



Hugh Gilchrist presenting credentials as Ambassador for Greece. The Royal Palace. October, 1968.

had changed their name, but this was not advisable, because it could arouse suspicion, and could also create difficulties on return to Greece. "It is certainly true that long, unintelligible and not easily pronounced Greek names are an obstacle in foreign countries, especially in the British Dominions and among business people; but it is better to leave one's name as it is, or at the most alter it slightly to make it sound more English, rather than replace it by something quite different."

Among other practical counsel the authors recommended solicitors Harold I Morgan in Sydney, Eustace Flanagan (of Pavey, Wilson and Cohen) in Melbourne, and O'Shea and O'Shea in Brisbane, as legal advisers; and, for medical attention, Dr Howard Bullock and Dr Ramsay Sharp in Sydney and Dr Constantine Kyriazopoulos in Melbourne.

"Indispensable guidance" was also given on how a Greek should behave in Australia. Many Greeks, it was stated, flattered themselves that they were superior to Australians in their level of civilization and in their commercial astuteness. On the contrary, I Zoi en Afstralia asserted, the Australians – with the few exceptions to be found in all countries – were superior to the civilized peoples of Europe.

Greek migrants were therefore advised to preserve their own customs, but also to familiarise themselves with those of the host country.

"Shouting, banging the table, gesticulating, rudeness, going about in gangs in the streets, and dirty attire" were things which aroused Australian dislike of foreigners, the authors warned, adding that this was not due to xenophobia. "The Australian, wherever he may be, eats, dresses, sleeps and walks with care and circumspection, and always prefaces his conversation with 'Please' and ends it with 'Thank you'."

Every Greek was urged to do his duty not only to himself and his family but also to his neighbour in trouble, to Greece, and to the Church, and to pursue the highest Christian ideals. Some had apparently fallen below this standard, for the authors added: "The worst aspect of all – not just for our compatriots in Australia now but for those who may come in future – is that some individuals – probably only a few – after working honestly for years and having made their money, evade their obligations to other businessmen who have behaved honourably towards them, and think it clever to abscond from Australia, persuading themselves that they will never return." On such persons, they warned, "the heavy axe of justice will inexorably fall, condemning them to six years jail and payment of all debts and costs."

Contrasted with such delinquents were those who had voluntarily returned to Greece to fight in the recent wars against Turkey and

Bulgaria. On them I Zoi en Afstralia bestowed the highest praise, listing 23 by name and recalling that many had paid their own passages home to enlist, at great financial sacrifice; and somewhat acidly the authors noted that, although Greek law imposed imprisonment for evasion of the call-up, the Greek Government had made no proper arrangements to help men to return to Greece.

I Zoi en Afstralia's account of the discovery of Australia was imaginative, referring to "an ancient Chaldaean legend about a great continent to the south of India", and to rumours brought back by soldiers of Alexander the Great, and to mention of Australia by the ancient geographers Aimilianos, Manilios and Ptolemy, and alleged Arab visits before the Dutch and Portuguese.

On firmer ground was Kentavros's account of his ten day tour of northern New South Wales. Armed with a suitcase and a rug, he took the train to Taree and by various means reached Murwillumbah, calling on Greeks in the region's towns, and travelling up the Manning River in the motor-launch Ariadne, operated as a ferry service by a member of the Comino family. A hired car and driver took him to Wauchope, Port Macquarie, Kempsey and other towns. He travelled by train to Casino and in a wildly driven buggy from Kyogle to Byron Bay, and ended his journey with a stormy voyage in a small steamer from Lismore to Sydney. Despite bumpy roads and occasional punctures, he found the scenery beautiful and his compatriots hospitable, and he was impressed by the region's dairying and oysterculture.

Every Australian farmer is his own master, he declared, and he fears neither domination nor theft nor loss.

"A future edition", Kentavros hoped, would show Australia's Greeks "demonstrating the same intense love of their native land, as well as higher levels of commercial and social success". And Charles (Kosmas) Andronicus, regretting that lack of space had precluded mention of many interesting aspects of Australian life, declared his intention to remedy this in the next edition. None eventuated, but I Zoi en Afstralia retains a unique place in the history of Greek settlement.

Hugh Gilchrist. BIOGRAPHY

Hugh Gilchrist was born in Sydney on 8 August 1916. He was educated at Edgecliffe Preparatory School, Sicup Place School Kent, and Cranbrook School.

He received his tertiary education at Sydney University.

World War II saw him serving with the Australian Military Forces (1941-1943) and the Australian Imperial Forces (1943-1945), reaching the rank of Captain.

He first joined the Department of External Affairs in 1945 and held a number of overseas postings with that Department, namely London and Berlin (1947-1948), Paris (1949-1950), Djakarta (1950-1952), and South Africa (1955-1959). He represented Australia as High Commissioner to Tanganyika (1962-1964) and Tanzania (1964-1966) and as Ambassador to Greece (1968-1972) and Spain (1976-1980).

He has been a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly (1963) and a Member of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans (1949-1950).

In Australia he has held the offices of Assistant Secretary of the Information and Cultural Relations Branch, Department of External Affairs (1966-1968) and of the Legal and Treaties Branch, Foreign Affairs (1972-1974) as well as First Assistant Secretary of the Consular and Legal Division of Foreign Affairs (1974-1976).

After retiring in 1981 he became a member of the Literature Board of the Australia Council until 1984.

His publications include Australia's First Greeks in the Canberra Historical Journal, 1977.

He acquired a reputation as the premier historian of 20th century Greek-

Australia following the publication of Greeks and Australians, Volume 1, The Early Years, 1992; Greeks and Australians, Volume 2, The Middle Years, 1997;

Greeks and Australians, Volume 3, The Later Years, 2004.

The magnificent book, Life in Australia, in both a Greek and English editions, will be launched at macLaurin Hall, Sydney University, on Wednesday 9 December 2009 at 6pm for 6.30pm start. Invitation open to all.

Grecian delights are tempting

By day, as its name would indicate, you will find lawyers from nearby legal chambers having coffees and snacks, sometimes with clients who are awaiting hearings in the nearby Sutherland Court House.

And by night walking into the New Chambers is akin to walking from a beach in, perhaps, Mykonos or Santorini, into a Greek taverna where you can enjoy taramosalata and spanakopita and moussaka and loukanika and much more.

And if the menu reminds you of a famous Greek restaurant in Homer Street, Earlwood, the Greek Islands Taverna, then that is not a coincidence.

Your host at New Chambers is Con Hatzikiriakos, whose father John is the owner-chef at Earlwood. At New Chambers, it's Con in the kitchen with a talented crew waiting on tables and ready to help you

with your choice. If you are new to Greek cuisine, taramosalata is a dip made from fish roe, spanakopita are small spinach pies, moussaka is an oven dish with minced meat and aubergines topped with a cheese sauce, and loukanika is a spicy Greek sausage. New Chambers has great value with set menus that start at \$45 per person for a huge Greek salad, half-a-dozen entrees and a full platter of meat dishes including souflaki, lamb cutlets, grilled quail (ortikia in Greek), the above-mentioned loukanika, and home-made chips.

Dining with four or more friends, two other set menus at a very reasonable \$67 per person can include a seafood platter of crab, king prawns, and oysters, as well as the meat platter, or a hot-and-cold seafood platter that includes lobster.



New Chambers is open for breakfast and lunch Mondays to Fridays from 8am and for dinner Thursdays to Saturdays from 6pm. The cafe-restaurant is licensed.

New Chambers Cafe-Restaurant, shop 47/40 Belmont Street, Sutherland. Bookings: 95422333.