

Hellenic Communities of the Mediterranean: then & now

Hellenes have been everywhere! From the shores of the Black Sea to Asia, you can find traces of ancient colonies, conquests, migration and great Hellenic and Byzantine empires. This talk provides a snapshot of those historic communities across the Mediterranean, from the ancient colonies to the modern era. The Mediterranean has arguably been a Hellenic influenced lake at various times.

Teaming up for the 36th Greek Festival of Sydney, **Costas Vertzayias** and **Billy Cotsis** will provide a snapshot of these historic communities at Beta Bar on Tuesday, 27 March. We will hear how these communities came about, how they survived and what impact they have had on Hellenism.

The presenters, lawyer and writer Costa Vertzayias AM and documentary film maker and journalist Billy Cotsis, have both travelled extensively across the Mediterranean.

A particular focus will be on Egypt, Magna Graecia of Italy, Malta, Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia, France, Ceuta, Spain, Libya, Palestine, Israel, Asia Minor (Turkey). Cotsis told Neos Kosmos, "the modern construct of the Hellenic Republic and Cyprus are not the only places in the Mediterranean where Hellenes can still be found. However, centuries ago one could find Greek speaking communities all across the Mediterranean thanks to the colonies, and some of the great Hellenistic Era (post Alexander) empires."

Today Hellenes can still be found in places such as Magna Graecia, Turkey, Egypt and Syria, with some tracing their history back to the ancient colonies.

"These communities have provided some of the most notable Hellenes in history, for example Cavafy in Alexandria and Saint Frumentius of Syria. We are proud to present what we have researched and come across via our respective travels over the years to these places and communities." Cotsis explained.

The speakers are grateful for the support of the Greek Festival and Beta Bar and Hellenic Club of NSW.

Tuesday 27 March

6.45 pm for a 7.00 pm start

Beta Bar, 238 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

Free. Light catering will be served courtesy of Beta Bar.

Bookings: 9750 0440

or greekfestival@goc.com.au

<http://www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au/events-2018/march/hellenic-communities-of-the-mediterranean.html>

Mr Vertzayias and Mr Cotsis will also be presenting a talk about the drive for Greek independence at Randwick Library on 24 March as part the Harmony Day Celebration. The talk at 10.00 will about the influence of Lord Byron, the role of far away provinces such Odessa and Romania and the determination to gain independence from the Ottoman Empire.



**Greek ATLAS League ,
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Book launch: A new book by George Michelakakis

"Hope in Crisis"

With Professor Vrasidas Karalis

The Greek Atlas League in collaboration with Eothion Publications
present "Hope in Crisis" a new book by George Michelakakis

on **Friday 23 March 2018, 6.00 pm**

at the *Greek Atlas*.

The book will be launched by professor Vrasidas Karalis Department of Modern Greek, Sydney University. Hope in Crisis is a social and ideological history of post war Australia articulated through the study of the works by Greek Australian visual artists and poets.

Michelakakis' work examines three main themes:

- The difference between culture and art;
- The conflict of values between the nation-state and forces of globalization;
- The aesthetic differences between first-generation migrants and their children.

Using 90 colour photographs of visual art works and dozens of significant poetic works, the book offers an account of Greek migrant art in Australia during an era in which the values of the modern nation-state are under attack from the values of relativism and globalization. From 1971 the author, himself a visual artist, experienced immigration in an era of rapid social and technological change that marked the end of one historical period and the advent of another.

If you'd like a copy of Hope in Crisis, it will be available to purchase at the event for \$30.

Η Ελπίδα
σε Κρίση
Κουλτούρα και Τέχνη
στην εποχή της παγκοσμιοποίησης

