

# Centenarian Kosma Karydis celebrates his 100th birthday



Kosma and Athina Karydis from Kato Hora (Mylopotamos) had 7 children: Minas, Peter, Angella, George, Nick, Bill & Maria.

**M**inas, their eldest son was the first to migrate to Australia at the tender age of 16 in search of work to support his parents and siblings. He was later followed by his brothers, Peter, George, Nick and Bill. George & Nick joined their brother Minas in Hobart, Tasmania and Peter along with Bill settled in Sydney. Their eldest daughter Angella married and moved to Chicago. In 1973 Kosma and Athina along with their youngest

daughter Maria travelled the arduous journey to Australia to see their beloved children, meet their wives and grand children. Minas had not seen his parents for over 20 years. It was a very emotional time for Minas and the rest of the family. During their time in Australia Maria married and settled in Sydney, and soon after this event Kosma and Athina longed to return to their home in Kythira. In 1982 his wife Athina passed away and Kosma moved to Australia to be with his children. He lives in Hobart with his son George and daughter-in-law Anna. After many years living in Australia in 1990 Nick and his wife Pat along with their daughter Matoula moved back to Kythira. Nick passed away in 2002. Pat and her daughter

are still living on the island. Peter passed away in 1994. His youngest daughter Marai is living on Kythira with her husband and 3 children. Minas passed away in 1998 but the family home in Kato Hora has been bought by his daughter for her family. Since buying the house numerous friends and family have been to Kythira. The Karydis family is large and visits to Kythira will be numerous over many years to come. Having the house stay in the family is an important link to the Karydis family heritage. Kosma enjoys a comfortable life in Australia but has lived in very hard times. Sadly he has witnessed the death of his wife Athina, three sons Peter, Minas and Nick, and also his beloved grand daughter Athena who was the daughter of

George and Anna. On July 1st Kosma turned 100! remarkably he still enjoys good health, the company of family and many friends. He still visits the local kafeneio and Saturdays and after Church on Sundays. He manages to play cards with his friends without the need for glasses! Family and friends gathered to celebrate this milestone - and recognise that from humble beginnings from the tiny island of Kythira Kosma and Athina Karydis have made their mark in this world with their 7 children, 21 grand children, 38 great grand children and 1 great great grandson. At present there are 5 generations of the Karydis family. the oldest is 100 and the youngest is one!!!

## Research into combating swine flu gets \$7m boost

SWINE FLU has triggered a mini stimulus in medical research with the Government announcing it will finance 41 research projects, among them the risks to children and why some people get flu more severely than others. The results of the \$7 million research campaign, expected by December, may come in time to combat swine flu in Australia. Three people have now died from swine flu in NSW. More than 1500 people have tested positive to the disease with 222 admitted to hospital, 16 of them in intensive care. Dr Keiji Fukuda of the World Health Organisation said yesterday the virus's capacity to spread in summer in the northern hemisphere meant it could remain active in the southern hemisphere after winter.

"We can expect to see increased activity during the winter months but [also] unusually high activity in the summer months," he said. The National Health and Medical Research Council announced the funding after accelerating the selection process for research grants, taking just over a week to make assessments that typically take many months. Joseph Torresi, an associate professor at Melbourne University, has been awarded \$414,700 for a study into the swine flu epidemic in Victoria. The largest grant, of \$457,000, goes to a James Cook University team to examine swine flu containment strategies in indigenous communities.

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