



Chickens are an eggcellent gift to give at Easter!

Australian children may be scoffing down thousands of chocolate eggs this Easter, but in developing countries the gift of a chicken can mean an improved diet for undernourished children.

ChildFund Australia's Donations with a Difference catalogue gives you the opportunity to find a fantastic gift with a difference, while also helping to improve the life of a child and their family in the developing world.

By spending just \$21, you can buy a family in Cambodia two chickens, and give their children an Easter to remember. ChildFund Australia CEO Nigel

Spence says: "Chickens provide nutritious eggs which can be a life-saver for malnourished children, delivering a valuable source of protein and many other vitamins. They also allow families to generate an income for the future, by giving them a product to sell at local markets."

Alternatively, for \$41 you can buy a Ugandan family three mosquito nets to allow them to rest peacefully at night, knowing that they are free from the threat of malaria. For \$38, you can provide children in Sierra Leone with a bench and desk, so that they no longer have to sit on the floor in class.

Buying your gift is easy, too. Just visit www.childfund.org.au/dwd and choose your present from the online Donations with a Difference catalogue. You will then be sent a card for you to give to your friends and family, detailing the generous gift you've bought on their behalf.

"We all understand the joy of receiving or giving Easter eggs, but it is important to remember that millions of children in the world continue to suffer extreme poverty and hardship. Donations with a Difference give us the opportunity to donate a gift that really can change lives and make a difference," said Nigel.

DYNAMIC NEW HACCI PRESIDENT ELECTED: MR ZOI GEORGAKIS



On 18 March 2009, Zoi Georgakis was elected President of the Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry NSW (HACCI). At the age of 40, Zoi is one of the youngest Presidents ever elected. He views this as "a clear indication by the Board and members of their desire for young leadership". Zoi is modest, for a cursory glance at his CV and references indicates that he has achieved honorary awards and leadership roles early in his career based on his work ethic, courage and savvy – not by factor of age.

At the tender age of 21, Zoi was honoured by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia with an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Property Development. By 30, he was on the Board of Directors of EuroDairy, a company involved in agricultural joint ventures in China. This was his maiden directorship and taught Zoi "invaluable lessons in cross-cultural diplomacy, inter-governmental bureaucracy, bi-lateral trade agreements, and international management. It was a steep learning curve".

Shortly afterwards, Zoi became a founding Director of EuroPrawn (known in Greece as "EVROYARITHA"), a Greek-Australian company that has successfully obtained the operational, environmental and building licenses to construct and run a world PROTOTYPE bio-secure aquaculture facility in Greece. Key advisors have included Dr Nigel

Preston of the Australian CSIRO, and Greek Government Officials Mr BEZAS and Mr PAPAPOULOS. It will be the largest aquaculture facility in Europe and Europe's only provider of year-round fresh crustaceans. The project is in the process of receiving funds from the EU Development Fund, after vigorous lobbying by the directors. Says Zoi of the process: "To achieve a prototype you need to ask the unaskable questions that challenge conventional wisdom. Then you need infinite patience and determination".

At 35, Zoi was offered the diplomatic representative role of Official Attache to the Mauritanian Olympic Team at the 2004 Athens Olympics. With an 'Infinity Pass', Zoi was free to access high security and prestigious areas of the Games. These included the pool and track sides, the VIP stands for sporting events ("Prince Albert and I were on a first name basis by the end of the Olympics and to mark our friendship he presented me with a limited edition Monaco Olympic badge which is now priceless" Zoi marvels), and the Opening Ceremony where Zoi marched along side his Team in a traditional African Toga. "I was able to access an inner circle of Greek diplomacy, and I came home with the contacts for some great leaders and decision makers".

In between his other directorships and diplomatic postings, Zoi has kept up his property development as director of

Zoygroup. He is awaiting gazettal of a spot rezoning on the north shore which will allow him to build between 60-80 apartments, and he has just finished a lavish villa on the Greek island of Lefkas. The villa overlooks the private island of Skorpios, which is owned by the Onassis family. "I think that having the Onassis family as neighbours seriously increases the value and prestige of my property. But they get the raw end of the deal, I'm certainly not a neighbour that they'll be boasting to the papers about."

Zoi likes to joke and have a laugh, but when the conversation turns to HACCI Zoi becomes focused and serious. "I have a great amount of respect for the previous leaders, they have made some remarkable achievements and they will be very important to the new Board for advice. However, significant change is needed. Primarily, we aim to establish HACCI Youth, a young business network targeted to 20-35 year old professionals, practitioners, entrepreneurs and business owners. The goals are to facilitate networking, mentoring and leadership through drinks functions, breakfast meetings, speaker's forums and lecture series. Our intention is for our members to pay a reasonable yearly membership fee and then attend most of the functions for free. Ideally our sponsors will be willing to cover the modest costs in return for well-targeted business promotion".

"As for existing HACCI members, the majority are large established compa-

nies, high net worth individuals, and senior executives. We aim to re-introduce CEO Boardroom Lunches where those members can access guest speakers of the highest calibre."

"We would also like to promote HACCI as non-partisan. The general belief seems to be that HACCI is only for Greek-Australians. That is false. Any company or individual that is interested in Greek or Greek-Australian trade, commerce or industry is welcome to join. This does not dilute the objectives of HACCI, rather it expands our range of business contacts, and increases our business awareness and cross-cultural awareness. Most senior level Greek-Australian business people in Sydney already know of each other, it is important to introduce other major players into the mix".

The dynamic new HACCI is determined to achieve their aims. Even though the new Board was only elected on 18 March, they have already recruited major sponsors for events including Deacons and NAB. Their first HACCI Youth cocktail party is also being finalised. Earlier this week (23 March) Zoi briefly met with the Head of the Consulate General for Greece in Sydney, Mr Vasileios Tolios and the Consul for Greek Economic Affairs and Trade, Mr Nicholas Christodoulidis. They both enthusiastically offered their support towards HACCI.

Zoi will also rely on his personal mentors (independent of the HACCI Board) to assist him in realising certain goals. They include accountants, government advisors, financiers, entrepreneurs, and his wife Joanne who is a lawyer and has been bestowed with an EU Award for Excellence for her expertise in EU institutions and organisations.

Zoi seems to constantly be on the go. When asked how he spends his spare time he responds: "I used to sky dive, race cars and take flying lessons. It all seems so random now. My favourite activity at present is to madly race around the dining room table with my young son on our scooters. He is Schumacher and I am Rossi... Work-Life balance is very important, but to achieve it we all need to work smarter not harder. If interested parties can unite through a newly energised HACCI to promote goods, services and ourselves I'm sure our businesses and our families will be better for it".

For Membership or Sponsorship details and all general enquiries please contact Joanne Georgakis on:

Mob: 0434 220708, (internationally) 0061 434220708 - Fax: (02) 9451 5751

Updated and interactive website coming soon

Yiannis Ploutarhos Charity Event

One of Greece's most acclaimed artists is set to hit our shores in May 2009. Yiannis Ploutarhos has long held an obsession for Australia, the country and most importantly the Australian Greeks. His ambition for many years was to hold a charity concert in Australia and donate the money to a Greek Australian cause. True to his word, Yiannis Ploutarhos will be performing 2 charity concerts - one in Sydney at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre Homebush and the other in Melbourne at the Rod Laver Arena, where he will not be paid for either event.

Monies raised from the Sydney Concert will be used to establish a respite care centre in Sydney to house people with special needs within the Greek Australian community. Among the Greek Australian Community in Sydney there is a strong desire to strengthen and deepen the caring of people with disabilities. The money will be put into a trust until sufficient funds are accumulated to commence this project. The property/project, once completed, will bear Ploutarhos name amongst other peoples and organisations that will also be acknowledged and be involved. Make a Difference to someones life by supporting this Charity Event.

