

**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:

Stubborn when it comes to getting what I want and I persevere till the end.

Where was I born:

Cholargos, Athens, Greece

Star sign:

Capricorn

Family status:

Married

My origins:

Both my parents are from the precinct of Kalavryta. My father from Lechouri and mother from Livartzi. They still live in Greece and have a small mini-market and Cafe in the village of Lechouri. They are quite traditional.

Two words about my family:

I have a 3 year old little boy which I adore and my wife means everything to me. I met my wife here in Australia and so my new life began.

About my work:

I'm in the Fencing business. I have a franchise with Jim's Group and had training for this. I provide my customers genuine, reliable & efficient service. I erect all types of fences (Colorbond, Timber, Picket, Pool,

Yiannis Poretsanos has a franchise with Jim's Group

Feature, Tubular & even gates-timber or steel-) in all areas, but my base is Eastern Suburbs. I do Free Quotes, I am an MBA member, I'm fully insured and OHS Work cover accredited. It's hard work, but I love it. My number is 0401237053 and my email: johnporetsanos@iprimus.com.au

My interests:

Tavli, Pool, Skiing (both), Swimming.

My favourite food:

Moussakas.

My favourite book:

Anything to do with Ancient Greek History.

About my life in Australia:

I used to live here, back in the 70's, I came with my parents when I was 12 years old. We were permanent residents then. I went to Tempe High and Dulwich Hill High, but continued at TAFE for Panel beating. I went back to Greece when I was 19 and lived there for 25 years. I've been back to

Australia more than 4 years now. I got married and that's why I stayed. Australia is a beautiful country. I'm happy that my son will be brought up here.

My relationship with Greece:

It's the country I was born in, I love Greece, but I also love Australia.

What I like about living in Australia:

It's the land of opportunities. You can do anything you put your mind to it. That's the reason Australia captured my heart.

What I don't like about living in Australia:

It's very quiet, not a great nightlife, something I was very used to in Greece, especially living in Athens.

If I would like to live in Greece one day and why:

I've lived there most of my life, but I'm not planning to live there anymore. I had all I could have that



Greece offered me, now I'm happy here with my new life and family. Only a holiday every now and then.

My personal big dream:

To live a healthy and wealthy life with my family.

My life philosophy:

Live for the Moment.

COSTA ANASTASAKIS: founder of "Our Forgotten Children Trust"



In 2board magazine (issue 7, Oct-Dec 2009), there is a list of 11 influential people who put their talents, groundbreaking ideas and ambitious visions at the service of our planet. Among them is photographer Costa Anastasakis whose vision is to capture the energy and spirit of the children of the world, bringing to life their hopes and dreams at an age when they are still untainted by prejudice and politics.

London-based photographer Costa Anastasakis has spent the last four years visiting the most vulnerable regions in more than 65 countries across the globe, raising awareness about the plight of children in the 21st Century, and giving a face to those who have been overlooked and forgotten. Three years ago, Costa founded the Our Forgotten Children Trust, which links businesses and

donors with specific causes and deserving communities all over the world. Speaking to 2board, he explained why he has dedicated all his time, energy and power to this cause: "I have witnessed a world lacking in love, which is rapidly diminishing our point of reference as a human race. The thousands of children that I have encountered over the years have all but one face - the face of hu-

manity. By neglecting our planet we are also neglecting ourselves. It is time for us to rediscover who we truly are. Only together can we begin to heal the world. The healing begins by simply tuning back into our hearts.

A few words about Costa Anastasakis

Costa Anastasakis's emergence as a photographer came after a visit to Nepal and the Himalayas, where he found a way to capture what he had long held so dear: the indomitable nature of the human spirit in all its myriad forms - the resilience, humour, pain and joy of everyday people.

Costa began a global odyssey, using his camera to explore the world. Moving to London, his reputation quickly grew, along

with a demand for his relaxed and non-invasive style of shooting, with commissions from the Evening Standard, Woman, Home, The Ministry of Sound and OK Magazine, amongst others.

As correspondent for Bloomberg News in Greece, Costa provided exclusive coverage of the Athens Olympic Games. In 2001 his first book was published: My Mykonos, a collection of stories in pictorial form of a very personal journey.

With Our Forgotten Children, Costa is taking a quantum step forward. His vision is to capture the energy and spirit of the children of the world, bringing to life their hopes and dreams at an age when they are still untainted by prejudice and politics.

Article by Elena Siampou

