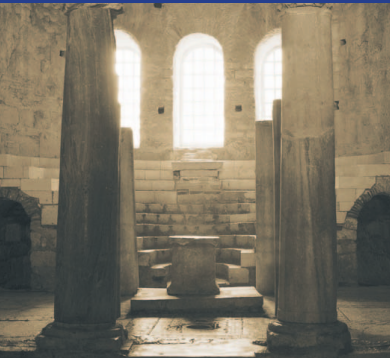


Saint Nicholas of Myra

by Flora Liveris, Darwin/Perth



As the boat cruises through the Aegean, the limani of Kastellorizo fades in the distance as we glide over the waves on our way to the Turkish fishing town of Kas. The fresh morning air rolls off the ocean while the passengers chatter among themselves, code-switching between Greek and English. The conversations are interspersed with laughter and anecdotes as we make our way into Turkish territory to spend the morning in Kas. You can't help but stop and reflect on a trip like this — all in a day's work for the locals — but, significantly, a journey our ancestors made, in and out of the harbour, as seafarers and merchants sailing along the Lycian coast.

While Kas is just a stone's throw away from Kastellorizo and a port of entry into Turkey, it was one of many neighbouring seaports instrumental in business and trade. Once known by its Greek name of Antifilo, it was one of Kastellorizo's mainland colonies — along with towns such as ancient Myra, Patara and Kalamaki — with many of our forbears living, or having landholdings there.

One of the oldest sailing routes, the Lycian coast could be seen as an ode to Saint Nicholas — patron saint of sailors and the sea — who served as a Greek bishop in Myra, south-west Turkey, in the 4th century AD.

The life and legend of Saint Nicholas is woven with stories of miracles and goodwill: he is believed to have calmed choppy seas, given money to the poor, and saved people from near death. He never promoted his philanthropy preferring to secretly deliver gifts and small bags of gold at night; some say through a window, or down a chimney. There is little written about Saint Nicholas and it wasn't until after his death in the mid-fourth century (the exact year is not known) that stories of his generosity spread throughout the centuries and he was popularised around the world.

Talk to a child about Saint Nicholas and you'll hear of a jolly old fat man who lives in the North Pole, wears a red suit and rides a sleigh full of toys pulled by his reindeers. His aim is to deliver presents to all the good children around the world; and those who've been naughty get a stocking full of coal.

The Making of a Legend



In Greek, Nicholas means "victory of the people".

- Santa Claus is known as Noel Baba in Turkey, while in Russia he is called Ded Moroz, translated to Grandfather Frost.
- In Brazil, Papai Noel (Santa Claus) was only introduced in the 1950s and because of the hot weather wears a silk suit.
- The relics of Saint Nicholas are said to exude a watery liquid, called manna (myrrh), believed to hold miracle powers.
- Saint Nicholas is the patron saint of many areas and people, including lawyers, pawnbrokers and, most oddly, prostitutes.
- From his birth, it is believed Saint Nicholas refused food on Wednesday and Friday, the two fasting days in the Orthodox church.
- In Scandinavia, "Nils" is a slang word given to people who are marvellous, derived from the name Saint Nicholas.
- On Saint Nicholas Day in the Netherlands, "Sinterklaas" parades through the streets on his sleigh with his sidekick, Black Pete, who throws Licorice Allsorts into the crowd.
- Saint Nicholas has the nickname "Wonder-Worker", based on all his miracles.

AFK wishes you a

Saint Nicholas of Myra

by Flora Liveris, Darwin/Perth

However, we know the real Saint Nicholas did exist and lived in Myra (modern-day Demre), now a place of pilgrimage for thousands of people who each year visit the church built in his honour and where his original tomb lies. Saint Nicholas was born into a wealthy family in Patara, an affluent province in Lycia, Asia Minor, in AD270. The region was Hellenistic in its origin, having only recently lost the Greek presence during the Greco-Turkish War of 1919-1922.

An only child, young Nicholas' parents dedicated his life to God, as it was believed that from birth he possessed "miracle" powers. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by his uncle who was the bishop of Patara, and later Myra, and who ordained him as a reader and priest. Saint Nicholas made pilgrimages to Palestine, Egypt and surrounding areas of Asia Minor to preach Christianity. Legend has it that he was even imprisoned during the Diocletian persecution of Christians, and released when Constantine came into power.

Myra gained a level of superiority in the region with Saint Nicholas as its bishop, and is still considered a sacred and holy place, as it is where he died. More than 150 years after his death, the Church of Saint Nicholas was built in Myra, on the foundations of an older Christian church where he served as bishop. His holy relics rested there until 1087 when they were removed by Italian sailors and taken to a cathedral in Bari, Italy, where they are venerated today. Altars and churches around the world are dedicated in his honour, and Saint Nicholas is revered among Orthodox and Catholic Christians alike. He is the patron saint of many places but holds particular importance in Greece and even amongst Russians, many of whom travel to Myra by the busloads, to pay their respects to their most beloved saint.

The mid-Byzantine domed basilica of Saint Nicholas is significant in its architecture, displaying fine mosaics and frescoes depicting religious scenes, including the lifecycles of Saint Nicholas, and is believed to be the only one of its kind in Turkey. The church was severely damaged by an earthquake in 529, and a target of the Arab raids in the 7th century, but was later rebuilt in the 8th century. In 1862, Russian Tsar Nicholas I restored the church and had a hymn etched on the Saint's sarcophagus lid. Still today, Saint Nicholas' iconic status remains, and even though Turkey is predominantly a Muslim country, the government last year announced it was planning to ask the Italian government to return Saint Nicholas' relics to their original resting place.

Each year on the anniversary of his death on December 6, the Church of Saint Nicholas in Myra holds a service — the one and only of the year. It is a Greek Orthodox liturgy, delivered by the Metropolitan of Myra, with Protestant and Catholic representatives. Throughout Europe, the day is also known as the Feast of Saint Nicholas and is a big celebration, especially for children, whom Saint Nicholas is also patron saint of.

Across the sea from Myra, Kastellorizo also pays a special tribute to their revered Saint and on his name-day icons are carried down to the harbour as part of a religious procession. The church on Kavos headland, built in the 16th century, is also dedicated to Saint Nicholas. It was destroyed during World War II, but later restored in the 1980s. Saint Nicholas is also referenced in many Kastellorizian folk songs including a traditional marriage song, which is sung on the savatovratho.

Saint Nicholas of Myra; With your curly beard ... Come and give your blessing; Tonight on the votania.

Although Kastellorizo is no longer part of the nearby mainland, the reverence of Saint Nicholas remains as strong as ever.

Each day, as dawn breaks over the mountain, the local fishermen get ready for a day's work. They head off on their small boats, which chug softly out of the limani and into turquoise ocean, with Saint Nicholas by their side.



Kastellorizian Lexicon by Dr Paul Boyatzis

The Kastellorizian word appears in bold with the demotic Greek word in brackets.

Tsirís	(pateras)	father
Alafantaria	(arahni)	spider
Alortós	(orthios)	upright
Anaggeon	(apohoritirion)	toilet
Alima	(lipos)	fat
Vosi	(ohi)	no
Diakouniaris	(zitianos)	beggar
Katodi	(ipogion)	cellar
Kitsas	(didimos)	twin
Koualo	(metafero)	to shift
Pandapao	(fevgo)	to depart
Sasouna	(sfirictra)	whistle



Student Exchange 2010: Kazzie Boys in Sydney

by Irene and Peter Calopedos, Sydney

We would like to thank the *Australian Friends of Kastellorizo* for enabling us to be hosts of the two boys Kostantinos and Ilias for the ten days in Sydney. The experience was unforgettable. We were enriched by the visit of the boys sharing our home and life in Sydney. The weather was perfect, averaging 19 to 20 degrees.

The two boys are the same age group as our youngest son, who is a fourth generation Australian. The sharing of the languages, cultures and food was a pleasure to be involved in. The boys were so happy and relaxed with us, they were sorry to leave Sydney.

We showed them the sights of Sydney and beyond. As you would expect they went to the Opera House, Sydney Harbour Bridge, Taronga Zoo, Sydney beaches and took in the view of Sydney from the Sydney Tower and much more. My sons took them fishing in Botany Bay and Georges River; unfortunately they only caught two undersized fish that were thrown back into the water. They were also fortunate to see a large fur seal sunning itself on a private pontoon in Sylvania Waters.

The boys took a liking to fish and chips so we took them to the Central Coast to Patonga that has famously the best fish and chips! The rural setting was perfect with Kookaburras, Bush Turkeys and fishing boats all before us. They were made welcome there by locals; that's the Ozzie way. Kostantinos even bought a t-shirt saying "No Worries Mate".

Three mornings were spent at St Spyridon College where they were able to have a glimpse of an Australian style school that was a positive experience too as the boys were happy to wake up early to get back each day. The students and staff at the College really made the Kazzie boys feel very welcome.

Families of the boys here in Sydney and Mudgee heard of their arrival and we organised family reunions. These opportunities were invaluable to the boys and quite rewarding for all involved. So the Friday night at Darling Harbour was another highlight of their stay.

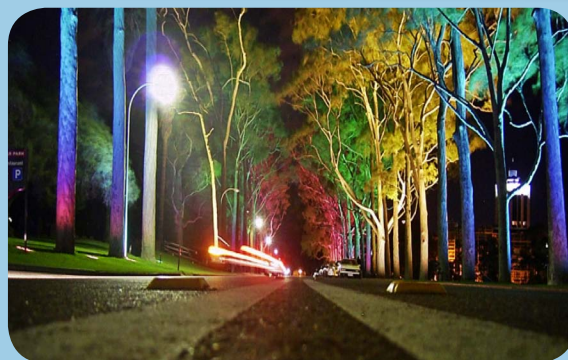
Kostantinos and Ilias enjoyed the shopping experiences at Bondi Junction (Westfield). The boys were very interested in grocery shopping, where they were keen to buy Kangaroo meat as a 'meze' that night.

There was a big social afternoon organised by our son at the ten-pin bowling centre. The Kazzie boys met a lot of young people and they loved the sporting activities involved.

On the final night we invited all those who had been involved with the boys in Sydney for a dinner at the Doncaster Hotel in Kensington which is another Ozzie style outing where there is an option to cook your own meal on a BBQ. There were over fifty people mostly of a similar age group and all of them took many photos and said farewell to the boys.

We are very grateful to have been part of this wonderful programme.

Dawn and Theo Komninos, Perth



Kings Park and City Tour- We covered the views overlooking the city, wishing well, walks through the memorial sections and botanic gardens.



Aboriginal Art Gallery- The boys toured the Gallery and viewed pieces from local and international artists. They were particularly interested in this as they had been learning in Kastellorizo about Aboriginal history.



Scarborough Beach- We took a scenic drive along the coast and took lots of photos of the beach. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the beautiful Australian sandy beaches and ate at our local *Peters by the Sea* beach cafe.



Kastellorizo Comes to Melbourne.

Dr George & Mrs Dimitra Stabelos, Melbourne.

There I was waiting at Gate Lounge Number 1 at Melbourne's Qantas domestic terminal. Qantas flight QF25 had landed. Somewhere on it were 17 year old Ilias Martalas and 15 year old Kostantinos Amygdalos, two secondary school exchange students from Kastellorizo, Greece. I was excited and admittedly a little nervous. Would my Greek stand up to the demands of the next week? How well did the boys speak English? Would they enjoy their time in Melbourne?

The boys had already been in Australia around 3 weeks, starting in Perth, for around a week, then to Canberra and Sydney. The day before, I had contact with their wonderful Sydney hosts Irene and Peter Calopedos. "How will the boys recognise you at the airport?" asked Irene. "Tell them I will be wearing an Hellas Cap and a Greek Soccer World Cup scarf (this is Melbourne)" I replied. "Can't be too many people walking around the terminal looking like that!"

"Any tips?" I asked.

"They love take away" was the advice. Ok, now I felt at ease. We were going to have a good time.

The boys appeared and we greeted each other. They asked me if I was Kassie (Of course I am. My mother Triantafilia (Rose) Atherinos was born in Subiaco Perth in 1931, however grew up on Kastellorizo before migrating back to Melbourne in 1952 at age 21) . So I took that as a compliment that the Greek was going OK. As we walked to the baggage pick up, we talked about their time so far in Australia. The boys had done a lot-museums, sightseeing, AFL/rugby games, parties, relatives. There was a request for no more museums. Ok , we could do more take away! I related to them my times having visited Kastellorizo in the past. They seemed to be touched with my memories and love for the island, as someone who had been born in Oz.

On the way home from the airport, we went to "Stalactites" for a souvlaki in the Greek precinct of CBD Melbourne The boys loved the souvlaki and could hear Greek being talked around them and Greek music in the background. They seemed to be content. They asked me "Is there a JB Hifi nearby? We want to buy an iPad". So to JB we went! Technology knows no boundaries. The boys were more tech friendly than us.

They say time flies when you are having fun. The next week flew by. We showed them many sights in Melbourne and surrounds. I had bought the latest Greek music CD hits from Greece, so the car was rocking as we were singing

together and travelling through the streets of a city and a country far away from their beautiful island home. They saw Carlton vs Geelong at Etihad Stadium, visited the Dandenong Mountains, had lots of coffees/restaurants/taverns, attended a Greek christening at Red Hill Monastery and attended three mornings at Oakleigh Greek Orthodox College-Saints Anargiri. They loved being the "stars of the show" amongst Greek-Australian teenagers and collected "heaps" of Facebook and e-mail addresses from the students (many of them girls!).

Our boys Anthony(10), Peter(8) and Terry (6) really enjoyed their company and exercised their Greek vocabulary well. Both Ilias and Kostas were great ambassadors for their island and we wish them every happiness and success. We would highly recommend the exchange student program to anyone as a very satisfying and memorable experience. We also congratulate AFK for their professionalism and organisational skills in being one of the few Greek-Australian organisations that we know of with such a wonderful bilateral exchange program that provides unique opportunities for youth in both Greece and Australia to experience life in each country.



merry Christmas

Empire Patrol Ceremony

by Marion Mitaros, Darwin



I have been fortunate over the years to spend many a month of September in Kastellorizo. For me it is the choice month of the northern summer season given the milder daily temperatures which are still warm enough for my friends and I to meet for our morning and afternoon dips in the Limani.

As most regular September visitors to Kastellorizo would know, September is also the month that Kastellorizo celebrates Apelefthorosi, its independence from Italian occupation following World War II on 13 September, 1943. This year however, the celebrations took on an added significance as the opportunity was taken to also officially unveil the memorial to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the fateful sinking off Palestine of the WWII refugee ship 'Empire Patrol' enroute from Port Said in Egypt to Kastellorizo.

This year, following the customary Independence Day military ceremony and prayer reading at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Kavos, the visiting dignitaries and villagers (locals and visitors) moved on to the plateia of

Agios Giorgos to Pigadiou (St George of the Well church) where the draped Empire Patrol memorial had been installed only days earlier. Father Giorgos Maltezos, surrounded by school children dressed in traditional costume, stood before the sculptured single marble stone of artist in residence, Aleko Zygouris, and delivered a prayer for the souls of the 33 Kastellorizian lives lost on 29 September, 1945. The Army band then played a most solemn hymn as the memorial was slowly unveiled by the Mayor of Megiste which was then followed by a stirring rendition of the Greek national anthem.

It was a most beautiful and touching day in which I felt a genuine sense of pride for the local Kastellorizians for the deeply respectful and befitting manner in which the ceremony was conducted. In his official speech the Mayor of Megiste acknowledged the instrumental role of the Friends of Kastellorizo and its members in assisting to make the Empire Patrol memorial a reality.

Well done to the Dimos of Megiste and AFK

Kazzie to Kas Swim

by Paul Tsolakis, Sydney

The two photos show the annual swimming event from Kastellorizo to Kas that was held on the morning of 27 June 2010. Seventy Turkish men and women participated.



Proverbs by Dr Paul Boyatzis

Alla legi i lira mou , ke alla to violi mou

(My lyra [Greek string instrument]
say one thing, and my violin another).

Portrays inconsistency. You may say one thing
and mean something totally different.

Pou rota stin poli vieni.

(By enquiring you can find your way to the town).

"Seek and you shall find." Have an enquiring
mind and you shall achieve your objective.

Proverbs by Dr George Stabelos

It seems that collecting proverbs is a hobby for other
readers of Filia. We welcome Dr George Stabelos'
contributions from Melbourne.

Aftos pou theli ta polla, hani ke ta liga

Great greed can sometimes lead to sizeable risk and
great loss. Better to be content with modest gains
rather than to lose it all. "A bird in the hand is worth
two in the bush"

An then dis ton kako hrono, to kalo den ton thimase

Difficult times make us even more appreciative
of the better times.

Book Launch

Perth, November 7th 2010



Andrew Johnstone, His Excellency the Governor, Dr Ken Michael AC, Marilyn Tsolakis, Dr Norman Ashton



"...a popular and important way to inform young
people of their heritage and the important qualities
demonstrated by their ancestors".

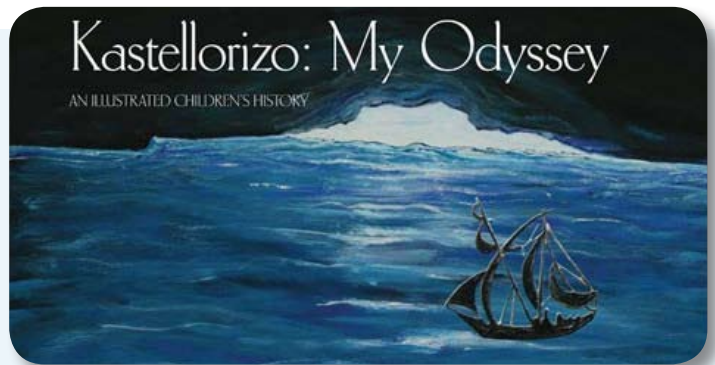
His Excellency, The Governor, Dr Ken Michael AC

"I must say that this book is so easy to read and
beautifully illustrated and should be a must in all
"Kazzie" homes".

George Verginis, Melbourne

"I read the book to my daughter and she has been
asking me to read it to her every night".

Con Tsolakis, Perth



His Excellency, Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia,
officially launched **Kastellorizo: My Odyssey** to a packed audience
at Kastellorizian House in Perth on Sunday 7 November, 2010. Fifty
percent of the limited first edition have now been sold.

All proceeds from this book go towards future cultural, educational
and literature projects on Kastellorizo.

With 300 people attending the launch, the overwhelmingly positive
response and reviews of the book content, structure and quality has
reinforced yet again the vital role Australian Friends of Kastellorizo
has adopted in delivering educational and cultural projects.

This book was produced by the Australian Friends of Kastellorizo
Ltd in response to the mothers of the island who claimed that
their children did not know the history of their island. Similarly,
many second, third and fourth generation children in Australia do
not know about their cultural heritage. Hence, the idea was born
that a children's book was very much needed.

This book is about passing on the story to children and teenagers
so they understand themselves and where they come from. It is
the first bi-lingual book for young people about this subject.

As our storytellers become fewer and fewer over time, this book
becomes even more significant, because who will be left to tell
the story? It is enduring and hopefully, it will leave a cultural
imprint for future generations.

In his speech, His Excellency, Dr Michael, described **Kastellorizo:
My Odyssey** - "This is a very impressive book, both in the story it so
cleverly tells and the beautiful illustrations that support it"

If you would like to purchase a copy while stocks last, it can be
purchased online at: www.kastellorizo.com or contact the
coordinator@kastellorizo.com Phone: 08 9387 1681.