



Meet Barbara Iordanidis



Without a doubt I am a proud Australian- Australia is my home- yet Greece will always have a special place in my heart. My name is Barbara Iordanidis, I am 17 years old and I am currently studying in my final year of high school. I was born on the 8th of April 1992, in Sydney Australia and grew up being the only child in my family. I grew up in a loving environment where I first learnt to communicate in Greek. My parents felt very strongly about "maintaining our heritage", thus, they nurtured our culture by speaking to me in Greek, playing Greek movies and music and raising me nearby my grandparents.

Both my mother and father were born in Australia, my grandparents having migrated from Thessaloniki and Corinth. Throughout their childhood, my parents experienced their culture from first generation Greeks, both then growing up to believe it is necessary to preserve the Hellenic lifestyle in Australia. Undoubtedly, aspects of the Greek culture deteriorate from generation to

generation (I have witnessed this with the Greek youth of today), but through devotion and cultivation, my heritage was maintained in my household. I feel that this is a necessary aspect the Greek community must take notice of and apply within their homes.

I completed my primary school education at St. Euphemia College in Bankstown, to then continue my stud-



ies at Beverly Hills Girls High School. Throughout primary school I had a constant zest to participate in all aspects of schooling and this motivation has continued on throughout high school. My first achievements- which I hold very dear- was that of my artwork being printed in the 2000 Sydney Olympians Village Newspaper and being elected Sports House Captain of 'Athena'.

Attending a Greek College in Primary had both positive and negative aspects- yet I undeniably have many fond memories from St. Euphemia. I honestly believe that the quality of my Greek was nurtured throughout primary- as we would have a lesson of Greek everyday. Growing up in the en-



vironment of the Greek community- having Greek teachers, Greek peers, Greek choir, weekly church attendance, Greek dancing, video conferencing with students from Greece, morning prayers and national anthems (in both Greek and English) - honestly have nurtured my perspective on the Greek culture and has significantly influenced my knowledge about my heritage. Yet the negative aspects sur faced

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