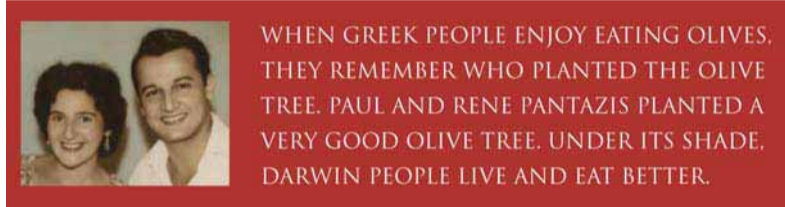




**Darwin, and Paul and Rene Pantazis, have a shared history of determination to triumph over tragedy. They started again after the war, they started again after Tracy. Each time, they came back better and stronger.**



WHEN GREEK PEOPLE ENJOY EATING OLIVES, THEY REMEMBER WHO PLANTED THE OLIVE TREE. PAUL AND RENE PANTAZIS PLANTED A VERY GOOD OLIVE TREE. UNDER ITS SHADE, DARWIN PEOPLE LIVE AND EAT BETTER.

# forty fine years

*'When we enjoy the olives, we remember who it was that planted the olive tree' say Parap identities Neville Pantazis and his sister, Paula Tsounias. A new book, Forty Fine Years, proves the point. As befits its subject, the book is a sumptuous production, with hard cover and 140 lavish full colour pages designed in Parap by Sprout. Its a celebration of the Pantazis family and their forty years at Parap Fine Foods, formerly Parap Fruit and Vegetable Supplies.*

**T**he book celebrates the lives of our parents, Paul and Rene Pantazis' say Neville and Paula Pantazis, 'and it honours their contribution to Darwin. It is our homage to the wonderful people who planted our olive tree.'

The book was written and published by Peter and Sheila Forrest, the Territory's best known historians and authors of some 18 previous books plus countless newspaper items and broadcasts. 'This has been a wonderfully exciting project for us' the Forrests say.

'It's a book about people who have given so much to Darwin. It's a gorgeous food book, a yummy recipe book and it's a history book, but above all it's a book about enterprise and achievement. It tells a story that everyone in Darwin will be proud of.'

'Rene Pantazis (then Kanaris) arrived in Darwin with her mother Libby, her brother Peter and sister Mena on Boxing Day 1946, aboard the ship Koolinda from Perth. Her father, Paul, had arrived earlier to join George Fotiades in running the Rendezvous cafe, then Darwin's premier eating place and undoubtedly an iconic institution in our history. Paul Pantazis arrived here from Cyprus in January 1951. He later worked at the Rendezvous and then Paul and Rene were married in 1957.

'They were all part of the

renewal of Darwin after the war. In 1968, Paul and Rene opened Parap Fruit and Vegetable Supply in Parap, in the premises now occupied by Prickles Restaurant. During our research for the book we discovered several people who shopped at Paul and Rene's on the first day they opened, and are still shopping at Parap Fine Foods.

'That's the wonderful thing about Paul and Rene. They inspire loyalty and affection among their customers. Through bad times and good ones, they have set the highest standards, always stocking the best quality goods, always having on their shelves the things that give Darwin people the chance to eat better and differently. They have improved the



**A story of people who have made Darwin a better place to live in**

quality of the lives of us all.

'They have always been committed to Darwin, most of all to their suburb of Parap. They showed great courage when, after cyclone Tracy, they bought the site for their present premises and built a modern shop there. That did take courage because Parap was

then being by-passed. All the new housing development of the cyclone reconstruction era was then happening in the northern suburbs.

'Paul and Rene are all about family. Their children Neville and Paula have joined them in the business, and now the next generation is showing interest. Then there is the extended

family – the long-serving staff and customers.

'There are no finer people. It will be a proud moment for us all when the book is launched. And we are delighted to be able to say that this book is entirely a Territory production, proof positive of what can be achieved by Territorians' say Peter and Sheila Forrest.



## The Authors

*Peter and Sheila Forrest are Darwin based historians, writers and heritage consultants. They have researched, written and broadcast widely about the people and places of northern and inland Australia. For more than three decades, Peter and Sheila's particular mission has been 'to take history off the self, to make it interesting and accessible to everyone'. Darwin's social history has been an area of keen interest for them. This interest has led them to undertake intensive study of the Greek families who began arriving in the north from about 1914 and have ever since made a tremendous impact on the social and physical development of the region. "They were seeking better lives. They found what they sought and in the process they made life better for everyone else. Paul and Rene Pantazis are classic examples of that", Peter and Sheila say. The Forresters have also done specialised work on the history of other groups of people in the north including Chinese, Scots, Italians, and the Tiwi Aboriginal people.*

*Most of the photographs of this book were taken by Peter and Sheila's son Iain, who has been taking photographs since his childhood. Iain is now in the third year of his study for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Communications at Charles Darwin University.*