



Hellenic pride at certain soccer matches in Australia, imagine if these young people were given the opportunity to help reopen 500+ year-old historic churches or dig up 2000+ year-old artefacts while on holidays in Greece? Participating in Hellenic adventures of consequence.

Obviously such projects need to be conducted under the supervision of trained archaeologists or other experts, where artefacts are handed in, conserved and exhibited in museums, but the process is still as thrilling as if you got to keep finds. A chance to live the dream and do good.

More on Agios Kosmas

Agios Kosmas is quite unassuming externally. Even though pieces of stonework from over 2500 years ago have been used in building part of its walls, an untrained observer won't realise that. Inside, the church is quite magical, with a mysterious ambience. Impressive icons from 1300's are painted on the walls, plus something even more special – using columns from approx 1900 years earlier, as part of the load bearing structure.

Agios Kosmas was built in the vicinity of an ancient Pagan temple, which some say was the temple of Aphrodite, a goddess closely associated with Kythera. It's built on an ancient site, reusing Doric columns from a much older temple but doesn't relate to Aphrodite as Heinrich Schliemann thought in the 1800's. Evidence found over the last decade has linked the Doric columns inside Agios Kosmas with a temple to the Dioskouroi, Castor and Pollux - worshiped by Laconian inhabitants in Kythera during the Classical period (500BC-100AD).

Community Backed Archaeology

Archaeology is far from new in Greece, but what was new, is the inclusion of the local community and members of the Diaspora in the project, both as sponsors and beneficiaries. Perhaps the term 'Community Backed' Archaeology is most appropriate.

A lecture outlining the concept of Community Backed Archaeology, perhaps sparking similar initiatives in other parts of Greece, plus a presentation of what the team discovered while excavating parts of Kythera's ancient Laconian-controlled capital will be held at Sydney University on the evening of Wednesday November 10th. 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Bring your friends and children along.

It's an interesting story, about more than just 2000 year-old artefacts but a way of unifying the community on many levels, engaging youth and providing a connection to ancient Greek heritage.

Perhaps you'd like to join the team as a volunteer next year? Come along and find out how.

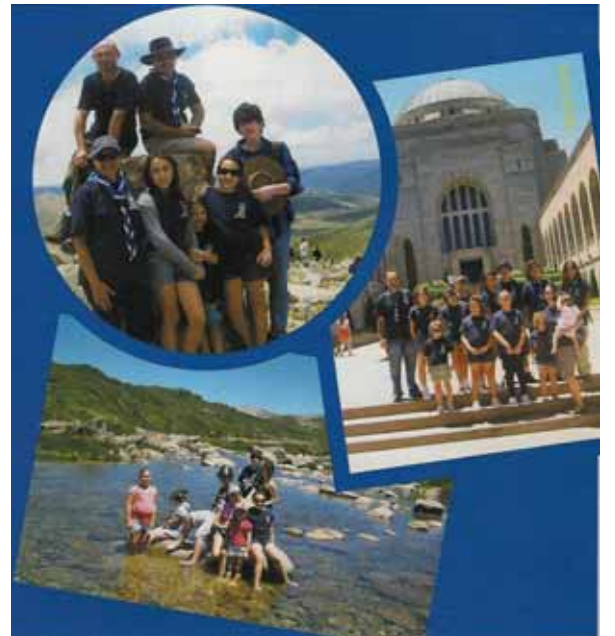
Call George Poulos from the Kytherian Association of Australia on 02 9388 8320 for more information. Or contact Kathy Samios on 02 9349 1849 or e-mail john.fardoulis@gmail.com to reserve your place at the free lecture.

This project was graciously supported by the Nicholas Anthony Aroney Trust and Kytherian Association of Australia. The lecture is being sponsored by Laiki Bank and presented in conjunction with the Sydney Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens.

Group Adventures and News

6th Bankstown Conquers Kosciusko

During the Christmas break the 6th Bankstown Greek Scout Group organised a 4 day visit to Canberra and the Snowy Mountains. Leaders, Scouts, Cubs and their families were all invited to attend. In Canberra we visited the War Memorial, Questacon and Cockington Green Gardens. The highlight of the trip was the two days spent in the Snowy Mountains. Staying in Jindabyne, we visited a trout hatchery, Charlotte's Pass and Thredbo. The hike up to Mount Kosciusko was especially enjoyed by all who made it to the top. On the day of the hike there was a very strong wind which made the ascent particularly difficult. However, once at the top the view was most rewarding and it was a great achievement especially, for the younger ones in the group.



Nick - "Rama"
6th Bankstown Greek Scout Group

Pass the 90 mark and collect \$20,000

HUNDREDS of Year 12 students yet to sit the HSC have been offered lucrative university scholarships to stop a brain drain from Western Sydney.

The University of Western Sydney has notified almost 200 of the brightest students from schools in the city's west a \$20,000 grant is theirs if they score an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank of 90 or more.

"The scholarships are a way of giving the opportunity for higher education to more people,"



Scholarship ... HSC student Costa Cassimatis at home / Pic: Craig Greenhill Source: The Daily Telegraph

a spokesman said.

"Certainly one of the key points is to get more people from Greater Western Sydney into u-

niversity."

The University of New England also offers early entry to more than 1650 high school students on recommendations from their principals.

Students who complete a year of the Principals Recommendation program, which is not a scholarship, can then apply to the University of Sydney more easily. The most popular degrees chosen by students this year were primary school teaching, nursing, arts and psychology.

Moorebank High School captain Costa Cassimatis yesterday said he was excited to be offered a UWS scholarship.

The Chipping Norton local wants to study physiotherapy or occupational therapy.

Article from the Daily Telegraph

Alex Dimitriades Stars in "Summer Coda"

Greece's Alex Dimitriades stars in the new film "Summer Coda", which has really impressed the Australian press. The movie is filmed in Australia, primarily in the countryside. The film director is Richard Grey. The action of this new Australian drama centers around the return of Heidi played by Rachel Taylor, to Australia in search of family and friends. With only a violin and a little cash, she ends up catching the attention of a handsome farmer, i.e. Alex Dimitriades who takes her home to his orange grove. According to the Australian press, this movie will be Dimitriades' best movie since he last played a homosexual. He has played roles in numerous movies which were filmed in Greece such as "Wedding Party" and "The Kings of Mykonos".

The movie premiere was on October the 19th in Melbourne. "Summer Coda" is currently being played in special cinemas in Australia. Dimitriades noted that this movie actually forces us to choose our own adventure: "Personally, I don't really know where I'm going, but I'm sure looking forward to it," he says. It's not a bad attitude to have.