

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:

People often admire my relaxed mode, but it is only a facade- I truly do stress about matters. After all my experiences, I still have an idealistic view on life (some people would call it naivety)- which often gets me into trouble with the 'realists'. For instance, I believe we all have some kind of social duty to society- we can all contribute to society's improvement.

Where was I born:

Sydney, Australia

Star sign:

Gemini

Family status:

Married, with three children

My origins:

Both my parents, Mihalis and Niki, were born in Mesotopos, Lesvos.

Two words about my family:

What I have learnt over the years is how important a family's support network is; not only do they provide support, they also offer encouragement that inspires you to keep going. I feel blessed to have such caring and loving partner and children, parents, siblings and nephews around me.

About my work:

I am a high school teacher- specialising in English- and thoroughly enjoy teaching. Every day, week, month and year poses new challenges that need to be overcome. There is never a dull moment. Just do not talk about our ever-increasing paperwork....

Vasilis Vasilas documents the migration of "Lesvians" to Australia

My interests:

After years serving in various Greek associations, my 'calling' has been to document the migration of 'Lesvians' to Australia. I still love listening to music and watching 'world movies', but conducting and archiving photographs/interviews now take up most of my free time. I was such a football fanatic...I do not even have time for this anymore.

My favourite food:

The way my father prepares souvlakia (marinated and in wine overnight) makes them tender and tasty; add my mother's creamy pastichio and all my wife's sweets (chocolate and non-chocolate), and our family BBQ is heaven for our taste buds. Got to give a plug to Giorgos Savvas' home-grown tomatoes- they are incredible!

My favourite book:

Very hard in pick one book from a vast catalogue. All the books on the "Asia Minor Catastrophe" and Balkan Wars (1912-13) I enjoyed reading. I remember 'Rembetika' by Gail Holst opened a whole new perspective on Greek music. It does not necessarily have to be Greek... As a young adult, I read the Jim Morrison's biography, 'No-one Gets Out Alive,' in a two days. Over the years, William

Golding's 'Lord of the Flies' has really grown on me.

About my life in Australia:

Extremely busy- balancing family, teaching, social life and Syndesmos. There seems to be no weekends or holidays for rest and relaxation. And it is only getting BUSIER!!!!

My relationship with Greece:

Monthly telephone calls to most relatives, a monthly dispatch of Greek magazines from my cousin Dimitris, a daily ritual of reading Greek newspapers on-line... Greece (or some aspect of Greece) is always on my mind.

What I like about living in Australia:

Everything about it. I think we take Australia for granted at times. Whether it is the sheer space we live in or the freedom of expression we enjoy, it is a very special place in the world.

What I don't like about living in Australia:

The only thing which makes Australia difficult for me (at times) is its geographical isolation. I feel we are just too far away from things- especially socio-cultural events.

If I would like to live in



Greece one day and why:

Throughout my youth, I had the 'romantic' vision of relocating to Greece; after university, I travelled there to see where I could 'fit' in and realised my destiny was here. What I have realised is we can make significant contributions to Hellenism and Hellenic culture from abroad.

My personal big dream:

Too complicated, too big and too dependent on so many factors.

My life philosophy:

It is cliched but life is very short, so we really have to chase our dreams. There is no time to waste... (And you got to have a supportive partner and family to help you realise these dreams).



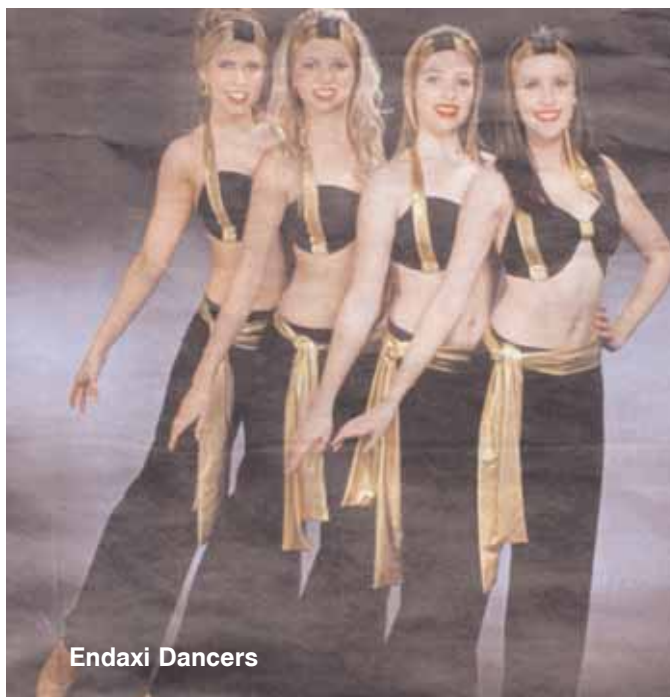
Paradise Band



Joanna

DANCE WITH ZORBA

THERE is no shortage of live entertainment at Bankstown Sports Club. Put your dancing shoes on for **Dance with Zorba** starring dynamic vocalist Steve St Clair, backed by the fabulous Paradise Band, who will sing popular songs in Greek and English. Greek vocal duo **Efi and Antony** the exciting **Endaxi Dancers** and an exotic belly dancer will also take to the stage on Friday. If you are looking for some relaxing and free entertainment wander over to the Piano Bar for beautiful piano tunes provided by **Joanna Melas** from 5.30 pm.



Endaxi Dancers

WEDDINGS



Peta Elizabeth Maley of Coogee and Harry Stavrinou of Greenacre wed at St Euphemia, Greek Orthodox Church, Bankstown and enjoyed a reception at Conca D'oro Events Centre, Riverwood. The couple now live at Belmore. Picture: MOTIF - PHOTOGRAPHY



Alex and Linda Erou were married at Saint Euphemia Greek Orthodox Bankstown, on February 6. They had a reception at the Emporium Function Centre, Bankstown. Picture: RCF - PHOTOGRAPHY