

## Greece and Beyond

### An Exhibition of Greek Masters and Local Artists- Nola Diamantopoulos, Penelope Tsoutas, George Tsoutas

Tourists from the ends of the earth visit Greece to bask in the sun, float in blue waters, be uplifted by the cloudless sky of the immortals, and sense the past in the redolent ruins. They go to experience the "spirit of place" that belongs to Greece alone. Not on the usual tourist track there, however, are the art galleries, and there is also little opportunity to see the work of contemporary Greek artists in Australia.

The Greek Festival of Sydney and Art at Home Gallery are very proud to present the annual "Greek Masters Exhibition".

The exhibition includes great iconic artists who are household names in Greece. Works of Greek masters such as Fassianos, Mytaras, Sperantzas and S-tathopoulos are kept in National Galleries. They enjoy great success at major auction houses in London and throughout Europe. But most Australians are unaware of this wealth of art.

This year's exhibition will be a mix of these established Greek artists, with local Australian talent with a Greek flavour.

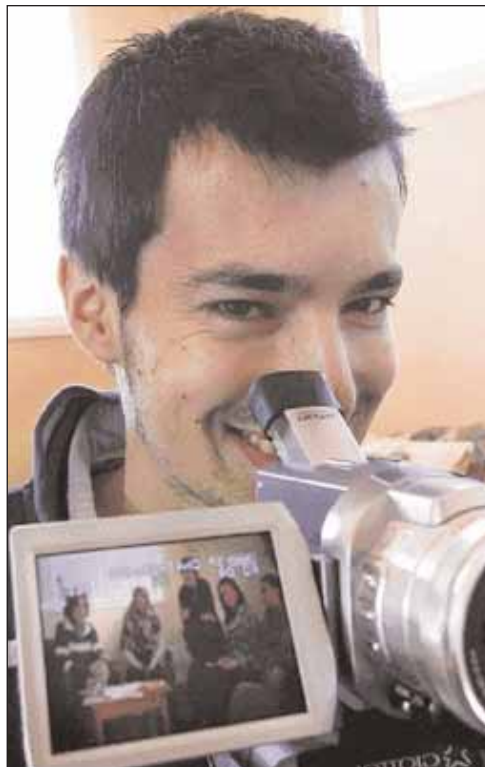
Date Opening night: Thursday 7 May, 6pm - 8pm

Exhibition: Friday 8 May through to Sunday 11 May, 11am - 5pm

Venue Art at Home Gallery, 467 Darling St, Balmain

Cost Free Entry

Contact 02 9555 5073



**Talented: Steve Anthopoulos is on his way to a successful career in the film industry. Picture: Lisa McMahon**

## Conspire to make film-maker a winner

HE'S only 21 and still at university but Cronulla film student Steve Anthopoulos is making a name for himself as an independent film producer.

Episode four of his 10-part series The 21 Conspiracy was recently nominated for the best drama in the 13th Annual Webby Awards, international awards recognising excellence on the internet and considered one of the highest online honours.

The budding film student wrote, produced and directed the series which premiered in July, 2008 and concluded in March this year.

The plot of the series revolves around Winston, who must discover a secret people only learn at 21, before his 21st birthday.

Mr Anthopoulos said the idea for the series came from his own thoughts on turning 21 and the hype surrounding the milestone.

As a nominee the episode is also eligible to win a Webby People's Voice Award, which is voted online by the global web community. Mr Anthopoulos has also produced a number of short films including Tree in the Forest (2006) and Thoughts of a Dying Atheist (2006) as well as number of other series such as Tea, Biscuits and Incest (2007).

*Article from The Leader*

## Pound hounds man's best bet

**AS DOG owners fussed over their pets on International Day of the Dog on Sunday, up to 60 were languishing at the Sydney Dogs and Cats Home at Carlton.**

General manager Christine Baramilis said animal lovers should consider adopting from a pound instead of buying from a pet shop. "Pet shops just sell puppies, and a lot of people aren't prepared for the work that goes into raising a puppy," she said. She said it was important for pet owners to keep details up to date on animal microchips. "So many dogs come in that are obviously well loved," she said. "All you need to do is go to your local council, know the microchip number, and council will update that for free." Ms Baramilis said the inseparable and well-adjusted Merlin the rottweiler and Grace the chihuahua, who featured in the Leader recently, still need a home.

**PHOTO: Much loved: Christine Baramilis with a dog from the home. Picture: Jane Dyson. Article from The Leader**



# Our Heroic Struggles

Much more ought to be said on the recent work of George Zangalis than a few short lines reported in the Neos Kosmos English Weekly (30 March). This book is a major work not merely because of its 600 pages and long title: Migrant Workers and Ethnic Communities. Their Struggles for Social Justice and Cultural Rights. The Role of Greek-Australians (Melbourne: Common Ground 2009). Above all it is a record of numerous struggles in the direction of a multicultural and democratic society waged by migrants and others from different ethnic backgrounds. To the author these joint inter-ethnic struggles had quite an impact, starting with the declaration of the principles of multiculturalism by the federal Government in 1972. By the end of the twentieth century all levels of government in the Australian Commonwealth had multicultural policies and programs.

The book is also original work. It is based largely on primary material collected by the author in the course of his own activities in Melbourne since 1950 but also material from activists in other Australian cities. The whole study cites about 700 persons who could be called multicultural activists. More than half this number are Greek Australians. The

second largest group are British Australians or simply Australians. Among them are trade unionists like the author, teachers and other public servants, social workers, a few ALP politicians, philanthropists and philhellenes, the latter becoming active in the campaign to free Greek political prisoners, restore Greek democracy and support Cyprus independence. Among the enthusiastic activists for change were the members of the former Communist Party of Australia before it dissolved in 1990. All without doubt were people who cared about human rights and social justice.

The author is mainly interested in the struggles occurring in the wider society where problems and inequalities were felt rather than in ethnic communities. Hence we have campaigns to give migrants a say in workplaces, trade unions, politics and the media and campaigns for multicultural education which included the teaching of ethnic community languages in public schools. Some joint activities are dealt with in detail, especially migrant workers' conferences and the work of ethnic community councils or similar bodies from the 1970s onwards. The largest chapters deal with the struggles for culture, language and identity; and Greek-Aus-

tralian and other migrants in politics. There is even a chapter about the 'English on the Job' campaign.

By concentrating on 'grass-roots' activities the author contributes to a greater understanding of the processes involved in developing a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. He also presents us with short but interesting biographies of activists, especially Greek-Australians. This helps us see their progress in positions of influence in trade unions, local government and Federal and State governments. The author tells many interesting stories, not least his own.

Although Zangalis relies heavily on the struggles of Greek-Australians and on Greek language material to tell his story the book by no means presents a Greek or Hellenocentric view which tends to view migrants and expatriates as successful entrepreneurs like the adventurous and clever Odysseus who returns to Ithaca with fortunes. On this point the author had little trouble in noting (from census reports) that the Odyssey of migrants all too often started and ended in factories and other workplaces receiving low pay after which they struggled on the age pension.

The material used by the author no less than his approach or methodology tells us quite a lot about Greek-Australians and their role. We certainly know why they have public presence including in business. Zangalis points to a large and growing body of writings by Greek-Australians. Much of it is literature which has been researched and appears in the published works of Dr George Kanarakis (Charles Sturt University). Zangalis also points to the variety of community organisations which played a positive role in the struggles. Much more visible to the general public of course are the numerous community festivals which attract local artists and a few from Greece and Cyprus.

All told, George Zangalis has challenged us to take a closer look at our history. Among other things his study adds to our understanding of the relationship between ethnic communities and society, labour history and Australian history and culture as a whole. Greek-Australians and others have written extensively in these areas but there are surprisingly few references to inter-ethnic workers struggles which is the main narrative of this book.

*Dr. M.P. Tsounis*