

Basil Zempilas's small Greek wedding

Life is even more hectic than usual for Basil Zempilas as the sports media man prepares for his Greek Island wedding to gorgeous girlfriend Amy Graham. Leaving his Channel Seven colleagues to cover the footy finals safe in the knowledge that neither of the West Australian teams are going to be making an appearance, Zempilas and Graham fly out to the island of Kastellorizo in four weeks.



The location where Basil Zempilas and Amy Graham will be married in September.

breakfast show before Graham wakes up, and is home late after the news.

But Graham said she aimed to cook dinner most weeknights, and Zempilas often surprised her at her work in a boutique investment company with coffee or juice for a catch up. Sunday breakfast together was a tradition.

"We make time, and I guess it's fair to say not long ago both of us were often out a lot and very social," Zempilas said.

"We are certainly less social now, and that's mainly because the best time for us to spend time together is at the end of the day after work."

Kastellorizo, where Zempilas' mother was born, holds a special family significance for the couple who got

engaged only four months ago.

His mother and her twin sister turn 80 year four days after the wedding, making the trip to Greece even more special for the family.

Zempilas maintains that a crowd of 70 flying in plus those who are Greek locals does not equal a big fat Greek wedding.

The outdoor event will be simple, overlooking pristine waters with the lights of the Turkish coastline shining beyond. The dress code is "Mediterranean".

It's a romantic setting for a man who turns out to be a true romantic.

"The town is on a natural harbour and we are right on the edge of the water," he said.

"We'll be able to see the lights of Turkey across the water."

Ms Graham says the proposal on April 24 came as a real surprise.

"I thought we were going out for a friend's birthday dinner," she said.

"He called me and told me to come out to the balcony quickly, to look at the moon.

"I walked out there thinking 'what are you talking about?' and then I turned around and he was down on one knee with a ring, beautiful flowers and champagne.

"I started crying, it was so romantic and such a great surprise."

The couple first got together eight years ago but Graham later moved to Dubai to work for Emirates.

They remained friends and in contact until the romantic Zempilas flew to Dubai with the aim of bringing her home.

The couple fly out of Perth on Graham's 30th birthday.

"I'm the luckiest girl in the world to be marrying Basil," Graham said.

Babies look likely in the near future.

"She is very kind and very caring, but most importantly she makes me laugh and we are very compatible. We are a team," Zempilas said.

"Starting a family will be sooner rather than later."

They will be taking about 70 West Aussies with them.

"It's right in the middle of football finals," Zempilas said.

"I wasn't very kind to my colleagues in that sense. They'll be working, but there in spirit."

The couple, who used to be seen out and about a lot on Perth's social scene, have been staying in lately preparing for the event and making sure that they spend time with each other - which can be tricky due to Zempilas' busy work schedule.

He leaves for work on 92.9FM's



Patras shows off its new archaeological museum

On the heels of the wildly publicized Acropolis Museum opening, the city of Patras unveiled its new archaeological museum to the public last Saturday for the first time. Nearly 8,000 sq feet in size, and costing over 21 million euros, the museum is the second largest in the country - following the Acropolis Museum of course.

The Patras museum documents the history of the city spanning an era from pre-historic times to the late Roman era. The museum was designed by Greek architect Theofanis Bobotis, which is a well known name in the Greek architectural circle. Looks great! Nice to see Patras invest in such a nice museum. Now all we need is the tourists to get to Greece to scope it out.

Greek court refuses student bail

A north London student accused of killing a teenager in a nightclub has been refused bail by a Greek court.

Andrew Symeou is charged with the manslaughter of Jonathan Hiles, 18, of Cardiff, who died on the isle of Zante in 2007, allegedly after being punched.

Mr Symeou, 20, of Enfield, returned to Greece last week for trial after losing a High Court fight against extradition.

Bail was refused as Mr Symeou has no permanent address in Greece, campaign group Fair Trials International said.

'Unfounded prosecution'

Jago Russell, the charity's chief executive, said: "Despite the major



Andrew Symeou denies being in the club at the time of the incident

flaws in the case against him, Andrew now faces the prospect of months in a Greek jail before his trial even starts.

"We will continue to work with his Greek lawyer to fight for bail and to persuade the Greek authorities to



Jonathan Hiles represented the Great Britain roller-hockey team

end this unfounded prosecution."

A spokesman for the campaign group said Mr Symeou would prepare his appeal against the decision over the next five days.

Mr Hiles, who was in Britain's roller-hockey team, died in July 2007 two days after falling off a dance podium in a nightclub.

It is alleged that he lost consciousness when he was punched hard in the face.

Mr Symeou, a Bournemouth University student, maintains that he arrived in the club three hours after Mr Hiles was injured.

Campaigners said two of Mr Symeou's friends were "beaten, punched, slapped and threatened" by Greek police officers until they gave statements implicating him.

There was a long challenge in the UK against Mr Symeou's extradition, although he was eventually returned to Greece last week after the House of Lords refused to hear an appeal.

Hundreds of expat Greek children take summer camp classe in Greece

In what has become a yearly event, hundreds of Greek expatriots between the ages of 8 to 12 are partaking in camps hosted by the Greek government in Malesina and Epanomi. These children hail from 51 different countries and take Greek language courses, cultural classes, dance classes and take trips to ancient sites. Deputy Foreign Minister for Greeks Abroad Theodoros Kassimis has pledged that more cabins and facilities be built to be able to host more children in the coming years. A separate event hosting Greek children from Georgia from ages 18 to 24 was held on the island of Crete. There are also many fraternal and associations from the Greek diaspora that do similar such trips for members and their children in a way to get better acquainted with Greece.