

VASILIS VASILAS:

Thank you for your support

Following the successful fundraiser, Vasilis Vasilas & Friends, Held at the Mytilenian House on Sunday, April 18, 2007 I wish to thank all the people who contributed to its success:

1. The Mytilenian Brotherhood of NSW

The Proodeftiko Syllogo of Agias-sos

The Antissian Association of NSW who showed what unity and harmony can achieve.

2. The Greek Newspapers, Kosmos and Greek Herald, as well as the Greek radio programs of Pavlos Theodorakopoulos, Anna Arsenis and Petros Karavatakis on 2MM, Kostas Nikolis and Ioannis Spanellis on The Greek Radio Station of Australia for their great promotion and coverage

3. All the sponsors for their generous contribution such as:

Mytilenian Brotherhood of NSW, the Antissian Association of NSW, Ioannis Papatheodotou of Bank of Cyprus, Nikos Theodorakopoulos of Majestic Travel, Georgios Lianos of Masterpiece Pictures, Georgios Christou of Premier Northpak, Georgios Giannaros of European Window Systems, Panagiotis and Maria Karpouzis of Olympic Delicatessen, Maria James of Kitchen Queen, Michael Efstratiou of Bottlemart Cellars (Dulwich Hill), Andonios Sentas of Sentas Bros Fruit and Vegetable Supplies, Ioannis and Angela Krallis



of Angela's All Seasons Florist, Angelos Matzouranis, Tamvakeras, Myrsinio Kourahani-Panagi, Ioannis Psomas, Andonios Mouhtaros, Eleftherios Samios and Digasa, Paul and Eleni Tsimnadis of Alfa Clothing (Marrickville), Mihail and Eleni Papahatzis of Black Wattle Deli (Sydney Fish Markets), Paul and Millie Vasilou, Eleni Kourouli, Georgios and Stavitsa Kefalas and Vicky Kritikos.

4. All the speakers for their kind words of support:

Stavros Kritikos, Nikolaos Savvas, Georgios Savvas, John Loukadellis, Peter Theophilou, Efstratios Tamvakeras, Mary Peries-Tremoulas and Theophilus Premetis.

5. The entertainers of the afternoon: John Zographakis and Georgios Moudanidis and his Choir.

6. Administrators of Syndesmos Face Book Fan's page: Arthur Banos and Meropy Konitsa.

Vasilis Bebedellis and Savvas Biris

for their help throughout the afternoon

7. All the ladies who provided food and worked tirelessly throughout the day: Maria Englezou, Melpo Savva, Kleoniki Spliadi, Stavitsa Kefala, Fotini Samiou, Erato Koukidou, Eleni Papahatzis, Eleni Kourouli, Millie Vasilou, Vicky Kritikou, Niki Vasila, Eleni Tsavala, Evi Vasila and Hiroko Vasila.

8. For his tireless efforts behind the organisation of the Day, Georgios Kefalas

9. For their impeccable planning of the entire function, Stavros and Vicky Kritikos.

AND TO ALL THOSE PRESENT ON THE DAY WHO SHOWED THE MYTILENIAN COMMUNITY'S WARMTH, BIG HEART AND GENEROSITY.

I thank you all for your support
Vasilis Vasilas

THE AUSTRALIAN NATION (as I see it)

HENRY ARMSTRONG

You can buy from
Amazon books. \$19 – 95

In the history of our great Nation we have the Greek settlers who played a major role in the building of our Nation. The family of all the settlers all played a major role, the most consistent of all of these was the Greek family. You must also realise that we still have a long way to go before we build a great Nation. The old culture of course that we all came from is something that we all have fond memories of, in fact, in my case the Irish culture, I love the food, the dance, the music and the jokes, but I am not from whence we came from- I am Australian. In my book of 61 poems, short stories and sketches; I have the GREEK CAFE.

THE GREEK CAFE.

In all the cities of Australia
And in the remote, country towns,
The Greek community spread their wings.

They established in the main street
Where all the business activity was,
Where the population settled,
What is known through the land
As the Greek Cafe.

In the early days of our history,
When the going could be really tough,
The Greek Cafe stood the test of time
And never ran away.

They stayed in the country towns
And helped to build the bush.

When the wealth did finally come
In the fifties after the war,
They were ready to invest
In the business of the day.

They worked as an extended family;
Grandparents and the children
All worked for their success.

The culture that they brought with them
From the old country long ago
Stood them in good stead.

They took on the battles;
They fought them well and won
And took all the opportunities
That floated in their way.

The Cafe prospered in the fifties,
The wool and expanding business
Set sail for the good times ahead.

The hours were early morning
To very late at night.

They were always open
Before the working day
And for those to be fed at night.

The meals were of high standard
And the price was always right.
Friday was a bumper crop,
As the farmer would say.

Fish and chips was a good reward
As they prepared the take-away
For the Catholics on Friday night.

Religion was very good to them
Before they changed the rules;
The competition from the fast food chains
And the highways bypassing the town.

But as the larger towns became cities,
Land values and other business activities
Only expanded the wealth.

The universities for the children
Where not that far away.

Hard work or long hours didn't drift away.
Long hours for the bright children

To study medicine, business and law,
Or spend time in the creative fields
Of music, dance and art
And in the world of sport.

Australia is not a race between the cultures;
It has a culture all its own.

The Greek community played their part.
They did it all their way

And they have reason to be proud.

The Greek Cafe is a symbol of our past;
It is part of our history
On equal par with wool.

Soldier thanks those who risked lives

A distinguished Kiwi soldier who made five escapes from the Germans in occupied Greece in 1941 has thanked the Greek people who risked their lives to help him.

Major General Sandy Thomas, 90, who suffered severe grenade and bullet wounds as a 22-year-old second lieutenant and was taken prisoner at Galatas during the Battle of Crete in May 1941, expressed his gratitude in the keynote Anzac Day address at Wellington Cathedral yesterday.

Mr Thomas paid a personal tribute to the Greek villagers and monks who aided his 300-kilometre escape

trek from a concentration camp in Thessaloniki. His odyssey ended when he stole a boat near Mt Athos and navigated his way to freedom in neutral Turkey.

"Without the help of the Greek people I would not be here today. I would ask you to spare a little thought for them on this Anzac Day.

"There was no mercy shown by the Gestapo to civilians assisting escapers. Mum, dad and the kids, they were all lined up and shot if they were found assisting our people."

While recuperating in a Corinth hospital in 1941, Mr Thomas made four failed escape attempts. After finally

being classed fit by German doctors, he was shipped from Piraeus to the Thessaloniki concentration camp in northern Greece.

He escaped from this camp and began his six-month journey east across the difficult landscape of Halkidiki to Mt Athos, a rocky peninsula populated mainly by monks.

There he evaded capture, moving from monastery to monastery before escaping by sea. His exploits in the Battle of Crete and escape from the Germans earned him his first MC.

He went on to command the 23rd New Zealand Infantry Battalion and fought

in North Africa as well as during the Italian campaign, earning a DSO.

He was demobbed from the New Zealand Army in 1945 and transferred to the British Regular Army. He ended his military career as Major General Thomas, Britain's final Commander-in-Chief of Far East Land Forces in Singapore, in the early 1970s and now lives outside Brisbane.

Standing beside him at the cathedral yesterday was his grandson Tyson Zastrow, a 21-year-old, IT student from Brisbane. Last year, Mr Zastrow walked the 300km from Thessaloniki to Mt Athos to personally thank the Greek people who helped his grandfather during his escape.

"I walked in the footsteps of a hero on that trip. I'm incredibly proud of him."

Wellington Mayor Kerry Prendergast broke down three times while speaking about her grandfather, Mostyn Pryce Jones, who was wounded in Gallipoli.

By TIM DONOGHUE -
The Dominion Post

Call for medals for campaign in Greece, Crete

A military historian is calling on the Australian Government to award campaign medals to Australian soldiers who fought in Greece and Crete during World War Two.

The soldiers were issued with medals by the Greek government, but not the British Empire. Dr Maria Hill, a visiting fellow at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, says they deserve recognition for fighting in what was an extremely difficult campaign. "These campaigns were really horrendous. They were sent there on the front line to fight a war that had no chance of success, by the British Government for good political reasons," she said. "Their own government acquiesced for them to be used that way and didn't find out what was really going on. And now there is an opportunity to actually right the wrong."

Article from ABC News