακαρνανίας. Από μικρός έζησε δίπλα στη θάλασσα με τους γονείς του Σταύρο Κοντόση και Ελένη Λεκατσά (από το Λαχό Ιθάκης) και ήταν ο μικρότερος αδερφός του Δημήτρη, Γεωργίας και Λάμπρου. Μετά τον πόλεμο, ο Αποστόλης αποφάσισε να μεταναστεύσει στην Αυστραλία. Ταξίδεψε με το πλοίο Neptunia, φτάνοντας στο Port Melbourne στις 26 Ιουλίου 1953, όπου έζησε

με τον θείο του Νίκο και τη θεία του Ειρήνη Λεκατσά και την οικογένειά τους. Είχε όμορφες αναμνήσεις από την υποστήριξή τους και τη συμπόνια τους. Εκεί γνώρισε και παντρεύτηκε τη Λευκοθέα Δημητρίου, αποκτώντας τρία παιδιά, την Ελένη, τη Μαίρη και το Σταύρο. Είχε τη τύχη αργότερα και αξιώθηκε να δει έξι εγγόνια.

Άνθρωπος προοδευτικός και εργατικός, δούλεψε σκληρά σε εργοστάσια, μαγαζιά, και τελικά με τη δική του επιχείρηση ταξί. Φώτιζε κάθε δωμάτιο με το μεταδοτικό του πνεύμα, έδινε μεγάλη αγάπη και δεν περίμενε τίποτα σε αντάλλαγμα. Πάντα κοινωνικός, επιτέλεσε και πρόεδρος του *Φιλανθρωπικού Συλλόγου Παλαίρου*. Τα τελευταία χρόνια έβλεπε τους συγχωριανούς του καθημερινά στο αγαπημένο του καφενείο - Chicken Bar North Balwyn Village.

Ο Αποστόλης απεβίωσε στις 3 Νοέμβρη 2022 στη Μελβούρνη. Θα μας λείπει πραγματικά να έχουμε κοντά μας τον αξιόλογο σύζυγο, πατέρα, παππού, αδερφο, θείο και φίλο στη ζωή μας. Θα ζει πάντα στις καρδιές και τις αναμνήσεις μας. Η κληρονομιά του θα συνεχιστεί από την υπέροχη οικογένεια που έχει δημιουργήσει.



Apostolis (Paul) Kontossis believed in hard work, getting things done and above all else, family. He lived his life for those he loved and drew his strength and courage from his family. Paul used his forward thinking and caring nature to inspire others and set them on a path to independence and success, the way he did for himself, and for this he is truly loved by so many people.

Paul was born on 28 February 1933, in the beautiful seaside village of *Paleros*, Greece. His father, Stavros Kontossis was from *Paleros* and his mother Eleni Lekatsas was from the village of *Lahos*, on the picturesque island of Ithaca.

Paul lived his childhood by the Ionian Sea with his parents, his older sister Georgia and older brothers Lambros and Dimitri. Like many, they endured the hardships of the Great Depression and World War II, but always remained a strong and connected family. Paul also spent memorable times in Ithaca with his family, which he felt connected to and kept him safe during the war. As a young boy, Paul spent most of his time working on his father's cargo vessel with his brothers, so it is not surprising that he developed a love for the sea and a sense of adventure to feed his free spirit.

After the war, Paul decided to migrate to Australia. Clearly, as was the case for many migrants, the move to Australia was not self-serving. It was a way to help improve the quality of life for loved ones left behind. On 26 July 1953, the day of his Patron Saint Agia Paraskevi, Paul arrived at Port Melbourne on the ship Neptunia. He lived with his Uncle Nick and Aunt Irene Lekatsas (Lucas) and their family. He had fond memories of their support and compassion, particularly Irene who cared for Paul like her own son and helped him navigate the challenges of a new country.

For Paul, family was still everything. The hard work and dedication that followed those

years was motivated by a deep desire to reunite with his family. He worked two jobs to repay the debts associated with making his life-changing voyage to Australia. His first job was at General Motors Holden, and he also worked at his Uncle Arthur's (Kavadis) café in the city after hours. This also enabled him to bring his older brother out to Australia (making South Melbourne their home), and a year later his beloved mother Eleni, once again finding something he really longed for, family, connection and love. It was a wonderful reunion!

In 1958, Paul met the young Lefcothea who stole his heart. They were married on 7th February 1959, for 64 wonderful years. Throughout their life as a couple, they worked hard, to buy their own home and build a secure and prosperous future. He also invited many newly-arrived migrants from his village to live in their home, helping them to find work and mentoring them to establish their life in Australia. In later years, as President of the *Philanthropic Society of Paleros*, he also helped them build relationships and maintain social connections.

Paul adored his three children Helen, Mary and Steven and each inspired a major turning point in his life. When his first daughter Helen was born, he took a leap of faith and started his own taxi business and other businesses including running his own fruit shop and a short career as a real estate agent. With the birth of Mary, he surprised Lefcothea by purchasing their family home in Kew. After Steven's arrival, Paul fulfilled a dream in 1974, travelling with his family to the island of Corfu for Steven's christening at *Saint Spiridon*.

The family expanded with his children marrying, and Paul felt so blessed when he welcomed Nick, Louis and Marianne into the family. Paul's heart always felt so full when he was with his beloved grandchildren, Evonne, Theana, Evan, Paula, Ellen and Tia. He was so proud of their educational achievements and the way they continued to uphold the family values he instilled in them. Paul was constantly surrounded by his grandchildren who loved hearing his stories, experiences and invaluable advice on life.

Paul travelled to his beloved Paleros and Ithaca numerous times. He embarked on many other travel adventures including Disneyland Paris, Switzerland, Monte Carlo and Jerusalem. In retirement, he also developed new hobbies, gazing at stars through his telescope, meeting his friends daily at the North Balwyn Village Chicken Bar, and even enrolling himself in a picture-framing course at Swinburne.

Although his health declined in recent years, Paul continued to display great strength, courage and resilience, with his rock Lefcothea by his side, always caring for him and helping fight through setbacks. He would never complain or worry his family, always feeling grateful for what he had.

Paul passed away on 3 November 2022, surrounded by his loving family. He was a wonderful and devoted husband, father and grandfather who loved his family and all his friends. He was the light in every room with an infectious spirit, giving so much love and expecting nothing in return. He was positive, endearing and always avoided conflict, seeing the best in people with an open heart and forgiveness. We will truly miss having this remarkable person in our lives. He will always live on in our hearts and memories. His legacy will be carried on by the wonderful family he has created.

ANASTASIA ARVANITIS
ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΔΡΑΚΟΥΛΗ ΑΡΒΑΝΙΤΗ
1941- 2023

Η **Αναστασία** γεννήθηκε στην Μελβούρνη, κόρη των Νικολάου Δρακούλη και Αδαμαντίνης Βαρβαρήγου, και αδελφή των Παναγιώτη, Γεωργίου, Ανδρέα και Φιλίππου. Παντρεύτηκε τον Φώτη Αρβανίτη και από τα χρόνια του 60 ζούσαν στην Αθήνα με τα τέσσερα παιδιά τους. Η Αναστασία πάντα διατηρούσε τους δεσμούς της με την Αυστραλία, όπου πολλές φορές επισκέφτηκε τα αδέρφια της και συγγενείς και ευχαριστιόταν κάθε στιγμή σε αυτά τα ταξίδια της. Επίσης επισκεπτόταν πολλές φορές την Ιθάκη και ήταν ωραίες οι ώρες που έζησε με τις αγαπημένες ξαδέλφες της. Ήταν πολύ αγαπητή, ένας υπέροχος άνθρωπος που έδινε την αγάπη και τη φιλία της και η παρέα της ήταν ευχάριστη για όλους. Ήταν εξαιρετική σύζυγος και μητέρα και υπερήφανη γιαγιά. Όσοι την γνώρισαν θα την θυμούνται πάντα με πολύ αγάπη και πάντα θα έχουν στη μνήμη και στη καρδιά τις πιο όμορφες αναμνήσεις.



Anastasia (Darse, Tassie, Anna, Tasitsa) Arvanitis, was loved by many people because of her wonderful personality, her honest character, her sense of humour and the deep love she had for others. She was born in Melbourne in 1941, the daughter of Nick and Adamantini Dracoulis and sister of Peter, George, Andrew and Philip. She was very close to her family and spent wonderful moments with her brothers growing up and had many stories to tell about them having fun as youngsters. They remained very close, even after she moved to Greece with her husband Fotis and their two children Eva and Nikos.

In Greece, they created a wonderful life for their children, and had two more, Alexis and Adamantini. She made good friends and had a beautiful life but also missed her family and friends back home in Melbourne. She frequently travelled back to Australia to see her brothers and her dear cousin Loula Coutsouvelis and family with whom she was very close, staying with Loula in Melbourne and also in Ithaki when Loula was on holidays there. Her beloved brother George and his wife Betty visited her many times in Greece before his unfortunate passing in 2014. Her adored brother Peter and his wife Jan also visited her many times and enjoyed spending time together with her and her children in recent years, watching their favourite detective shows, enjoying cups of coffee and each other's company. They remained very close in their everyday lives, speaking on the phone and regularly texting each other.

When Tassie was around, the room was filled with positive energy and she had the ability to transfer this to others, even though she had gone through many difficult experiences, including losing her daughter Eva who passed away at a young age. Her husband Fotis also passed away in 2016. She had immense wisdom and always knew the right thing to say to someone, from an honest place in her heart. She understood and accepted people for who they were, and wanted her loved ones and everyone else to be happy on their own terms. She would never *beat around the bush* either; she was always honest and said what she thought. Life around her was full of energy, laughter and love. She would often say, "The most important and momentous things in life, are actually the little things that make you happy every day". Anyone who had the good fortune to be around her, knows that she could never be forgotten. We will miss her dearly, but she lives in our hearts and minds every single day.

Adamantini, Alexis & Nikos (Athens)

DONATIONS IN MEMORY
ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΕΙΣ ΜΝΗΜΗ

\$100 Agelikoula Raftopoulos (Sydney) in memory of beloved sister **Tasia Argyris**

\$20 Panos Lekatsas in memory of **Christos Lourantos**

\$50 Spyridoula Coutsouvelis in memory of much-loved cousin **Anastasia Arvaniti**

\$400 Λευκοθέα Κοντόση και οικογένεια εις μνήμη αγαπημένου συζύγου, πατέρα και παππού **Αποστόλη Κοντόση**

\$500 Μαρϊάνθη Δρακοπούλου Τσιντήλα και οικογένεια (Αθήνα) εις μνήμη αγαπημένης θείας **Θέλμας Κουβαλιά**

Donations received in memory of **Ioakim (Maki) Kallinicos**:

\$100 Nicky Kallinicos & family in memory of beloved husband, father and grandfather

\$50 Nina Black

\$50 Nick & Effie Galatis

\$20 Freda Razos & family

\$20 Anthony & Florence Drakopoulos

Donations received in memory of **Vasiliki Alexion**:

\$50 Tasia Dellas in memory of dear cousin

\$50 Theodora & Nick Pappas & family

\$50 Loula & Con Vlass

Donations received in memory of **Paul and Anna Raftopoulos**:

\$50 Tasia Dellas

\$50 Kristalena Collins, Andriana Zervoulis

Donations received in memory of **Stathis Akakios**, passed away in Adelaide in 2022

\$50 Georgia Akakios (Adelaide) in memory of beloved husband, father and grandfather

\$50 Melita Vlassopoulos

\$50 Tasia Couvara

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ

Ευχαριστούμε θερμά όλους για την αμέριστη συμπαράσταση σας κατά τον θάνατο του πολυαγαπημένου μας πατέρα και παππού

Χρήστου Λουράντου.

Ιδιαίτερες ευχαριστίες σε όσους προσέφεραν εις μνήμη στον Οργανισμό Φροντίδα και τον Σύνδεσμο Ιθακησίων.
Νίκος Μαρία και οικογένειες



Δοξολογία για την Ένωση της Επτανήσου με την Ελλάδα από τον Οργανισμό Ιονίων Νήσων, στις 21 Μαΐου 2023 στον Ιερό Ναό Μεθοδίου και Κυρίλλου. Church service celebrating the anniversary of the unification of the Eptanesian Islands with Greece (1864)

A tribute to NANA MOUSKOURI by the Solomos Society in Brisbane

Voula Syrmis Castan

On Wednesday 19th April 2023 at the Greek Club in Brisbane, **Katerini Manolatos** and **Mel Lathouras** presented the Nana Mouskouri story, *The Woman Behind the Voice*, for the Solomos Society, a Greek Australian Cultural Society. They talked about Nana Mouskouri's music, singing a number of well know songs, as well as sharing their own experiences growing up Greek in Australia with Nana's music. Performing on the night was the Greek choir, **Ellinkes Fones**, established in Brisbane in 2021 and led by Greek-born conductor and musical director, **Christina Xydi-Lignou** and producer and pianist **George Lignos**.



Katerini was introduced to Nana's music by her Ithacan-born father **John Manolatos**, a talented singer, and has been compared with Nana Mouskouri in the way she connects with her audience, using her music to bring people together. Katerini has a versatile voice, is conservatorium trained and can move effortlessly between opera, classical, music theatre, contemporary jazz, and world music styles. Mel Lathouras is a multi-talented jazz singer renowned for her soulful voice, quirky stage banter and smooth delivery, and her efforts to promote female identifying singers of jazz, blues, and soul.

Katerini and Mel have begun a new endeavour out of their passion for all things Greek. They have created a production company, *Girl from Greece*, a place where all can celebrate family, Greek culture and the power of music. Pictured above are Katerini (right) and Mel (left) together with Voula Castan.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DONORS

Supporting the purchase of a Portable Ultrasound for the Northern Ithaki Medical Centre in Stavros

ΑΝΑΓΝΩΡΙΣΗ ΔΩΡΗΤΩΝ

Υποστήριξη της αγοράς Φορητού Υπέρηχου για το Κέντρο Υγείας Σταυρού

- AKAKIOS Georgia (Adelaide)
- ARGYROPOULOS Debbie
- AYFANTIS Tom
- BARHAM Christina
- BEATTIE Dorothy
- BINOS Photini
- BLACK Dennis & Maria
- BLACK Laura
- BLACK Nina
- BLACK Olga
- CALLIS Helen & Tina
- COLLINS Eula
- COLLINS George, Kristalena & Family
- COUSOUVELIS Loula & George
- COUVARA Tasia
- CURTIS Vernon
- DEFTEROS Peter & Anna MIRIKLIS
- DELLAS Tasia
- DELLAS Tina
- DOIG Joy
- DRAKOPOULOS Anthony & Florence
- DRAKOPOULOS Toula
- EVANS Euanna Varigos
- FITOPOULOS Olga
- FLOCAS Olive
- FLORIAS Soula
- GALATIS Effie
- GALATIS Kathryn & Family
- GEORGIADIS Nick & Eva
- GOUNARI Effie
- HALPIN Marion & Mike Halpin
- KAEMMERER Kurt
- KALLINICOS Niki
- KANDILIOTIS Alex
- KANDILIOTIS Danae
- KANDILIOTIS Vivienne
- KAPOTIS Mandy
- KARAMETOS Helen
- KARAMPELA Anna
- KATIFORIS Nikos
- KATOPODIS Athena
- KATSAMAS Dennis & Effie
- KAVADIS Theodora
- KAVOURIS Maria
- KITSAKIS Maria
- KYRITSIS John & Anne
- KOSTOPOULOS Fotoula
- KOSTOS Sophia
- LEWIS Cate
- LOURANTOS Carol
- LOURANTOS Maria
- LUCAS Freda
- LUCAS Iris
- McTAGGART Phil & Merin

- MEGALOGENIS Ioakim, Marina, Anna-Maria
- MERCOULIA Pota
- MERCOULIA Sofie
- MILLS Nina, Eva & Christi
- MONTAGUE Lisa
- MORAITIS Sophia in memory Costa Moraitis
- NATSOUILIAS Penny
- PAIZES Sophia & Efthimios
- PAIZES Dr Georgia
- PAIZES Toula
- PAPACOSTAS Loula
- PAPADOPOULOS Melody & George
- PAPPAS Theodora
- PAXINOS Peter
- PHILIPATOS Andrew & Antoinette
- PSAROS Toni
- RAFTOPOULOS Chrissa, Dennis & Family
- RAFTOPOULOS Kay & Andrew
- RAFTOPOULOS Marigoula
- RAFTOPOULOS Nina
- RAFTOPOULOS Peter & Maria OKOUMOUSSIS & Family in memory of Paul Raftopoulos
- RAFTOPOULOS Rena
- RAZOS Freda
- RUBENSTEIN Annette
- SIKIOTIS Laki (New Zealand)
- SKIOTIS Fionn & Lisa HORLER
- SKIOTIS Pano
- SLAPE Judy & Ben
- SLAPE Paul & Linda Rubenstein
- SMIRNEOS Georgia
- SOULIS Tania
- SOUPIONAS De-arn & Aleko
- THEODORE Joanna
- TSALIKIS Chris & Diana Cailles
- TSALIKIS Eleni
- TSALIKIS John & Eugenia Vlass
- TSALIKIS Toni
- VARIGOS Nick & Rena
- VARIGOS Rita
- VLISS Anna
- VLISS Helen
- VLISS Loula
- VLISSOPOULOS Georgia & Ron
- VLISSOPOULOS Kathy
- VLISSOPOULOS Maria & Laki
- VLISSOPOULOS-GURR Ari
- VLISSOPOULOS-GURR Zoe
- XENOS Tasitsa & Anna PICA
- XIPOLITOS Vicky
- YANGOULLIS Achilleas
- ZERVOULIS Andriana