



# Vasilis Vasilas' photo-exhibition was launched in Mytilene

Following its success at the Mytilenian Brotherhood of N.S.W's "Lesviaki Evdomada" last year, Vasilis Vasilas' photo-exhibition on Lesvian migration, "The Journey", was launched on Tuesday- with critical acclaim- at the Dimitiko Theatro in Mytilene, Greece.



Mytilene's Mayor, Nasos Giakalis, who incidentally had visited Australia with the Municipal Council's Band's Tour in 2008, launched the exhibition, praising the Sydney school teacher for his commitment and passion in preserving the Lesvian identity and heritage in the diaspora.

"The migration of millions highlights the enormous difficulties and adversities the average Greek experienced in the post-War period which ultimately lead to the decision to risk everything and moving abroad for a better future," s-

tated Mytilene's Mayor, Mr Giakalis.

Master of Ceremonies for the launch was Mytilene's Maestro, Nikos Tsigotis, who highlighted the exhibition is only a small fraction of Vasilis Vasilas' work on Lesvian migration.

"With the continual expansion of his website on Lesvian migration and the publication of his first book, we hope Vasilis continues this invaluable work and look forward to more exhibitions and publications," stated Nikos Tsigotis.

Vasilis Vasilas thanked everyone for their support for

his work, emphasising that the accumulation of information and photographs on Lesvian migrants has continued on Lesvos itself (during his visit) and will continue when he returns to Australia.

"Presenting my work in Mytilene is a dream come true and it is another stage in the long journey ahead of me. There is still a tremendous amount of work ahead," emphasised Vasilis Vasilas.

One highlight of the evening was the strong presence of Sydney's Agiassiotis, highlighting their continual support for Vasilis' work.



## Lefkada, the lady of colors

Visitors arriving on the Ionian island of Lefkada, in western Greece, are greeted by impressive mansions of old aristocrats standing next to neoclassical and renaissance buildings that house museums and cultural institutions in the city of Lefkada, the island's capital. Terraces made of wood, stone-built slip-roads and colorful tin houses, make up the old section of the city.

The island is connected to the mainland by a long causeway, or draw bridge, and an undersea tunnel.

The main shopping street is pedestrianised, and runs through the middle of the town to the north harbour. The stone-built pedestrian zone is where the city's heart beats.

The city of Lefkada has been the capital of the island since the late 17th century when the Turks handed it over to Francesco Morosini, the descendent of a well-known Venetian family.

Lefkada is said to be where the poet Sappho ended her life, while myths link the island to the ancient Greek goddess of love Aphrodite and to Odysseus, the hero of Homer's Odyssey. In fact, it has been suggested that Lefkada was Odysseus' Ithaca.

It was the birthplace and home of poet and politician Aristotelis Valaoritis (1824-1879) and the birthplace of the Greco-Irish orientalist and poet Patrick Lafcadio Hearn, who was later known also as Koizumi Yakumo.

