

Brewarrina without Cafe De Luxe would be a Greek tragedy

BEYOND the undulating linoleum floor is a wooden sign showing all its nine decades: "Our Motto: Cleanliness & Civility."

Under its gaze, the clean and civil couple, **Angelo and Margaret Pippos**, shuffle each day to serve home-made chips, mixed grills and steaks to locals and tourists tucked into wooden booths installed when Cafe De Luxe was built.

There is little evidence of the 21st century in the fibro relic whose grubby glass shopfront has faced Brewarrina's main street in north-western NSW for 84 years.

Leonard Janiszewski, who has studied the history and social impact of Greek cafes in the outback, said Brewarrina's was one of the few of its kind surviving. "Cafe De Luxe is one of the earliest, still-existing soda parlours that has been Greek-run since the 1920s when it was established," the Macquarie University research fellow said.



Living history...Angelo and Margaret Pippos continue the Cafe De Luxe's tradition of serving Brewarrina for 84 years. Photo: Edwina Pickles

A refrigerator, a pie warmer and a simple cash register are the only nods to modernity. "You can't change it," said Mrs Pippos, appalled at the suggestion.

Her husband, 63-year-old Angelo, has lived out the back

of the cafe his father George built all his life. Most of those years the son and mother ran the business - now dubbed, with just a hint of exaggeration, "the number one original Greek cafe in the world".

"All she lived for was this

place; couldn't get her to go away," Mr Pippos said. "I'd go to school and come back and work at the cafe.

"I came home from school at 16 and I've been here ever since."

His mother died 15 years ago, but shortly before her death he attended a reunion of classmates from Brewarrina's Catholic primary school. He and Margaret, a flight attendant, locked eyes after 40 years.

And while her husband slaves over a 90-year-old wood stove at the back of Cafe De Luxe - he has never used a gas or electric stove - she serves customers beneath another vintage sign that reinforces the time warp: "Iced Fountain Drinks. We Excel in Sundaes Cleanliness & Civility."

"It's the end of the cafe era in terms of family-run," Mr Janiszewski says. "It's a time warp. It really is."

Brewarrina locals, who have never known a world without Cafe De Luxe in it, will have to accept the inevitable one day soon.

"No children," Mr Pippos said. "There's no-one to take it over."

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald by Saffron Howden

Migration 'time bomb'



ANASTASIA SIDIROPOULOS:

"It is like a dream. I feel very proud"

Beauty queen from Greece Anastasia Sidiropoulou who was crowned Miss Teen World 2010 at the beauty pageant held in the Hilton Post Oak Grand Ballroom in Houston, Texas on August 14 returned to Greece very happy and proud. Anastasia is a 17 year old from the Thraomakedones Mountains in Athens, and recently graduated from high school. She was awarded a \$5,000 educational scholarship, crown, cash, wardrobe, jewelry, media training...

HIGHER earners could face income tax rates of up to 60 per cent within 10 years unless Australia takes in more migrants.

The warning comes from leading demographic consultancy Macropian, which predicts a big shortfall in tax revenue by 2020.

Its calculations are based on government forecasts that suggest the number of retirees will double relative to the number of workers in 10 years. Under that scenario, there would not be enough income-tax revenue to pay for the vast rise in expenditure needed to care for Australia's ageing population.

"If the next government does not start to tackle this issue immediately and raise their targets for immigration, then their policies will be unsustainable within two to three years," Macropian CEO Brian Haratsis said.

"While both parties have pledged to cut migration in a bid to win votes, the policy will be disastrous in the longer term because we will not

have enough taxpayers."

Mr Haratsis said policy must focus on keeping immigration levels at roughly today's level of 300,000 or higher to avoid a huge shortfall in tax revenues.

Companies will also face an increasing skills shortage and wage inflation because of huge mineral projects in northwest Australia, including the Gorgon project, one of the largest natural-gas operations in the world; the Wheatstone petroleum project; and stages two and three of the historic Pluto oil and gas project.

"These operations are already sucking labour out of Sydney and Melbourne and, as they expand, the drain on labour will become intolerable," Mr Haratsis said.

Wages would then be forced up across the country placing many eastern-states' business at risk, as highly paid jobs in north-western Australia attracted thousands of "fly in, fly out" workers from across the country, he said.

"These projects will take



us from 2012 to 2017, during which time other massive projects will come on line to take up the slack.

"That's why Rudd tried to hit the mining industry with the super-profits tax, to build up a war chest of cash to pay for these future costs.

"In the absence of significant contributions by the mining industry, our calculations show higher-paid workers will face marginal tax rates of 60 per cent".

"No political leader seems prepared to think far enough ahead to avert this

demographic time bomb. We need more taxpayers, not less and the short-term policies of both parties will cost us dear".

Figures show that at the end of 2008, total migration was 301,000, a figure bandied about by scare-mongering politicians.

But only 83,000 were permanent residents. The rest were students, working tourists, business migrants and 457 skilled visa holders, who can stay only four years.

Article from the Sunday Telegraph