

## Our Ancestors

# George North (Tramountanas) the first Greek in South Australia

*Georgios Tramountanas was born in Athens, Greece in 1822. He was from a family of shipbuilders/seamen who lived on the Isle of Limnos, but also had family connections to Salonika (formerly Thessaloniki).*

It is believed that he had been to Australia on a previous occasion, before coming back with his brother Theodoros, arriving in Pt. Adelaide in 1842. Georgios decided to stay here, but Theodoros journeyed on to Albany in Western Australia, never to be heard of again. The name Tramountanas means north wind from the mountains.

Georgios worked for a time at Peake's Winery at Clarendon, now known as the Old Clarendon Winery. He also worked on the steamer "The

Admella" in 1857 for 12 months, finishing up just before his marriage to Lydia Vosper in 1858.

Before his wedding, he changed his name to George North and both he and Lydia changed religion to Roman Catholic, Lydia from Church of England and George from Greek Orthodox, as he was the first Greek, there was no Greek Orthodox church at that time.

Soon after, George & Lydia moved to Port Lincoln, where they stayed for a short time until they obtained a pastoral lease on a property at Green Patch, just out of Port Lincoln. Here their 2 sons were born, first George Henry in 1861, then Hero Clare the following year.

In the mid to late 1860's, the family moved to Little Swamp a few kilometres west before moving further north in the early 1870's. George & Lydia, with 2 young sons in tow, drove a team of bullocks across uncharted and roadless territory, to Streaky Bay, where

George had found work on a property owned by Mr. W A Hall. George became a Naturalized British Subject in April 1878.

He and his sons were sheep farmers and had properties at Bramfield, Mt Wedge, Collie, Sheringa and Colton. Their son George Henry married Eliza Valkema and Hero Clare married Rosina Boylan, George & Lydia spent their final years at Hero & Rosina's property at Colton, which they called Newland Grange, the homestead still stands today.

Both George Henry & Eliza and Hero Clare & Rosina had 11 children and some of their descendants still live on the West Coast today.

This is a condensed version of a long history of the FIRST GREEK and his families, who were amongst the early pioneers of this state.

This history can only be made available due to the diligent research of the late Mrs. Ellen Purcell and the late Mrs. Evelyn Nelson who were both 4th



generation descendants and also Cheryl Ann North, who is a 5th generation descendant of George & Lydia North.

The descendants of George & Lydia North, have formed an association they named the Tramountanas-North Association Inc, to honour the efforts of their ancestors and to support multiculturalism and the Greek - Australian connection.

*This article written by Mario Jaspers, assistant Secretary of the Tramountanas-North Association Inc.*

## Costa's Garden Odyssey

It's a community most of n- ever see. A maze of sights and smells run by a dedicated group of early risers. This is the unique pre dawn world of The Sydney Flower Market. Dominated largely by generations of Greek and Italian family dynasties, Domenico Mazzacuva is a classic example of a small independent grower with over 35 years experience in the flower market game.



Throughout the program, Dom gives us an insight into this unique world as well as inviting Costa back to his farm so we can all get some valuable tips on how we can grow flowers like the pros.

Two months into our project at The Hills School and the garden is starting to take shape. What was once a denuded, sloping wasteland has been transformed into 5 level, interactive spaces specially designed for the kids' special needs. Then, the moment the kids have been waiting for as the children finally get to experience their new playground and the looks on their faces? Well, they literally said it all. Costa believes that every house in Australia should have a compost bin, as its great for the environment and the garden. But to get the best out of your compost you need to give it plenty of love, care and nurturing if you want to get beautiful, moist fresh organic matter for your garden. Costa visits Alley Rutherford, a woman who loves all things compost to get the low down on how to create the perfect organic mix. Agricultural field days in rural areas are a great place to spend a day if you want to update yourself on the latest and greatest sustainable practices and equipment. Costa spends a day at the Tocal Field day in the Hunter Valley in NSW, and rates his top three finds of the day - an automated lawn mower, a rainwater tank that doubles as a garden bed and a water tank that doubles as a seat? Costa's only disappointment during the day being that his favoured charge, Bacon, failed to win the annual piglet race. Oh well, there's always next year.

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