



bitions. Mrs Katerina often visits the greek nursing home “Vasileiada” and spends time and entertains the occupants.

Out of the their three children, I have met Loukas.

Loukas was born on the 24th of October 1963 in Sydney. He is a chiropractor and has his own chiropractic centre in Mascot. His is married to Melissa who is a chiropractor looking after Jannali Chiropractic Centre and they have two daughters: Sophie and Kiara.

Lukas recalls of his early years at school: “There was only 3 new Australian kids in my class. One Italian fellow, who became my best mate, myself and another greek girl. The Aussie kids where OK, but there was always that feeling of “us and them”. We were always the ones to be picked on, being called “garlic munchers”, “salami heads”, it was always the strange food we had in our lunch boxes that seem to send these Aussie kids into fits of name calling.

Little did they know that our European food has now shaped their culture, and they can’t seem to get enough of it.

Fist fights, name calling, pushing, shoving was an every day occurrence. Physically we didn’t appear to be effected, however mentally it would always get us down. As time went on and years went by, they realised that we were quite clever with our school work and also very very capable on the sports field. They began to see that really we did fit

in. However there was always one or two bullies that could not take the fact that we were better than them. And they continued to push, shove and fight.

When high school came around we found ourselves in a school (South Sydney Boys High) that had a large percentage of European kids. Things really started to settled in High school. Our culture was now starting to grow on them. We out did them in the class room, on the sports field and even in fights on the play ground. We finally started to fit in, or really they started to fit in with us. They now started to ask us for help. Final year in High school (1981) we had a large influx of Asian kids, this totally to all the pressure off the European kids. The struggle the Asian kids are having now in school is very much the same struggle we had in our early school days.

They were tough years but really they were good years. I know they made me more determined.

*** The exodus of Greeks from Egypt started during and after the revolution of 1952. With the establishment of the new sovereign regime of and the subsequent nationalisation of many industries from 1957 and afterwards, thousands Greeks had to abandon the country. Many of them have immigrated to , the and Greece. Many Greek schools, churches, small communities and institutions have subsequently closed. The Nasser regime was a major disaster for the which afterwards has dwindled from many thousands to a handful. The dangerous situation in the Middle East has also deteriorated the conditions for the Greeks that stayed back in Egypt. It is estimated that between 1957 - 1962 almost 70% of the Egyptian Greeks have left the country.

***Retirement Home : The Antoniadis-Kaniskeris Retirement Home, named after the two great Alexandrian philanthropists, is now housed in the old Kaniskeris Orphanage building. Today the Home houses and cares for 54 elderly folk.

