

Morias Quarterly



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Volume 1, Issue 2

Newsletter Date November 2000

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Federation Members:

- Corinthian Society
- Kalavrita Society
- Elion Society "The Olympic Flame" of SA
- Messinian Association of SA
- Laconian Society of SA "Leonidas"
- Panarcadian Association of SA "Kolokotronis"
- Argo-Nafpliakos Association of SA "To Palamidi"

Find us on the Web: <http://pfsa.tripod.com>

In today's world of high information technology, such as the internet, any organisation which seeks to progress in such a world needs to embrace this concept and utilise it in a way which ultimately benefits its goals and objectives. Therefore the Peloponnesian Federation of South Australia (PFSA) to enable it to more effectively and efficiently disseminate information on its various initiatives for progressing its constitutional aims has recently established a web site. The web site which can be found at <http://pfsa.tripod.com> is set up to provide easy access to all PFSA members and those with an interest in the activities of the federation both in Australia and overseas. Despite the site still being under development, the PFSA has already received encouraging comments from various groups and individuals who have already accessed it. In particular, congratulations on the site were sent from the president of the Peloponnesian Union of North and South America, Mr Frank Kokosoulis.

The contact achieved with our fellow Peloponnesians in America has already proven the value of the web site and as a result regular correspondence with the American Peloponnesian Union has been established. A link to the American web site is provided on the PFSA web site, and it is planned to also install a guest book to record messages from our various friends across the globe.

Best Olympic Games Ever: The Olympic Spirit Shines Bright Down Under

During September this year the most precious Hellenic gift to the world, the Olympic spirit, was bestowed to Australia in Sydney in a way which left the Australian community proud and fulfilled of a job well done in a way never experienced by any other country be-

Greek athletes who also achieved a best ever medal haul for Greece.

Of particular note to the PFSA is the wonderful performance of Australia's Michael Diamond who won his second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the trap shooting event following his gold medal win in Atlanta four years ago. Michael, pictured here, is of significant prominence to the PFSA for his Greek background which stems from the village of "Agios Nikolao Vatikou" situated in the Peloponnesian province of Laconia. Such an achievement is one of the many which illustrates the contribution made to this country by Greek Peloponnesian descendants and their families. Well done Michael, and lets hope Athens brings the third gold in a row for this proud Greek Australian.



fore. The magnitude of the success of these games was felt across the world through the words of Mr Juan Antonio Samaranch during his address at the closing ceremony as he declared the games as "the best ever". It is also therefore that the Peloponnesian Federation of South Australia (PFSA) shares in this Australian pride as an organisation which represents those Hellenes whose origin stems from the birth place of the Olympic Games, at Olympia in the Peloponnesian province of Elion.

The PFSA sincerely congratulates the Australian community and in particular the Australian Olympic Organising Committee and the thousands of volunteers who played such a vital role in making these games achieve such a high unprecedented standard. The PFSA also extends its congratulations to the Australian athletes who achieved Australia's best ever medal tally, and also to the

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Also Kathy Freeman's gold medal performance in the women's 400 meters for Australia was one of the most inspirational of the Games. In particular for the pride and inspiration it provided to the indigenous people of this wonderful multicultural nation we live in.

Pride was also brought to all Greek Australians, by the exceptional gold medal performance of Greece's Costas Kenteris in the mens 200 meters. As pictured here the Greek flag was proudly displayed by Costas in Stadium Australia, as was on a number of other occasions by medal winning Greek athletes.

The significance of these games lay not in the medals and victories alone, but also in the atmosphere brought about by the presence of a multitude of nations from all over the globe competing in peace and harmony. It was this atmosphere which motivated the Australian public to acknowledge and embrace the Olympic spirit like no other time before. This very same spirit is what interrupted and transformed the bloody and barbaric quests for power and control on the battle fields be-



Costas Kenteris with the Greek flag celebrating victory in the 200 meters

Laconian Fund Raiser for the Greek Chair at Flinders University of SA

The Laconian Society of South Australia demonstrated on Sunday the 29 October 2000 its commitment to maintain and promote Greek language. It did this through organising a fund raising function for the Greek Chair at the Flinders University of South Australia which was attended by over 200 people at its club rooms at 24 Aldridge Ave Plympton Park. Being one of the key objectives of the PFSA, to maintain the Greek language, it is with great appreciation that the PFSA congratulates the Laconian Society for this initiative. Also the PFSA encourages more of its members to undertake similar activities to secure the necessary funds to enable academic institutions such as the Greek Chair at the Flinders University to continue their valuable programs.



Katerina Rozaklis, president of Laconians, with Michael Tsianikas and George Fratzis of the Flinders Chair enjoying the entertainment at the fund raiser.

tween the warring states of ancient Hellas to a conquest for peaceful athletic supremacy on the track and fields at Olympia (situated in the existing province of Elis in the Peloponnese).

Peloponnesian World Convention: Planned for 2001 at Olympia

The Peloponnesian Union of America (PUA) has recently advised on its web site that currently the PUA is investigating the feasibility of holding a Peloponnesian Union convention. The convention is being considered to be held over seven days in the last week of July in 2001 at Olympia in Greece. A suitable convention center has been identified and the PUA is currently making inquiries on pricing.

Other options are also being explored which would incorporate other cities in the Peloponnese such as Kalamata, Tripoli, Sparta, Pyrgos, Argos, Patra and Korinthos where different topics including panel discussions will be hosted.

Some of the topics being suggested include:

- Economic investments in the Peloponnese;
- Increased involvement from Peloponnesian youth; and
- Bringing back the classic olympic games to Olympia Greece.

Through an email received by the PFSA from the president of the PUA, Mr Frank Kokosoulis, the PFSA and other world Peloponnesian organisations are being invited to participate at this convention and to also contribute to the agenda. Any ideas and comments can be forwarded direct to the PUA by email at puaorg@yahoo.com.

More on this exciting proposal will be provided as it comes to hand.

South Australian Laconian Lass Delivers Profound Speech in Parliament in Greece

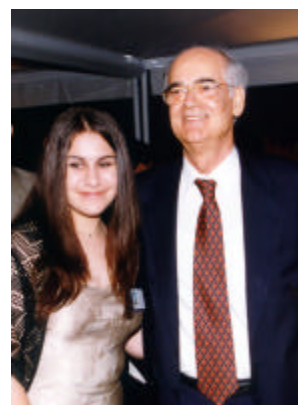
An Adelaide girl of Laconian background had the opportunity of representing SA Greek Australian students in Athens earlier this year.

Miriam Dimitra Katsambis, 15, of Unley High School along with her father Dimitri were hosted for a week in July by the Youth Parliament of Hellenes. This is a program whereby 300 students from Hellas and 50 from abroad meet formally in the Parliament of Hellenes in sessions presided over by the president of the parliament to discuss and exchange ideas on issues concerning Hellenes world wide. Miriam was one of four students invited from Australia and the first from SA to ever take part. She had the opportunity on two occasions

to address the parliament.

Both times she warned of the ebb in the number of students learning Greek in Australia and proposed use of modern learning technologies to redress the decline.

Miriam Katsambis pictured here with president of Parliament of Hellenes, Apostolos Kaklamanis



Dimitria Greek Festival 2000

The year 2000 will not only be remembered for the successful and best ever Olympic games, but also for the inaugural Dimitria Greek Festival which symbolises Hellenic unity in South Australia. For the first time in its 22 year history the festival has expanded its proud Greek Macedonian representation through the Pan-Macedonian Association of South Australia to include Peloponnesian Greeks through a joint initiative with the Peloponnesian Federation of South Australia (PFSA).

This year's festival comprised of the following events:

- The Dimitria Greek Festival Soccer Carnival held on Sunday 8 October at the Thebarton Oval. The winners this year being the Adelaide Olympic soccer club.
- The Student Olympics on Saturday 14 October.
- The festival dinner dance at the Stoney fell Winery held on Saturday 21 October and attended by over 200 guests. One of the guest speakers was the SAE Oceania Co-ordinator Mr Costa Vertzaias. Costa congratulated the PFSA and the Pan Macedonian Association in undertaking such an initiative to combine and jointly host the festival. He stressed the need for more such joint initiatives and unification of Greek organisations world wide in order to more effectively maintain and promote Hellenism in the diaspora. He also pointed out that currently there are more than 3000 Greek organisations world wide with the majority being too small to be effective. He indicated that the Ministry of Greeks Abroad in Greece is strongly encouraging that these organisations be reduced drastically in number through mergers and thus become fewer and larger through which the Ministry can more efficiently assist to effectively execute their aims and objects.
- The official festival launch reception held at Parliament

House on Friday 27 October organised by the Patron of the festival The Hon John Olsen, Premier of South Australia. It is therefore with great appreciation that the PFSA thanks the Premier for his support of the festival and continued support of such events which reinforce the multicultural fabric of South Australia.



Above: Premier Mr John Olsen addressing the invited guests in parliament at the official launch



Left: Vice-President of the PFSA, Mrs Despina Karagiannis addressing the invited guests at the official launch on behalf of the federation .

Below: Members of the PFSA soaking in the atmosphere at the launch



- The two day outdoor festival at Thebarton Oval on Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th of November. The out-

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door festival delivered live music including overseas and interstate artists, traditional Greek dance groups and Greek cuisine.

One of the most positive outcomes of the two day outdoor event as far as the PFSA was concerned was the strong sense of unity that was demonstrated amongst the PFSA member associations. The decision to have one tent to represent the PFSA societies collectively rather than as separate entities achieved its objective which was to demonstrate to the community at large that the PFSA represents unity and a harmonious relationship amongst all Peloponnesian societies in South Australia. During this event there was no distinction between each member society. That is, the Messinians, Arkadians, Laconians, Eliotes, Ahaiaotes and Argoliotes saw themselves, foremost as Greek Australians with Peloponnesian heritage with their Peloponnesian provincial heritage being of secondary importance.

The achievement of such a sense of unity could not have come at a more appropriate time than during an Olympic year, and in particular being the Australian Olympics. For it was the Olympic spirit during the time of ancient Greece which brought the various Greek states together as Hellenes to participate peacefully as one nation in the various events at ancient Olympia.



The PFSA tent at the festival surrounded by friends and guests both outside (above) and inside (below).



Above: The friendly faces of (L-R) Stacey Takopoulos, Christine Tsorvas, and Nick Datsopoulos serving at the counter.



Above: Fried calamari and chips the Peloponnesian way.



Despina Karagiannis (middle) exercising her vice president leadership by giving a helping hand to the yiros ladies.



The delicious lamb and pork on the spit proved so popular that not even a scrap of meat was left over after the festival. Thanks to the excellent cooks shown here.



Members of the PFSA board with the leader of the opposition, The Hon Mike Rann (4th from left) and Steve Georganas ALP member for Hindmarsh (3rd from right).



Anna Vollis, president of the Pan-Macedonian Association addressing the crowd with Jim Tsagouris, the message reinforced the initiative to unify of the two largest Greek organisations in South Australia.



A view from the stage of the crowd as addressed by Jim and Anna.



The overseas artist, Vasilis Terlengas, entertaining the crowd.



Mr Zorbas receiving an award of appreciation from Anna Vollis and Jim Tsagouris for his efforts in organising the student Olympics.



The Premier Mr Olsen being shown the finer points of cooking on the spit.



On this occasion the Premier is showing a few pita bread cooking tips of his own – nothing like a multi-skilled politician.



The proof of the lamb and pork on the spit and the yiros is in the eating, as Mr Olsen with Jim Tsagouris, Anna Vellis and guests demonstrate here.



Frank Lambetis, president of the Elion Olympic Flame society with George Skrembos, president of Ahia, showing a bit of provincial mateship at the bar.

For more photographs, see the Dimitria festival page on PFSA web site at <http://pfsa.tripod.com>.

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