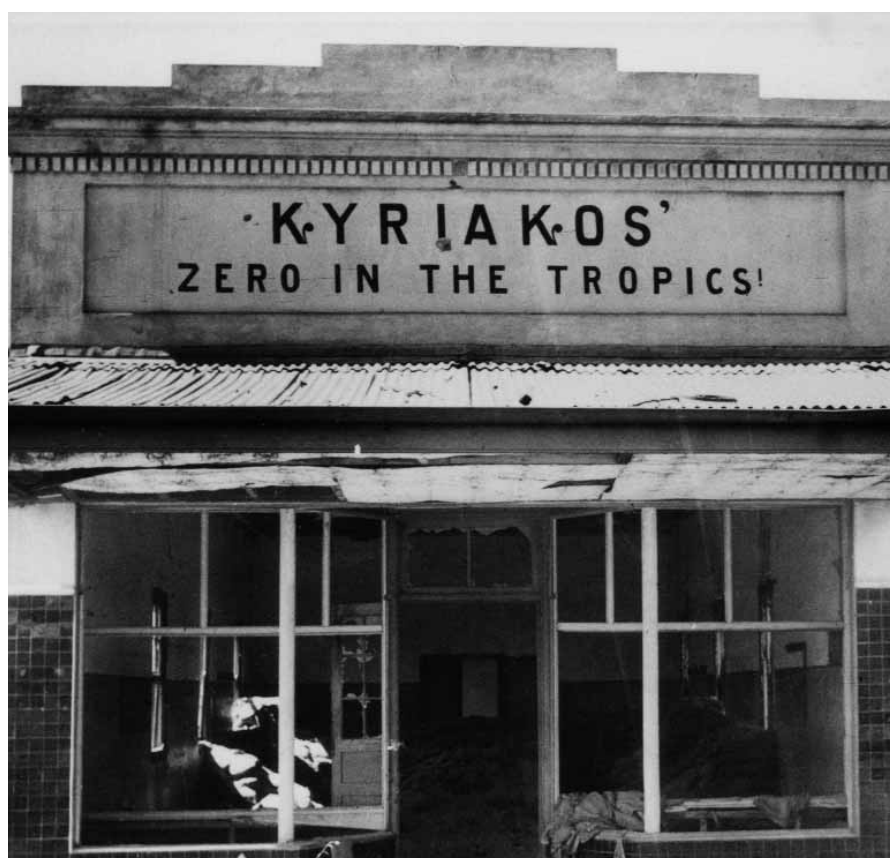




Photographer Effy Alexakis and historian Leonard Janiszewski, co-curators of the *Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Cafe* nationally touring exhibition. Photo by Irena Conomos, from the *In Their Own Image: Greek-Australians National Project Archives*



GREEK CAFE EXHIBITION

to open at Australia's 'Top End'

The critically and popularly applauded nationally touring exhibition, *Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Cafe* will open at the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Darwin, on Monday 10th May 2010. The display will be on show until Sunday 20th June 2010.

Our nationally touring Greek cafe exhibition *Selling an American Dream: Australia's Greek Cafe* will open in Darwin on Monday 10 May at the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, Darwin. It will remain on display until 20 June. The exhibition will particularly feature the unique development of Greek cafes and milk bars at Australia's 'Top End'.

day long weekend in June". Lynette Aitchison, Manager of Heritage Services at the Northern Territory Library, echoes Fisher's statement confirming that "it will be an in-

teresting exhibition for the Territory, especially as we have such a large Greek com-

munity".

For co-curators Alexakis and Janiszewski, the exhibition's display at the Northern Territory Library will be a reunion with old friends – it will be their third exhibition at the Library since 1987. As Alexakis points out "the Northern Territory's Greek history has a unique and boundless energy that all our show's at the 'Top End' have attempted to capture", and that the Greek cafe exhibition "will reveal our deep personal and research connections with the Hellenic presence in the Territory over the last 23 years". Alexakis is confident that audiences will be fascinated and intrigued by some of the stories from the Northern Territory: "some will make you laugh, others will entice a deeply sad emotional response, most will surprise". Of course, Territorians will be able to see how their Greek cafes fit into the overall national and international Greek cafe history.

For Janiszewski, the exhibition represents the couple's ongoing commitment to reveal stories not only of the well-known Greek communities of Australia, but also those not as



Star Milk Bar - Darwin, NT, 1948. Marion (left) and Julie Canaris' parents, Michael and Evangelia (nee Kailis), were originally from the tiny island of Kastellorizo in Greece. Julie: 'Some Greeks told him [my father] that he would make a fortune if he came to Darwin... We opened a shop in Chinatown – the Great Northern Star Cafe. Chinese and half-cast girls worked in the shop... After the war [World War II], we went into the Star Milk Bar next to the Star Picture Theatre in Smith Street... It was where the Mall is today... It had ice creams... we also sold milkshakes, lemon and orange squash, scorched almonds, Cherry Ripes, boxed chocolates, cigarettes and tobacco... Our main aim was to serve as many customers as possible during interval.' Greek-run food catering businesses in Darwin during the 1940s to 1950s, such as the Star Milk Bar, the Rendezvous Cafe, and the Continental Milk Bar, all attempted to express a sophisticated style in their design, furnishings, staff uniforms and customer service that copied Greek cafes and milk bars in Australia's major urban centres – they tried to offer 'a bit of Hollywood glamour' in a what was then a frontier town. Photo courtesy Papadonakis family, from the *In Their Own Image: Greek-Australians National Project Archives*

This is the third venue of the exhibition's tour across the nation. Previously the exhibition collectively attracted well over 100,000 people at its two earlier venues: the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, and the Migration Museum, Adelaide.

Co-curated by one of Australia's leading documentary photographers, Effy Alexakis, and socio-cultural historian Leonard Janiszewski, the exhibition has been much anticipated by staff at the Northern Territory's Department of the Arts that has organised the hosting of the exhibition in Darwin. Melissa Fisher, Manager of Marketing and Events for the Department, said that they were "keen to have the Greek community be a big part of such a ground-breaking exhibition" and that the display would "make a great lead in event... for our Greek Glenti Festival that is held annually on the Queen's Birth-