



ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ

49th YEAR

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Ithacan Philanthropic Society

ZOOM WITH THE MAYOR OF ITHACA

Ηλεκτρονική Παρουσία του Δημάρχου Ιθάκης, κ. Διονύσιο Στανίτσα, όπου ευχαρίστησε τον Συνδεσμό μας για την συνεχή υποστήριξη του στην Ιθάκη.



A special ZOOM hook up with Ithaki's mayor Mr Dionysios Stanitsas was organised on the day of the VCE Awards Presentation on 3 April 2022. Mr Stanitsas spoke of the bond between the IPS and the island and his desire to strengthen our relationship. He thanked the IPS and the diaspora Ithacan community for the support they have provided to the island over the years.

HELLENIC RSL'S 25 MARCH CELEBRATION

Εορτασμός 25 Μαρτίου - Κατάθεση στεφάνου του Συνδέσμου εις μνήμη των πεσόντων του 1821



President **Spyridoula Digaletou Coutsouvelis** and Vice President **Anthony Drakopoulos** laying a wreath on behalf of the Society at the Australian Hellenic Memorial in the Domain Parklands Melbourne.

PROF GEORGE PAXINOS LECTURE

Διάλεξη στην Αίθουσά μας από τον προφέσορ Γιώργο Παξινό με θέμα: **Εγκέφαλος και Μυαλό: Ποιά είναι η Μαριονέτα και ποιός ο Παίκτης**



At the Clubrooms on 29 May 2022, Prof George Paxinos presented a thought-provoking lecture titled **Brain and Mind: Who is the Puppet and Who is the Puppeteer**, promoting his recently published novel, **A River Divided**. He is pictured above with his niece Debbie Argyropoulos who introduced the afternoon's event.

ELVIS EXHIBITION DIRECT FROM GRACELAND USA

On a cold wintry July Sunday, members travelled to Bendigo, 132 km from Melbourne, to view the Elvis exhibition. The exhibition never before staged anywhere else in the world outside Graceland, charted Elvis' personal and professional life with photos, video and film clips, and artefacts including his amazing costumes. All agreed it was well worth the trip - a great exhibition and a fun day where we reminisced the fabulous music and times of the 50s, 60s and 70s. Photo from left to right Kathy Karantgis-Varigos, Kristalena Collins, Anna Vlass, Tasia Dellas, Andriana Zervoulis, Iris Lucas and Nicky Alexopoulos.

ΚΑΛΟΚΑΙΡΙ 2022 ΣΤΗΝ ΟΜΟΡΦΗ ΙΘΑΚΗ SUMMER 2022 IN BEAUTIFUL ITHACA

Μετά δύο χρόνια περιορισμών πάλι η επιστροφή στο αγαπημένο μας νησί!
Returning to our beloved island after two years of restrictions!

Spyridoula Digaletou Coutsouvelis reports

Το κομμάτι που έλλειπε από τη ζωή μας δύο χρόνια, συμπληρώθηκε την ώρα που το φερμπότ πλησίαζε στον Πίσω Αετό. Το Θιάκι πάντα όμορφο, πάντα μας δέχεται με ανοιχτή την αγκαλιά.

Παρ' ότι που ακόμη πλανιέται γύρω μας ο φόβος του Covid, έστω και χωρίς αγκαλιές και φιλιά, είναι υπέροχο το συναίσθημα να συναντηθούμε πάλι με τα αγαπημένα μας πρόσωπα. Να μιλήσουμε από κοντά χωρίς το χώρισμα μιας οθόνης. Όπως πάντα άρχισε πάλι να έρχεται αρκετός κόσμος για διακοπές, και ιδιαίτερα οι Θιακοί της διασποράς. Τα χωριά πάλι φωτίστηκαν και γέμισαν ζωή. Το Βαθύ είναι ένα πανόραμα με το λιμάνι γεμάτο κότερα, όπως βέβαια και οι Φρίκες, Κίονι, Πόλη, Αφάλες και σε κάθε παραλία. Τα εστιατόρια και οι καφετέριες αρχίζουν ένα επιτυχημένο καλοκαίρι.

Το χτύπημα του Ιάνου το 2020 δεν φαίνεται ότι πέρασε από την Ιθάκη και με μεγάλη ικανοποίηση είδα αποκαταστημένα και πολύ ωραία φτειασμένα διάφορα σημεία που είχαν υποστεί ζημιές και που βοηθήσαμε και συμβάλλαμε και εμείς οι Ιθακήσιοι της Αυστραλίας και της Διασποράς. Οι σκάλες στις Αφάλες και Κουρβούλια, η παραλία στις Φρίκες, το πλακόστρωτο στο Κίονι, στο Σταυρό το Κιόσκι με τη μακέτα του παλατιού του Οδυσσέα, οι σκεπές του Μουσείου Θάλασσας και εκεί που στεγάζεται η έκθεση Δημήτρη Παίζη Δανιά, η εκκλησούλα στο Λαζαρέτο. Ένοιωσα μεγάλη χαρά που συμβάλλαμε έστω και στο ελάχιστο.

Ο καιρός ζεστός τέλειος για κολύμπι. Υπάρχει όμως μια δυσκολία, σε μερικές παραλίες υπάρχουν τσούχτρες! Προσέχουμε, κολυπάμε στις ασφαλείς θάλασσες και όταν βρισκόμαστε στα καταγάλανα νερά, όλες οι στενοχώριες εξαφανίζονται και ζωντανεύουν οι ελπίδες πως όλα θα πάνε καλά και θα εξαφανισθούν και ο κωρονοϊός και οι τσούχτρες

Κατά τη διάρκεια του καλοκαιριού γίνονται στο νησί πολλές εκδηλώσεις, όπως κονσέρτα μουσικής και τραγουδιού, ομιλίες, παρουσιάσεις, παραδοσιακοί χοροί, θέατρα κ.λπ στα οποία θα αναφερθούμε στην επόμενη εφημερίδα μας. Εύχομαι σε όλους που ταξιδεύουν

στο Θιάκι μας χαρούμενες και ασφαλείς διακοπές.

The void which we have felt in our lives for the past two years swiftly vanishes as the ferryboat approaches *Piso Aetos*. *Thiaki* always beautiful, always welcomes us with open arms.

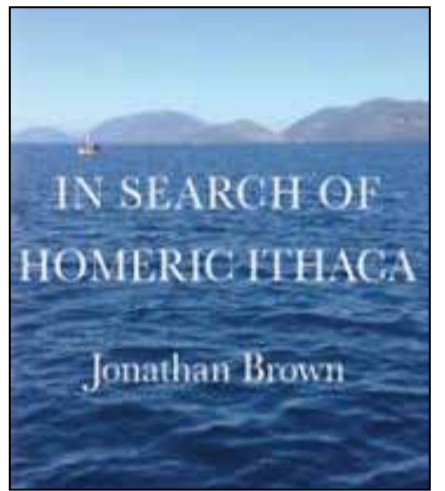
Despite Covid lingering, and despite no hugs and kisses, it is a wonderful feeling to see people dear to us once more and to be able to talk face to face rather than via a screen. Visitors have started arriving for holidays, in particular diaspora Ithacans. The villages are once again lit up and filled with life; *Vathy* is a panorama with the harbour full of yachts, as is *Frikes*, *Kioni*, *Poli*, *Afales* and every beach; and the restaurants and cafes have re-opened for a busy summer season.

On looking around, one would not know the havoc inflicted on the island by the 2020 Janus medicane. It is wonderful to see the restoration work carried out at various sites that suffered damage and which we, Ithacans and friends of Ithaca from Australia and the diaspora, contributed to. Works included the stairs to *Afales* and *Kourvoulia* beaches, the *Frikes* seafront, *Kioni's* paved waterfront thoroughfare, *Stavros'* kiosk housing the model of Odysseus palace, the church on *Lazaretto*, and the rooves of the *Thalassa* Museum and of the building housing the *Dimitris Paizi Dania* exhibition. I felt enormous joy that we were able to contribute even in the smallest way.

The weather is perfect for swimming, however, there is a problem with jellyfish at some of the beaches! People are cautious, choosing to swim at safer beaches, but once immersed in the deep blue waters, any concerns dissipate, generating hope that all will be fine and that corona virus as well as the jellyfish will disappear...

During the summer months the island stages many cultural events, including music recitals and concerts, lectures, traditional dance performances and theatre productions, which I will report on in our next edition. To those travelling to our beloved *Thiaki*, my best wishes for a happy and safe holiday.

In Search of Homeric Ithaca



On Sunday 19 June members and guests enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Jonathan Brown, former diplomat and international lawyer and author of *In Search of Homeric Ithaca* (pictured below with Peter Raftopoulos, IHS President).

Brown's presentation, based on his book, examined the traditional view that Homer's Ithaca is the modern-day island of Ithaki, as well as referencing other theories that have placed it elsewhere. Through his analytical approach informed by wide research into historical, literary and archaeological sources, and above all his own exploration of Ithaki, he was able to demonstrate for the first time, several Ithacan landmarks that conform closely to the words and action of the *Odyssey*.



The book contains a detailed analysis of the *Odyssey*, drawing on ancient and modern scholarly texts, reproduces antique and contemporary maps, and satellite imagery, and quotes from the accounts of earlier travellers and topographers.

In his review of the book (*Odyssey* Issue 3-2020) George Paxinos, author of *Passage to Ithaca* and *The Ithacans*, recommends that "...if you only ever read one serious work on the subject this must be it. ... Seeing Ithaki through Brown's astute vision and reasoned argument, we come away with an enhanced understanding of the island that few of us know as well as the author."

The Ithacan Historical Society highly recommends *In Search of Homeric Ithaca* to all lovers of Homer and Ithaki alike.

See Page 4 for purchase details.



Social News



On 5th January 2022 the Zervas and Collins families welcomed into the world a beautiful baby girl, **Anastasia Zervas**, daughter to Emilia and Christopher. Emilia is the daughter of George and Kristalena Collins and the granddaughter of Andriana and the late George Zervoulis and the late Yiannko and Milia Kallinikos. Christopher is the son of Bill and Regina Zervas. Congratulations to the parents, grandparents and great grandparents.



Eleni Tsalikis and James Prassinos welcomed their precious firstborn, **Remi John Prassinos** on 29 January 2022, bringing much joy and happiness to both extended families including grandparents John and Eugenia Tsalikis and Chrisoula Prassinos and the late Nicholas Prassinos, as well as great-grandmother Helen Vlass.



Zara Sarantis-Coote was born 29 January 2022 to Jana Sarantis and Dominic Coote, celebrated and welcomed by grandparents George Sarantis and Effie Mantzaris, a gift for Effie on her birthday! Dominic's parents Diane and Alan were happy to receive the news at home in the UK. Zara is the great-granddaughter of the late Stephen and Gladys (Zaharati) Mantzaris (nee Black) and the great-great-granddaughter of the late Elpinike (Zaverdinou) and John Black (Mavrokefalos - Limouri). A sister for Zoey. Another cousin for Kip. Zara was named after her great-grandmother Zaharati who always wished she was Zara and not Gladys!

Visitors from Adelaide



It was a pleasure to see members and retired doctors **Fred and Heather Carrangis** at the clubrooms for the AGM and the Prof George Paxinos. lecture which coincided with their trip to Melbourne to visit family and the *Open Horizons: Ancient Greek Journeys and Connections* exhibition at the Melbourne Museum.



Jonathan and Rebecca Karantgis would like to introduce their newest daughter, **Anastasia Francesca Karantgis**, born four weeks early while away on holiday, on 2nd April 2022 at 2:38am, weighing 2.71kg. She is a happy and contented baby. Jonathan, Rebecca and sister Penelope, along with proud grandparents Dennis and Francesca Karantgis and Peter and Elba Mingon, are overjoyed to have her in their lives.



On Saturday 26th March 2022, at the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Panagia Kamariani in Red Hill, Deanna and Hector christened their daughter **Alexia**. John Raftopoulos, Alexia's uncle, was the godfather. Drinks and canapes followed at the *Alatonero Restaurant* in McCrae. A beautiful afternoon and a good time was had by all. Alexia is the granddaughter of Chrissa and Dennis Raftopoulos (Patakia) and the great-granddaughter of the late Toula and Jim Kandiliotis (Liarokapi). Alexia is also the granddaughter of Nikki and Sifi Psihountakis.

WEDDINGS

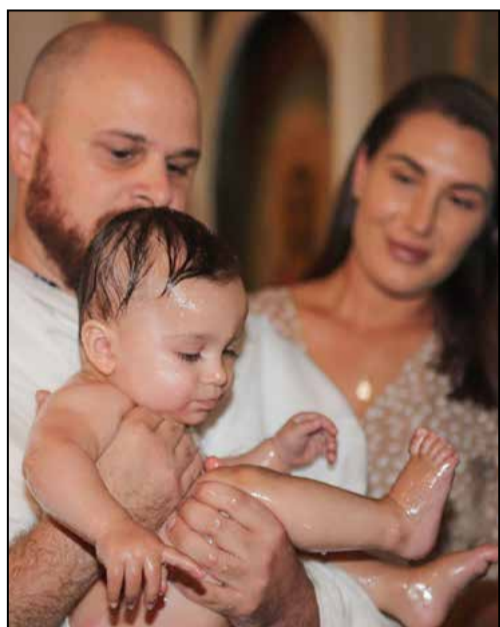


The 5th of June marked the special occasion of the wedding of **Christopher Tsalikis** and **Jana Volfson** at *Merrimu Receptions*. The couple married under the Chuppah with stefana exchanged by Christopher's nuno Nick Laurantos. The celebrant, Mike Larkan, conducted the service paying homage to both religions. The 170 guests enjoyed a most memorable night filled with music, dance, entertaining speeches and fine food. Christopher is the son of Toni and Jim Tsalikis and the grandson of Freda Razos and the late Louis Razos. We wish the couple a wonderful future filled with health and happiness. Na zisete, Mazel Tov.



On the 8 January 2022, **Elena Tsalikis** and **Andrew Karabatsos** were married at *Lindenderry Winery*, Red Hill. The couple exchanged their vows surrounded by their closest family and friends and celebrations continued long into the evening. Elena and Andrew were fortunate to be able to enjoy a honeymoon on the Gold Coast and Byron Bay. A second honeymoon in Europe in July included a week's stay in Ithaki. Elena is the daughter of Toni and Jim Tsalikis and the granddaughter of Freda Razos and the late Louis Razos. Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful future.

CHRISTENINGS



Evelyn Morraitis and Matthew Vider are proud to announce that on Saturday 26 February, their son **Jackson Jim Vider** was welcomed into the house of God through the holy sacrament of baptism at the Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church. Fellow Ithacan and Evelyn's cousin, Louisa Hemsley, took on the role of godmother, and Matthew's long-life friend, Andrew Charalambous, the role of godfather. Two better people could not have been chosen to take on such a special responsibility.

During the christening, Jackson was a complete angel and did not want to get out of the baptismal font! Sending our gratitude to Father Vanikiotis for embarking on the journey with us and for being so very patient. The ceremony coincided with Jackson's first birthday, so the family had much to celebrate and lots of OPAs to be had afterwards at Ithaca House!

Evelyn and Matthew would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this event a success, in particular Eugenia and Anna for their help at Ithaca House and the godparents. Thank you to everyone who joined us on the day to celebrate the occasions and for showering Jackson with so much love.



On 9 December 2021 the marriage of **Stephanie Kalaidis** and **Mark Collins** took place at St Anargiri Greek Orthodox Church in Oakleigh, followed by a celebration at Metropolis Events, Southbank with 150 guests. Stephanie is the daughter of James and Sophia Kalaidis and Mark the second son of Peter and the late Donna Collins, and the grandson of Eula and the late Jack Collins. Our warmest congratulations to the happy couple.

DONATIONS TO ODYSSEUS ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΓΙΑ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ

- \$35 Irene Foradoulas
- \$50 Nina Alefanti (Canada)
- \$100 Costas Morfessis (Canada)
- \$250 ANONYMOUS (WA)
- \$250 ANONYMOUS (WA)

ITHACAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATION

- \$50 Vera Black (QLD)

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Editorial discretion may be applied

Post: PO BOX 311
Balwyn North VIC 3104
or email: news@ithaca.org.au

Congratulations to our VCE/VCAL Graduates

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

On 3 April 2022 six successful VCE graduates were presented with the Society's Year 12 awards. Their smiles in the photographs belie the difficult circumstance of their final two years of secondary education which was mostly spent in lockdown and learning online. They should be very proud of their achievements as we are of them.



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Byron Dellas, with an ATAR of 96.35 was the successful applicant of the \$1500 *Panoyiannis Raftopoulos Award*, co-sponsored by **Dr Spearos Raftopoulos**.

Priscilla Binos (1) is the daughter of Cathy Binos and granddaughter of Photini Binos and the late Harry Binos. She completed her VCE at Loyola College in Watsonia and is currently studying Law and Psychological Science at La Trobe University. A water sports enthusiast, Priscilla also enjoys hiking, cycling and making Greek sweets with her grandmother, High on her wish list is travel as she has never been overseas. She would love to visit Greece, especially Kioni, the birthplace of her maternal grandmother.

Byron Dellas (2) is the son of Ilias and Lisa Dellas and the grandson of Maria Dellas and the late Pano Dellas. He completed his VCE at St Mary's College St Kilda and is continuing his studies with a double degree in Accounting & Business at Monash University. He enjoys spending his free time gaming, watching movies and listening to music. Byron achieved five study scores above 40 which is an outstanding achievement given that he had surgery for appendicitis one month before the exams.

Jonah Flocas (3) is the son of Robert and Fanie Flocas, grandson of Olive and the late John Flocas and Vivian and the late Frank Kastritseas. Jonah completed his VCE at Scotch College. He is currently studying Project Management (Honours) at RMIT and is aspiring for a career in property and real estate. Jonah has many interests. He is an avid NBA fan, loves rap music of the late 1990s and early 2000s and enjoys socialising with his friends. He has become a lifesaver with the Lorne Lifesaving Club, achieving 100% on his Surf Life Saving Bronze Medallion. Jonah has visited Ithaca and recalls the thrill of swimming in the beautiful waters of the island.

Andrew Grivas (4) is the son of Petro and Marina Grivas and the grandson of Alexandro and Konstantina Grivas. Andrew completed his VCE at Luther College and is now studying Computer Science at Swinburne University. His dream is to design a smart phone application to translate conversations where there is a language barrier, an application which would have allowed him to communicate with his non-English-speaking extended family. He has lasting memories of a trip to Ithaca, in particular visiting his grandfather's home in *Perahori* and experiencing a village wine festival. Andrew says Ithaca's appeal is that it is not overrun by tourists.

Chris Kapourelakos (5) is the son of Vicky and Jim Kapourelakos and the grandson of Athina and Nick Zafiratos. Chris completed his VCE at Trinity Grammar in Kew, He was thrilled to get into the course of his dreams - Applied Science – Property Valuation (Honours) at RMIT. Chris is an avid NBA fan



70TH BIRTHDAY: Congratulations and best wishes to **Gerald Lucas** who celebrated his 70th birthday in May 2022 with his family. Gerald is the son of Tase and the late Andrew Lucas. Pictured from left to right: Jade Bitar, James Raftopoulos, Andrew Raftopoulos, Erin Lucas, Amy Lucas, Therese Lucas, Gerald Lucas, Tase Lucas, Kay Raftopoulos, John Raftopoulos.

GRADUATIONS



Chris and Freda Livitsanos are delighted to announce the graduations of two of their grandchildren. They are very proud of their achievements and hard work over the years and wish them Good Luck for the future.

Photo left: Granddaughter **Paris Dellas** graduated in October 2021 with a Certificate of Education Research, following her Bachelor of Education from Monash University.

Photo right: Grandson **Nicolas Dellas** graduated with a Masters of Project Management from RMIT. This is his third degree, having completed Management Information Systems and Accounting from Monash University.



Sydney residents, Gerry and Athena Raftopoulos, formerly of Johannesburg, South Africa, congratulate their daughter **Nikki Lenia Raftopoulos** who graduated in medicine, BMed Sc (Hon) and Masters in International Public Health) from the University of New South Wales. Nikki is pictured with her brothers Dino Raftopoulos (right), BArch (USYD) MCPM (UNSW) and Dr Marco Raftopoulos, MBBS BSc (Med) FRACS (OHNS). Gerry's Ithacan connection is with the village of Kioni.

and supports the Philadelphia 70 Sixers in the American League. He played basketball at Trinity as well as soccer for the Boroondara Eagles. Chris visited Ithaca in 2013 and enjoyed the serenity of the island - its peace and quiet. He loved the views from *Exoghi*, the village of his grandmother *Athina Mavrokefalou*, as well as the food at Nick's Taverna in *Vathy*.

Tia Vasilopoulos (6) is the daughter of Elizabeth Bouras and the granddaughter of Andriana and George Bouras. She completed her VCE at Strathmore Secondary College. Whilst doing Year 12, she toured Australia with TONES & I choir, she was a finalist in the TRIPLE J Unearthed High Competition and to top it all, she released 5 songs. Tia's dream is to become a successful artist in the music industry and this year is focussing her energies on developing her skills and broadening her experience. Tia visited Ithaca in 2014 and 2018 and remembers the breathtaking views from the village of *Exoghi* where her great-grandmother, *Eleni Mavromati*, was born.

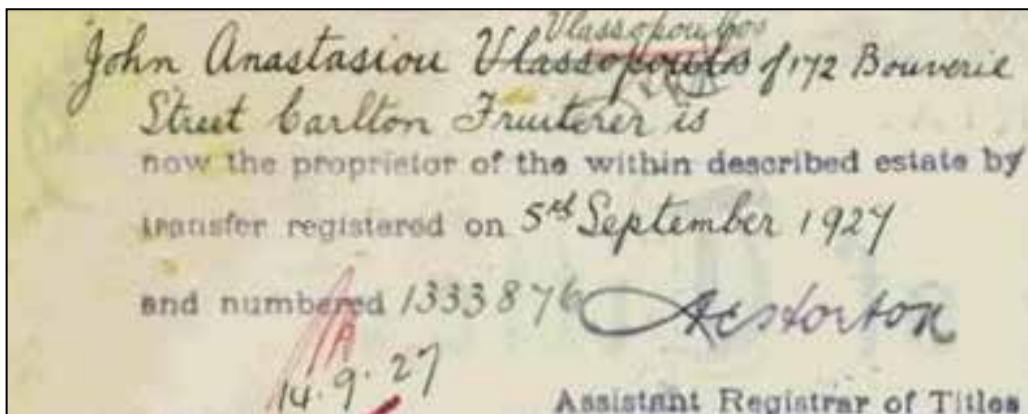


On May 14, **Louise Kostos**, pictured above, attended the fellowship ceremony at the Melbourne Convention Centre where she was admitted to Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Louise is now officially a consultant physician specialising in Medical Oncology. She currently works at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. Congratulations Louise. The ceremony was delayed by two years due to COVID, so was an extra-long wait for a graduation, but Louise says it was still great to dress up and see friends!

ITHACAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Celebrating the near centenary residency at 922 Drummond St,
North Carlton, Victoria

By Kathy (Nina) & Georgia Vlassopoulos and Rosa McCall nee Vlassopoulos



On Saturday 26th February 2022 the extended Vlassopoulos family gathered to celebrate the near centenary of the Vlassopoulos family's residence at 922 Drummond Street, North Carlton.

John (Ioannis) Anastasios Vlassopoulos (paratsoukli Kioukiouri) from Lahos, Ithaca, purchased the house in 1927 and four generations (and many cats and a few other pets) have lived here. Prior to the purchase of the house, John brought his wife Ekaterina (Patrikios) and their son Peter, who were living in Lahos, to Australia. Four children were born in Australia - George, Victoria, Eutichia and Jim.

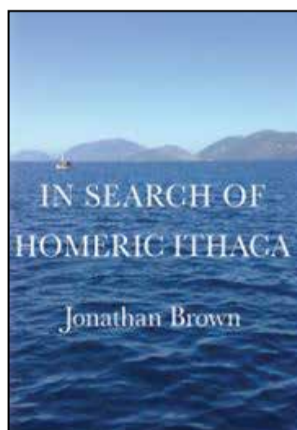
Descendants of Victoria, Eutichia and Jim attended this memorable day. Peter and George did not have children. All five siblings are no longer with us, but their presence was felt especially through their children and grandchildren.

Rosa McCall, first cousin to the Vlassopoulos siblings, attended and told us stories of her memories of visiting 922 with her parents, Andrew (John's brother) and Edna. Melita Vlassopoulos, Jim's wife, gave her reflections. Since arriving in Australia in 1955, Melita has lived at 922 all that time, except for a brief visit to Brisbane where she stayed with her mother's family before she married. Newlyweds Jim and Melita are pictured below outside 922 Drummond Street c.1955.



There were two functions on the day, a morning tea for the immediate family, and in the evening, a house party for friends who have been part of the Vlassopoulos' family over the decades. It was a momentous occasion for everyone who attended, people meeting face to face after Covid lockdowns, others who had not seen each other for many years and friends.

Guests were asked to record their memories of 922. The common thread connecting these reflections was the warmth and the generosity gifted to everyone, Melita's beautiful garden, the ancient lemon trees, the many celebrations for Greek Easter, Christmas, birthdays, and countless dinners. The grandchildren reflected on Papou Jim - Mr Fix It. So many memories flooding the pages of the notebook.



Available for purchase from the IHS
\$40.00 plus postage

Download order form from
<https://www.ithaca.org.au/publications/in-search-of-homeric-ithaca>

THEN & NOW...

TOP: Studio photo taken in Melbourne c1923-24, Ioannis (John) Vlassopoulos (seated) with his wife Ekaterina and son Peter soon after their arrival in Australia; John's brothers Demetrios (Jim) left and Athanasios (Arthur) right. BELOW: Photo taken in the garden of 922 Drummond Street, February 2022, with descendants of Ioannis, relatives & friends.

Seated L-R: Melita Vlassopoulos, Olive Flocas, Rosa McCall. Standing L-R: Mid-front row: Sheila Drakopoulos, Jasmine Drakopoulos, Tasia Couvaras, Zoe Vlassopoulos Gurr, Lefteri Vlassopoulos Guy, Georgia Vlassopoulos Middle row: Mandy Kapotis, Kathy (Nina) Vlassopoulos, Joanne Kandiliotis, Kathy Kandiliotis, Jim Drakopoulos, Mary Drakopoulos, John Drakopoulos, Estelle Major, Ari Vlassopoulos Gurr Back row: Jim Vlassopoulos Gurr, Ron Guy



Keep the memories alive for future generations...

By Vicky (Zafiratos) Kapourelakos

During the past two years, many of us found the lockdowns, restrictions and stay at home orders very challenging. For my Aunt **Toula (Afrodite) Paizis, née Mavrokefalou**, aged 82, who lives in Johannesburg, South Africa, it was a very difficult time. Her daughter, my cousin, **Helen Mastrantonis**, now living in Perth, and knowing that her mum was alone in South Africa with very little family around her, devised an ingenious plan to distract her mother. She persuaded her to put pen to paper and write about her most vivid memories of her childhood in Exoghi, Ithaca.

Compiling her mother's stories and poems and adding precious family photographs, Helen produced two photobooks, one of her mother's poetry and stories and the other of her childhood memories in Exoghi, the village she has nostalgically held close to her heart. In a poem about her beloved birthplace she writes:

*Perched high on the ridges, proud and beautiful Exoghi,
that whoever finds themselves up there,
can see that God speaks, the ravines echo and the heavens tremble*

Toula also penned stories about her much-loved sister, my mother, Athena Zafiratos and Helen produced a photobook especially for her. When these very special photobooks arrived in the mail addressed to my mum, in Melbourne, she poured over every word, every syllable, every poetic phrase her sister had written while tears cascaded down her cheeks. Seeing the photographs in these books stirred her emotionally beyond her expectations. These photos were from more untroubled times. How we all long for these days to return. My sister and I are so grateful to Helen who gifted us the photobooks which will live on for generations in our family.

Considering how much joy the photobooks brought to us, I encourage others to take the trip down memory lane and preserve their own family history and memories. Document the stories, collect photographs and memorabilia. Produce a photobook, maybe a novel, maybe a film! Produce a gift that keeps on giving from one generation to the next!

ΘΙΑΚΙ

Σαν σήμερα άφησα το όμορφο νησί μου, πάει ένας χρόνος τώρα πούμαι μακριά, μα πάντα τόχω βαθειά στη θυμησή μου, κι αναμνησή του, μου τυλίγει την καρδιά

Όμορφο Θιάκι μου μικρό, μα ξακουσμένο, στ'αλήθεια, είσαι στόλισμα του Ιονίου εσύ, νησάκι μου πεντάμορφο, χιλιотραγουδισμένο, που είσαι για εμάς ο φάρος μας, κι ελπίδα χρυσή

Ο Όμηρος σε ύμνησε και τόσο άλλοι ακόμα, που απ'τα μάκρη αυτής της γης ήρθαν για να σε δουν, να δουν αυτές τις πέτρες σου, με λιγοστό το χώμα, κι ύμνους για σε να ψάλλουνε τραγούδια να ειπούν

Αφροδίτη Μαυροκεφάλου Παίζη
Νότιος Αφρική, 1959



Toula Paizis with her late husband Spiro Paizis. Above, her nostalgic poem THIAKI written in 1959, one year after leaving Ithaca for South Africa.

**VALE
JAMES (JIM) PAIZIS
1924-2022**



Jim, pictured above in 1944, was the son of Ithacan immigrants from Kioni, Aristomenis and Penelopi Paizis who married in Melbourne in 1923. He was the first-born, followed by his sisters Despina, Sophia and Marina. He attended Carlton Primary School, North Fitzroy Central and University High School. He worked as a clerk at the YMCA for two years before joining the navy in 1942 aged eighteen. In the post war years, he spent most of his working life with the Australian Wheat Board and as an accountant at Box Hill Hospital.

Jim was the last living serviceman of a total of 316 Australian Greeks who served in the New Guinea Campaign in World War 2. He was the only officer of Greek origin to

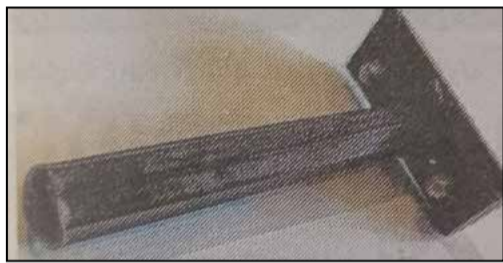
serve in the Australian Navy during the war, achieving Sub-Lieutenant rank. He served on corvettes, the HMAS Glenelg and the HMAS Colac, which had the task of protecting convoys of ships carrying troops, supplies and cargo from Japanese submarines that operated along Australia's eastern seaboard and further north. Jim served as a midshipman on the *Glenelg* and as a Gunnery Officer on the *Colac* and, at the end of the war, as a Gunnery Officer on the frigate HMAS *Lachlan* which was surveying the harbours for the navy's charts.

Over the years Jim maintained a close association with the Navy and had been part of the Corvette Association which holds annual reunions at the towns which inspired the names of the corvettes. He was also a great friend and supporter of the Shrine of Remembrance, donating memorabilia and his time to several Shrine public programs, media and ceremonial events.

Married to Val for 68 years, Jim is survived by his two sons and a daughter, six grandchildren and (as at the end of 2020) thirteen great-grandchildren.

The wartime story below in the article *Razor Sharp Reminder* is a story which Jim kept to himself for much of his life, a story of enduring friendship formed under the most traumatic experiences.

**RAZOR SHARP REMINDER
By Jen Kelley, HeraldSun May 25 2022**



For most of his 97 years, Jim Paizis kept a razor at eye level in his bathroom cabinet as a daily reminder of the mate he lost on one of the worst days of his life.

Jim's three kids growing up in their Balwyn home, knew the razor held enormous significance to their dad, though it took years for the full story to emerge.

As they learned, Sub Lieutenant Jim Paizis was a gunnery officer on HMAS Colac, which came under intense shelling by the Japanese in the Solomon Islands on May 26, 1945. Jim's 20-year-old mate, steward Brian "Percy" Shute, was one of two men killed in action on that horrific day.

Reeling from the loss, Jim was left with the razor he'd borrowed from Percy the morning before and it became a precious reminder of his fallen mate. As Jim's son Graeme recalls, the razor sat in his dad's bathroom cabinet as a lifelong memento, from after the war ended until he had to go into care last November.

I can remember watching Dad shave as a little kid does, and there was always this razor there in the cabinet," he says. "He must have said something about it, because we knew, don't touch that razor."

After Jim died aged 97 on February 14

this year, his family with the help of the navy and RSL, launched a search to find Percy's family in Western Australia to return the razor.

Incredibly, one of those who got word of the search was none other than the boy who delivered the sad news to Percy's distraught mother in 1945.

"Next thing they got an email from this guy who was a 16-year-old telegram boy who could remember delivering the telegram to Percy's mother," Graeme says.

The search also found Percy's sister Maureen, now 90, who was 13 when she was standing beside her mother at the awful moment she received the telegram.

Remarkably, both Maureen and the former delivery boy now live in the same aged care home.

Percy's family wanted the razor to be presented to the Colac RSL for public display, to commemorate his life and service on HMAS Colac.

It will join a considerable trove of memorabilia relating to HMAS Colac at Colac RSL when it is presented by the navy on Thursday.

For Graeme, knowing the razor will be on display for decades to come is a fitting end to its long journey.

"It's very emotional, because I knew what it meant to Dad," he says.

**Argos, A "Greek" beagle from
2,500 years ago!**

What is in a name? Well, apparently quite a lot. When we choose a name for a dog, it usually has some special significance for us – it may be the colour of the dog's eyes, his coat, the way she behaves, or just a name that we liked and so on. Likewise, breeders sometimes allocate a unique theme to a line of dogs that may be of special significance to them, depending on what they set out to do. And even sometimes by chance, names appear out of nowhere that go back thousands of years – such is the story of our family dog, ARGOS.

Originally, my parents came from Greece (1940s & 50s) and lived a beautiful life together in Australia before, sadly, my mother died in 2000. We had always loved beagles, so my sister convinced us to buy a companion dog for our father – I think she really wanted the dog for herself at the time! Well, we looked around and found a breeder and after a meet and greet with quite a few of her dogs, we stumbled across a very cheeky dog called HOMER. This dog was named after Homer, the Greek poet of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The dog was from a line of beagles named the *Odysseus* breed.



The name HOMER had an incredible special connection to our family. **First coincidence:** my father, **George Pippos**, pictured above with HOMER, was born on the island of Ithaca, the fabled kingdom of *Odysseus*, the noble king in the stories of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* by Homer! The dog was a natural fit for our family, and we did not think much of it at the time. We will always remember how important HOMER was to our father in his twilight years – he was his best friend and followed dad around everywhere.

Unfortunately, our father passed away after a few years and none of us were in a position to take HOMER so we found a lovely family for him close by..... the owner's name was most unusual and although I knew the name well, I had never met anyone before with that name. **Second coincidence:** the new owner's name was HECTOR, the Prince of Troy, from the story of the *Iliad*. Once again, I did not think much of it at the time; it was just one of those things.

**The Ionian Islands Victoria Co-operative Society
Celebration of the anniversary of the unification of
the Ionian Islands with Greece in 1864**

Η Επέτειος Ένωσης των Ιονίων Νήσων με την Ελλάδα εορτάσθηκε με Δοξολογία στον Ιερό Ναό Μεθοδίου και Κυρίλλου Πρεστον. Στη φώτο κάτω, μια παρέα απολαμβάνει ροφήματα μετά την λειτουργία, από αριστερά, Τασία Δελλαπόρτα, Πρόεδρος Σπυριδούλα Κουτσουβέλη, Ταμίας Ευγενία Βλασσοπούλου-Τσαλίκη, όρθιοι από αριστερά, Κερκυραίοι Σταμάτης και Ξένια Σκολαρίκη, μέλος της εκκλησίας, ο Πρόεδρος της Κερκυραϊκής Αδελφότητας Γεώργιος Πάγκαλης και Γιώργος Κουτσουβέλης.



As time went by, we became more settled in our life and felt it was the right time to have another dog in the family, and so we searched for another beagle. I had seen lots of puppies for sale but could not find a breeder in Brisbane who had a litter back then. Eventually, we did find a breeder up north who had some eight-week-old puppies ready to come into our family. There was one puppy in the photographs that just had that look, you know the look that just hypnotises you and drags you in. So then in 2015, we brought home a male beagle and decided to call him ARGOS – the mythical name of the faithful dog that waited for 20 years for his master *King Odysseus* to return from the Trojan War. Obviously, we chose this name to remember our father and where he came from - it was part of our family DNA and a name with special meaning for us.

However, the story of ARGOS does not end here. ARGOS (like most beagles) is a natural tracker (coincidentally, *Homer*, the poet, mentions this as one of the special characteristics of the mythical *Argos*). We were involved with many of the sports available through Dogs Queensland including lure coursing, showing and tracking and I remember very clearly a day in 2017 when we were at a Dog Show at Durack. A breeder approached me and asked about our dog, ARGOS. One thing for sure, these breeders know their dogs – "He looks very much like one of my champion dogs" she said. So that day when I got home, I checked the pedigree papers and the breeder was indeed correct. Her champion dog was the grandfather of our ARGOS.

I began to make a few more enquiries and found out that our ARGOS, pictured left, had descended from a dog called APOLLO, the ancient Greek god with an active role in the *Iliad* (again!). However even more interesting for us was another strange and quirky coincidence that just happened to pop up. **Third coincidence:** we can trace the heritage of our dog ARGOS back almost 20 years to the same stable as my father's dog, HOMER. Just thinking about this still gives me chills even today. And I used to wonder why breeders go to so much trouble creating such fantastic and imaginative names for their dogs and pedigree lines.

Well, as far as ARGOS and the Pippos Family are concerned, I am awfully glad they did. What is in a name? Sometimes, more than you will ever know.

The story of Homer's Argos is a classic tale of loyalty of a dog to his master and is probably the earliest recorded history (some 2,500 years ago) of the special relationship that dogs have with humans – to find out about the story of Argos, read the excerpt from Homer's Odyssey at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argos_\(dog\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Argos_(dog)) It is possibly this special bond that Hector (HOMER'S new owner) noticed in HOMER'S behaviour on the day my father passed away – he was acting strangely, howling and yelping early that same morning.

**Emmanuel Pippos
Registered Breeder with Dogs Queensland**

**ΣΤΗΝ ΕΦΗΜΕΡΙΔΑ
ΟΔΥΣΣΕΥΣ
ΣΤΗΝ ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΙΑ**

Στον φίλο, Οδυσσέα σήμερα του γράφω νέα με αγάπη και ευχή να την έχουν οι Θιακοί

Στην Παναγιά των Καθάρων προσκυνητής στο Ιερό και στην Εικόνα Της μπροστά τα λόγια τούτα τα γνωστά

Κλείνω το γόνυ μου εκεί στην προσευχή μου Θείκη Παναγιά μου στη μορφή σου σήμερα πούμαι μαζί σου με το λόγο σου το θείο και προστάτιδα στο βίο, στην Αυστραλία τους Θιακούς να τους έχεις προσταγούς

**Κώστας Μορφέσης
Καναδά**

JOHN RAFTOS
ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ ΡΑΥΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ
1927-2022



John Raftos passed away peacefully in Newcastle surrounded by his loving family on 20 January 2022 aged 94 years. John was born in Agious Saranta Ithaca on 23 November 1927. He came to Australia in 1937 as a nine-year-old boy and sadly a year later, his father died. From that day on, hard work and providing for family became second nature, and Australia well and truly became home.

Like most of his generation, John had many businesses including *The Brazil 81 Restaurant* and *The Tudor Inn Motel* in Newcastle where he worked the typical migrant hours of seven days a week. His reward in later life for this hard work was to return annually to Ithaca and enjoy all it had to offer. But most of all he would enjoy dancing at every Panygiri.

John was a gentle, gentleman with a smile. We called him our *Mr Happy Chappy*. He was the adored husband for sixty-three years of Nina (Cominos), devoted father to Jeremy Raftos and Dimity Megalos, much loved father-in-law of Con Megalos and Michele Raftos, cherished Pappou of Jonathon and Aliki Megalos, Simon Megalos and Joshua Raftos.

KARLY KALLINIKOS
ΚΑΛΛΙΟΠΗ ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΥ
1955-2022



Surrounded by her loving family, **Karly Kallinikos** passed away in Melbourne on the 14 March 2022, daughter of Olga (Kouvara) and the late George Kallinikos, sister to Denis and Marina. A life taken too soon. Forever in the hearts of her family and friends.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΟ

Προς τους αγαπημένους μας συγγενείς και φίλους, θέλω να εκφράσουμε από τα βάθη της πονεμένης μας καρδιάς, τα πιο θερμά ευχαριστήρια σε όλους που μας συμπαράσταθηκαν, αγκάλιασαν και πόνεσαν μαζί μας για τον αιφνίδιο θάνατο της γλυκιάς μας

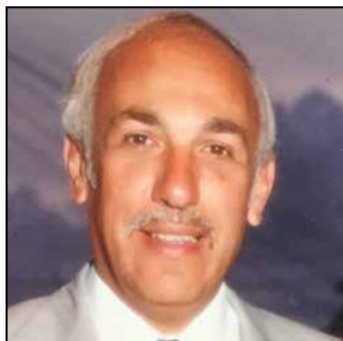
Κάλλης

Η συμπαράσταση που μας προσφέρατε όλοι με αγάπη, τα παρηγόρια λόγια, τηλεφωνήματα, κάρτες και τα άνθη που γέμισαν το σπίτι μας, ήταν βάλσαμο στις πονεμένες καρδιές μας.

Σας ευγνωμονούμε και σας ευχαριστούμε και παρακαλούμε τον Θεό να σας το ανταποδώσει σε χαρές και υγεία στις οικογενειές σας. Με όλη μας την αγάπη και χίλια ευχαριστώ

Όλγα Καλλινίκου και παιδιά Ντένις και Μαρίνα

PAUL KOUVARA
ΠΑΥΛΟΣ ΚΟΥΒΑΡΑΣ
1933-2022



Paul Sotiris Kouvaras was born in 1933 in Randwick, Sydney to Ithacans Telemachos and Erasmia Kouvaras, a brother to Olga who was four years older. The family had many relatives across Sydney and regional New South Wales, and with the real threat of World War 2 reaching Sydney harbour, Paul, like many other children, was sent away for safety. He went to live in the Southern Tablelands village of Crookwell with his cousin Kath with whom he remained extremely close throughout his life.

Paul attended Randwick Boys High School where he took great interest in French, Latin and History. Later in retirement, he would go back to study at Monash University to obtain a VCE equivalent of Greek studies and enrolled in French and Italian courses at the University of the Third Age. With Nathalie, his nephew Dallas' wife, he loved to practise speaking French and Italian at any opportunity.

On the passing of his father in 1952, Paul assumed the responsibility of caring for his mother Erasmia. They had a special bond and in later years he would refer to her as his best friend. In 1966 Paul and Erasmia relocated to Melbourne to be close to sister Olga who had married John Cosmas. They purchased a house in the same street as Olga's family living opposite each other. The close proximity resulted in a special bond that Paul had with Olga's children, Mia and Dallas.

Paul's working life after completing military service began with the David Jones department store where he went from a junior sales position to a duty manager and department buyer; he himself always maintained a dashing flair for fashion throughout his life. In 1967 Paul gained employment in reservations at TAA which was the domestic airline service now operating as Qantas. Computer useage was very limited at the time. The work of reservations required great accuracy, self-organisation and memory skill to quickly follow the manual data boards as flight availability was updated. Paul excelled and was in his natural element with a fine speaking voice guiding the caller on the telephone through the steps of travel planning. Working with the airline, Paul discovered a whole other 'family' and with his work colleagues he would travel the world, celebrate Christmas and birthdays and be a loyal friend through the good and bad times. He became a staff trainer and was promoted to Yield Management as a flight controller, retiring in 2003.

Paul was born into a musical family and became great lover and supporter of opera and theatre. He kept an annual subscription to the Melbourne Theatre Company and enjoyed numerous productions at the West End and on Broadway. He would witness performances from Pavarotti to Santana. His ears, eyes and heart were open without prejudice.

In April 2019, Paul faced his greatest challenge when he suffered a severe stroke. The loss of independence was a cruel blow to a person whose life displayed the importance of seeking that which is good and enriching the lives of others by nurturing life-long connections.

Dallas Cosmas

ANASTASIA PAIZI-TSILIMIDOS
ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΑ ΠΑΙΖΗ-ΤΣΙΛΙΜΙΔΟΥ
1940-2022



Tasia was born in Melbourne on the 26 March 1940 to early Greek immigrants from Kioni Ithaca. My grandfather, Alkinoos, arrived in 1918 and married my grandmother Marika, in 1925. Tasia was the third child in the family following Kaleri and Ioanna (both dec).

Growing up in Glenferrie Road Hawthorn, Tasia's home was abuzz and life was never dull. There was swimming at the Glenferrie Baths, imagining herself as Esther Williams, watching the Hawthorn football team on Saturdays at Glenferrie oval, and the family shop filled with Hawthorn players who invariably would face my grandfather's abuse of "You played skata!" but who nonetheless would turn up in droves regularly to catch a glimpse of the dark-haired beauty who was my mother. And when Hawthorn's Ian McCann bravely asked Mum out, and my grandfather ruminated over what a really good idea this might be, the prospect was quickly quashed by the iron fist of her mother, Marika!

There were also the long summer nights at the Hawthorn Cinemas – the Palace and the Glen – which sowed the seed of Tasia's religious obsession for films. It was destiny that she should end up as the next-door neighbour of Ivan Hutchinson, the film critic, who would constantly consult with her on film facts and information. Tasia and her cousins would be chaperoned to the cinemas, and the boys on Glenferrie Road all knew it! Tasia recalled one night they escaped unchaperoned. Uncle George caused such a scene when he came to gather them up. that Mum's friend at school asked, "what happened to you on Saturday night?", and my Mum, too embarrassed to admit the truth of her strict background, went for the far more acceptable and common Aussie excuse of the time, "that was my uncle, he's an alcoholic!" To which her school friends answered, "Oh yeah, so is mine!"

Tasia was an exceptional singer, with a beautiful voice and would often sing at the Ithacan dances in the 1950s-early sixties. She told the story that at one such dance she was just about to begin the old favourite, "Blue Moon", when she overheard one of the boys say out loud, "If she sings that bloody *blue moon* again, I'll neck myself!" She sang it!

In 1962 Tasia married Spiros Tsilimidos from Cephalonia and two children followed, myself, Pelissa (Plousia) and my brother Alkinos. Mum instilled in us a love of music, and a love of film, that turned into a career for my brother Alkino and a repertoire of life teaching moments for me. I entered the English classroom not so much well-read but armed with an arsenal of film quotes such as the quote from our shared love of Wuthering Heights, "I cannot live without my life, I cannot die without my soul" which Mum would recite when talking about romance.

Tasia will be fondly remembered by those close to her in her Ithacan family, but also by many in the Cephalonian and Eptanesian communities where her husband Spiro was

actively involved, serving as President of the Cephalonian Brotherhood for many years.

Beloved wife and mother and adored grandmother of Anastasia, her only grandchild and namesake, Tasia will live on in the hearts of all of us. This unique dynamic and cheeky woman kept us all on our toes as she marked and sparked humour in every moment – even in the most difficult of times.

Pelissa Tsilimidos

DENIS PHILIPATOS
ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΣ ΦΙΛΙΠΑΤΟΣ
1951-2022



Denis was the first of two children born to Ulysses and Vasiliki in Stavro, Ithaki in 1951. After his christening, his father left the family in Ithaki and migrated to Australia to prepare a life for them. Three years later, they were reunited in their new country. The family settled in Princes Hill in Melbourne where they were joined by myself, a little playmate for Denis, and more family. Denis grew up surrounded by uncles, aunts, and cousins, and in a wonderful neighbourhood; with some of his neighbors becoming life-long friends.

Denis attended the local schools in Princes Hill and completed a tertiary degree in biological sciences from Latrobe University. He dreamed of an academic career, but his pathway changed when he was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Despite his illness, he completed his research degree in embryology, co-authoring a research paper on the subject. After completing his degree, Denis explored a number of employment opportunities including a lab assistant in embryology research, field work for the department of agriculture and film projectionist for the department of education. He found long term employment as a teacher's aide at Princes Hill evening language school. He enjoyed the work and the environment very much as he had returned to his old high school, remaining there until his retirement.

Denis lived with his mum and dad throughout their lives. During this time, he met his girlfriend and longtime companion, Jenny. They remained close until his passing. He had a wonderful relationship with my family and was constantly in our lives. When his nephew and nieces moved into Princess Hill, he was blessed to be living near them and to see the arrival of his little grandniece, Amelie, whom he loved very much.

Denis was a devotee of the arts, regularly attending museums and galleries with his good friend "Renz". He loved listening to classical and Greek folk music. He was an unbeatable chess player who patiently taught his nieces and nephew the art of a quick check mate.

Denis was my tutor and mentor and nurtured my interest in the sciences. I admired Denis because, despite living with schizophrenia, he achieved many career ambitions, made close long-term friends and he remained close to our faith. I know he was happy. In the end what more could one ask from life. We will miss him and cherish the moments we had with him.

Andrew Philipatos

**GEORGIA PAXINOS
ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑ ΠΑΞΙΝΟΥ
1941-2022**



The Society was saddened to hear of the passing of **Georgia Paxinos** (nee Manta), on 21 May 2022, wife of Peter Paxinos HLM. Born in Nestani Arkadias, Greece, Georgia, at age thirteen, left her homeland, arriving in Melbourne in 1955. She was sponsored by Chris and Argini Pappas to whom she was forever indebted for their unconditional love and the care they provided for her. Georgia and Peter married in 1963 and three children followed, Anastasios (dec), Anna and Dean. Georgia was very proud of their achievements and equally proud of her seven grandchildren and the fine young people they have become. In her unassuming way, Georgia was a strong support to Peter during his many years of service to the Ithacan Philanthropic Society which included twelve years as President. Quiet and demure, Georgia will be sadly missed by those she held close.

**GERASIMOS SOFIANOS
ΓΕΡΑΣΙΜΟΣ ΣΟΦΙΑΝΟΣ
1936-2022**

Απεβίωσε στην Μελβούρνη στις 29 Απριλίου 2022 ο σεβαστός **Γεράσιμος Σοφιάνος**. Γεννημένος στο Κίονι Ιθάκης, σε ηλικία δεκαέξι ετών, μετανάστευσε το 1952 στην Μελβούρνη όπου είχε εγκατασταθεί ο πατέρας του, Σπύρος Σοφιάνος. Ακολούθησε η υπόλοιπη οικογένεια το 1954, η μητέρα του Αικατερίνη και τα αδέρφια του - Ανδριάντα, Γιώργος, Διονυσία και Φωτεινή. Παντρεύτηκε την Θεοδώρα Ρομποτή από την Λευκάδα και απέκτησαν τρία τέκνα που τους χάρισαν πέντε εγγόνια. Καλός οικογενειάρχης, εργατικός, ζούσε μιά απλή ζωή και πάντα ήταν χαρούμενος με το ζεστό του χαμόγελο.



Gerasimos was born in Kioni, Ithaca. In 1952, aged 16, he migrated to Australia where his father Spiros Sofianos had already settled. The family was reunited when his mother Katerini and younger siblings arrived in Melbourne in 1954. In those early years the family lived in Carlton. Gerasimos married Theodora Roboti from Lefkada, and together they had three children Spiros, Kathy and Nick. A proud grandfather, he was the much-loved by his grandchildren, Olivia, Gabriel, Thea, Theodora and Nicholas.

Gerasimos was a strong-willed man, a hard worker who provided for his family. He was unconventional in many ways but that is what made him unique. He lived a simple life and was a happy man. Always up for a good story and a good laugh, with his warm smile, cheeky nature, wit and charm. He loved a cold beer, watching Carlton play footy, his soccer team too. He loved cultivating his garden and always said, "If you love your plants, your plants will love you back". Loved by all, from family to friends and neighbours, he will be greatly missed.

**LAERTES RAFTOPOULOS
ΛΑΕΡΤΗΣ ΡΑΦΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ
1935-2022**

Απεβίωσε στην Μελβούρνη στις 20 Απριλίου 2022 ο αγαπητός **Λαέρτης Ραφτόπουλος**. Ο Λαέρτης γεννήθηκε στην Εξωγή Ιθάκης, γιός των αιμινήτων Τηλέμαχου και Μαριγώς Ραφτοπούλου (Μπουρμπουρέλη), αδελφός των Χαράλαμπου, Βύρωνος, Αρτεμισίας και Σπύρου και των αποβιοσάντων Μαρίνας και Νικολάου. Το 1955 μετανάστευσε στην Αυστραλία. Το 1961 παντρεύτηκε την Όλγα Βασιλειάδου από χωριό της Κατερίνης, Μακεδονία. Απόκτησαν τέσσερα τέκνα, την Μαριγώ, την Αναστασία, τον Τηλέμαχο και τον Αναστάσιο. Αξιώθηκε την χαρά πέντε εγγονιών και μαζί με τη γυναίκα του απόλαυσαν αρκετά ταξίδια στο εξωτερικό πριν τον χτυπήσει η αρρώστια το 2009. Ήταν ένας άνθρωπος τίμιος, εργατικός οικογενειάρχης όπου πίστευε και υποστήριζε την ισότητα.



Laertes Raftopoulos, aka Les, born in Exoghi Ithaca, passed away on 20 April 2022, beloved husband of Olga, father of Marigo-Bill, Anastasia-Chris, Tilemahos-Vesna and Anastasios, adored papou of Xavier, Audrey, Lucas, Lauren and Ella.

You left your ancestral home of Ithaca in 1955 to find a better life in Australia. I will never really know the hardships and injustices you faced as a young child during the war, or of trying to make a living in post-war Greece. Or even later as a poor immigrant to this country that did not embrace and accept you, and was at times cruel beyond words. But you were mighty and resilient and you never gave in and you showed us the way. You believed in justice and equality... You were independent, curious, hardworking and questioned everything... You loved nature, the outdoors and great adventures. The spirit of Odysseus and the ode of Ithaca lived in you, and you have gloriously passed that passion onto everyone of us.

Marigo Raftopoulos

My favourite memories of Dad involve his often eccentric sense of humour. He loved to joke around and have fun. He had a huge, loud laugh that you could hear from the other side of the house. He made friends with people everywhere, even strangers on the tram or the park. He loved to have a party and always wanted to have people over for a drink of tsiporo or put on the Greek lamb on a spit at every opportunity.

Anastasia Raftopoulos

Arriving in Melbourne from Ithaca, Dad quickly went to work to earn as much money as he could, sometimes working two to three jobs, be it production line worker or barista at a Greek café in the city. When a work friend showed him a photo of her cousin Olga Vasiliadou in Greece, Les was smitten by her beauty and commenced a long-distance relationship with Olga which eventually turned into a marriage proposal. After sponsoring Olga to join him in the land down under, they married in 1961 and settled into their first home in Middle Park.

Tilemahos Raftopoulos

My father loved his family above all else. He struggled to express it or articulate it earlier in his life but, while caring for him after his stroke, I am grateful for being able to see the side of him that he felt too vulnerable to expose. When he became gravely ill his only concern was for his wife and to ensure that she would be looked after when he could no longer do so.

Anastasios Raftopoulos

**BRISBANE NEWS
by Voula Castan**



Jenny and Nick Bellas are happy to announce the arrival of their baby boy, **Anastasios**. He was born 2 February 2022 at 5.56pm at the Mater Mother's Hospital, Brisbane, weighing 3772g (8lb 4oz), measuring 54cm. Jenny is the daughter of Dennis and Sevasti Drakopoulos and the granddaughter of the late Peter (Panayioti) Drakopoulos of Ayios Saranta, and of the late Ifegenia Drakopoulos (nee Karanges) of Kioni. Jenny is also the granddaughter of the late Geroge Pavlatos (Vathy) and the late Irene Pavlatos of Monolithos, Rhodes. Nick's parents are Anastasios (Tom) and Matina Bellas, both from Laconia province, southern Peloponnese.



Costa and Giselle Livanes christened their second son, seven-month-old Elias on 14 May 2022 at the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George. **Elias** has an older brother Georgio who is two years old. Following the church service, 120 guests celebrated at *Jugar* which doubled as a play centre, great fun for all the kids who attended.

Prof George Paxinos visits Brisbane

It was a pleasure to see **Professor George Paxinos** on his visit to Brisbane to launch his book *A River Divided*. His good friend and relative Dr Voula Castan organised many outings and dinners with relatives, friends and acquaintances, making his stay in Brisbane an enjoyable one.

On Sunday 15th May George attended an Ithacan Book Launch Luncheon that was organised by the Ithacan Society of Queensland and later in the day he attended



Ο ΤΟΠΟΣ

Τον τόπο που γεννήθηκες
ποτέ μην τον ξεχάσεις,
και όταν τελειώσει η ζωή
εκεί να ξαποστάσεις.

Και σε άλλον τόπο κι αν βρεθείς
και δεν είναι ο δικός σου,
πάρε τα μπογαλάκια σου
και φύγε μοναχός σου.

Σε περιμένει η ελιά,
η λεμονιά πού'χεις φυτέψει,
και μια λιθιά στ' αμπέλι σου
πού'ναι έτοιμη να πέσει.

Το ταβερνάκι της γειτονιάς,
κι αυτό έχει γεράσει,
μα περιμένει πάντοτε
νάρθεις να σε κεράσει.

Γιάννης Μανωλάτος, Queensland

the first concert by the newly formed Choir of The Greek Community of St. George, **Ellinikes Fones**. Solo performances by Katerini Manolatos and Mel Lathouras were also enjoyed by the audience.

George visited the University of Queensland to see the Exhibition **Beyond Gallipoli: The Ancient Greek Heritage of Asia Minor** at the RD Milns Antiquities Museum, University of Queensland, set up by Dr. Amelia Brown, Senior Lecturer in Greek History and Language.

To promote his book, he participated in an ABC broadcast and held a successful book launch at AVID READER BOOKSHOP, West End Brisbane where he signed copies of his book. He presented a lecture on the topic *Why Psychiatry has Lost Its Soul* to psychiatrists at the Mater Hospital and also to the medical staff and honours and Phd students at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research.

During the evening of Wednesday 18 May, George gave **The Alex Kondos Memorial Lecture 2022** at the Greek Club (see photo below). This talk is organised annually by the Cultural Committee of the Greek Orthodox Community of St. George to honour the memory of Alex Kondos who was its chairman for ten years and contributed greatly to maintaining Hellenism. George's topic was *The Brain and the Mind* where he also referred to the neuroscience behind his novel, *A River Divided*. Tom Dracopoulos, the Secretary of the Cultural Committee of St George, was the Master of Ceremonies and the vote of thanks was given by George Psaltis, Councillor, Greek Orthodox Community of St. George and Chairman of the Cultural Committee and Francine Hinton, President of the Solomos Society Greek – Australian Cultural Association.

Photo below from left to right, Dr. Voula Castan, Tom Dracopoulos, Professor George Paxinos, George Psaltis, Dr. Christopher Small, Research Fellow at the Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland & Dr. Bill Mantzioris, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Brisbane Neurology, South Brisbane.

**ΔΩΡΕΕΣ ΕΙΣ ΜΝΗΜΗ
DONATIONS IN MEMORY**

\$100 Nina Black in loving memory of her beloved husband **Nicholas George Black** (Mavrokefalos) and parents, **Spiro Haralambos** and **Maria Kallinicos**.

\$50 Effie Detsimas (QLD) in remembrance of **Jim Defteros**.

\$50 Effie Detsimas (QLD) in memory of **Denise Defteros** who passed away 1 June 2022.

\$50 Vera Black (QLD), fond memories of **Antonia Karavias**, **Lambia Noutsatos**, **Olga Cosmas**, **Denis & Jean Sikiotis**, **Nick Sikiotis**

\$20 Olivia Barlow in memory of **Antonia Karavias**

\$40 Anthony & Florence Drakopoulos in memory of **Tasia Tsilimidos** and **Gerry Sofianos**

\$50 Liz Beasley & family in memory of beloved husband and father **Speros Beasley**

\$50 Tasia Dellas in memory of much-loved cousin **Tasia Tsilimidos**

\$100 Errol & Di Raftos (WA) in memory of **Hippocrates Raftopoulos**

\$100 Ανδριάνα Ζερβούλη και οικογένεια εις μνήμη αγαπημένου αδελφού και θείου **Γεράσιμου Σοφιανού**

\$100 Όλγα Ραφτοπούλου εις μνήμη αγαπημένου συζύγου **Λαέρτη Ραφτοπούλου**, γονέων **Τηλέμαχου και Μαριγώς Ραφτοπούλου** και αδελφών **Μαρίνας και Νικολάου**.

\$100 Εις μνήμη αξέχαστου μας συζύγου, πατέρα και αδελφού **Παναγιώτη Μ. Μαυροκεφάλου** επί την συμπλήρωση ενός έτους από του θανάτου του. Απο οικογένειες: Νίκης Μαυροκεφάλου (Αθήνα), Ειρήνης Ε. Πεταλά, Αθηνάς & Νίκου Ζαφειράτου, Αφροδίτης Παϊζή (Νότιος Αφρική)

The following donations were received in memory of **Georgia Paxinos**:

\$50 Peter & Mary Lecatsas

\$50 Helen Vlass

\$20 John & Eugenia Tsalikis

\$20 Anthony & Florence Drakopoulos



2022 ANNUAL PICNIC RACE WINNERS (in first, second, third order): **Babies Race 3 and under:** Max Rosamilia, Elias Sikiotis, Anna Pirera **50 metres 4-5 mixed:** Francesco Pirera, Sam Macri, Alexandra Thomas **50 metres 6-7 mixed:** Waylon Sikiotis, Niko Palmieri, Eva Kaimakamis **50 metres 8-10 girls:** Isla Critelli, Sienna Simos, Luca Techera **50 metres 8-10 boys:** No participants **75 metres 11-14 girls:** Alexandra Coutsouvelis, Irene Yannelis, Sierra Critelli **75 metres 11-14 boys:** Stanley Raftopoulos, Luca Palmieri, Thomas Raftopoulos **100 metres 15-40 women:** Georgia Lourantos, Nicole Katopodis, Mia Yoannidis **100 metres 15-40 men:** Sam Savas, Stephen Oude-Vrielink, James Byrgiotis **100 metres open 40 plus mixed:** Alexander Kaimakamis, Angelo Thomas, Marco Palmieri **400 metres (around the oval):** Lachlan Sayer, Brendan Ryan, Sam Savas.



ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΗΡΙΑ - THANK YOUS

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the expressions of sympathy and the love and support shown to us on the passing of our beloved **Georgia Paxinos**

Peter Paxinos, Anna, Dean, Joanne and families

Εκφράζουμε τα θερμά μας ευχαριστήρια σε όλους που μας συμπαράστηκαν στον θάνατο του πολυαγαπημένου μας συζύγου, πατέρα, παππού και αδελφού **Λαέρτη Ραφτοπούλου**

Τα ωραία σας λουλούδια, τις κάρτες σας, την αγάπη και συμμετοχή σας στην λύπη μας, εκτιμούμε ιδιαίτερα.

Όλγα Ραφτοπούλου και οικογένεια

Ευχαριστούμε θερμά όλους που μας συμπαράστηκαν στις δύσκολες ημέρες του θανάτου της πολυαγαπημένης μας συζύγου, μητέρας και γιαγιάς **Χρυσάιδως Λουράντου**

Ιδιαίτερες ευχαριστίες σε όσους edώρησαν εις μνήμη της, στην Φροντίδα και στον Σύνδεσμο Ιθακησίων

Χρήστος, Νικόλαος, Μαρία και οικογένειες



**2022 ANNUAL PICNIC – See more photos at
www.ithaca.org.au/gallery**