

**PEOPLE
LIKE US...**

Every week, "Kosmos" newspaper will be presenting stories of Greeks in Australia. If you would like to share your story with us, send us an email and your favourite photo at: kosmos@kosmos.com.au



Two words about me:
Enthusiastic and Extroverted

Where was I born:
Greece

Family status:
Married

My origins:
Athenian

Two words about my family:
Noisy and opinionated

About my work:
Fascinating and enjoyable

My interests:
History, writing, reading, gardening, traveling and having fun with friends

About my life in Australia:
Fulfilling- doing what I love best- writing books, giving papers at conferences, being stimulated by new ideas

Dr Maria Hill

Historian/Educational Consultant

and meeting new and interesting people.

My relationship with Greece:
Love-hate. I love its history, culture and people but its bureaucracy drives me insane, all the red tape makes it hard to get anything done.

What I like about living in Australia:
You matter- as a ordinary citizen of this country- you can complain if services are not up to standard and people will listen and respond regardless of whether your are wealthy or poor. It's a great democracy!

What I don't like about living in Australia:
It's too far away from Europe with all its history and culture and art.

If I would like to live in Greece one day and why:
I think I would like to divide my time between Australia and Greece and enjoy the best of both worlds like a lot of Greek people do in Australia.

My personal big dream:
To make a major contribution to our understanding of the past, to become a famous historian!

My life philosophy:
Relationship with people are important and they matter and they should be our first priority not money and status. People matter!! Things don't!!



Dr Maria Hill has a passion for history and writing professionally

Maria was born in Athens and came to Australia at a young age with her mother. They were reunited with her father, an industrial chemist, who had migrated to Sydney a few years earlier. Maria grew up in Newtown when it was predominately Greek and has fond memories of the area.

She spent a gap year in Athens working as an administrative assistant in the Australian Embassy where she experienced first hand the impact of 1974 invasion of Cyprus. On first day of the invasion cab drivers in Athens refused to take her fare because they thought she was an American - part of the NATO alliance that supported Turkey against Greece. On the same day shops in Athens had been cleared and the normally bustling streets were empty. It was a very frightening experience but nothing compare to the unceasing bombing by German planes that Greece endured during the Second World War.

Upon her return to Australia she attended the University of New South Wales where she graduated with honours in History. Her Honours thesis on the Greek family in Australia 'GreeksinOz' was a three generational study of Castellorizian and Kytherian families in Australia and can be found at www.cybernaut.com.au/greeksinoz

Her work on the Greeks in Australia earned her an offer of a PhD scholarship from La Trobe University that Maria declined to pursue a teaching career.

In 1998 Maria completed her Masters degree in History focusing primarily on the Arab-Israeli conflict and

Nazi Germany in an effort to make these complex and contentious histories more accessible to secondary school students. With her Masters' supervisor Professor Ian Bickerton Maria co-authored *Contested Spaces: the historiography of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, one of the few textbooks that have enabled students to examine the conflict from multiple perspectives. After a successful teaching career Maria decided it was time to pursue her passion for history and writing professionally.

Maria is married with 4 children and lives in Sydney with her husband Stuart. She enjoys gardening, travel, cooking, fine wines, attending concerts and is a big fan of Early Music and the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra.

Maria Hill is a professional historian and is an accredited member of the Professional Historians Association (PHA) of NSW. She is currently Visiting Fellow at UNSW@ADFA (Australian Defence Force Academy). Her primary expertise is in the field of Australian history, mainly twentieth century and specifically on the Second World War and Australian immigration. She also has extensive experience as an educator and has taught widely in NSW secondary schools as well as TAFE and at UNSW. As well as being a 'content expert' in history she is able to provide advice and assessment of educational programs for institutions and individual clients.

She has extensive oral history interview experience as part of her Honours and PhD research with her oral history interviews having passed the stringent requirements of the Ethics Secretariat at UNSW. Maria has written for the educational market and is willing to research and write history textbooks for all states and territories.

At the present time, she is busy turning her PhD thesis into a book that is to be published later this year by UNSW Press entitled: *Diggers and Greeks: the Australian campaigns in Greece and Crete.*

**News:
August 2009:**

Maria gave a paper at the International conference: 'Seventy Years On: New Perspectives on the Second World War,' University of Calgary in conjunction with The Centre for Military and Strategic Studies, 31 August - 2 September 2008, Alberta Canada entitled: 'Diggers and Greeks: new perspectives on coalition warfare.'

September 2009

Maria will be presenting a paper entitled "Remembering and Forgetting: Interviewing veterans of the Greek and Crete campaigns" at Islands of Memory: 16th National Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia, 17-20 September 2009, Launceston Tasmania.

Information from Dr Maria Hill's website

