

20
YEARS



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY
ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΟΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑ

The A.G.W.S 20th Anniversary Celebrations

Committee Message

The Committee first met in February, 1992, with one of the main objectives being to produce a historical record that illustrated the Australian Greek Welfare Society's involvement in the community over the last twenty years.

The Committee also helped to plan a series of Seminars based on the work of the Society and the influence A.G.W.S. has had on community welfare over those twenty years.

The culmination of the work of the 20th Anniversary Celebrations Committee was to plan a Ball for the 26th September, 1992 at the San Remo Ballroom.

I would like to thank all committee members - Jack Bisas O.A.M., Maria Bellos, Nick Polites O.A.M., Voula Messimeri - Kianidis, Eugenia Grammatikakis, Sia Andrews, Jacob Fronistas, Anna Matthews, Pat Constantinou, George Darivakis, Philip Peladarinos, Francis Toumbourou.

The Committee wish to acknowledge and thank all who contributed to the Album in particular those who gave their time to create this important Historical Record.

*Margaret Moraitis, O.A.M.
Chairperson, A.G.W.S.
20th Anniversary Celebrations Committee*

EDITORS

Co-Editors of this Album were JACK BISAS O.A.M. and JOHN PETRAKIS

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Λεύκωμα

20th ANNIVERSARY

ALBUM

1972 to 1992

AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

8 Corsair Street, Richmond, Victoria



As Governor-General of Australia, it is my great pleasure to send this message of greetings and goodwill to members of the Australian Greek Welfare Society and its clients on this important 20th anniversary commemoration.

I well recall the discussions that led to the formation of the organisation to act as conduit between Government and the Greek community to provide adequate health, welfare and education services, especially in Melbourne.

Later, when I became Minister for Social Security, I am glad to say that I was very pleased to be able to give the Society my personal support for its benevolent mission to those in need.

Over the years the Society has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Greek community has access to the same services available to Australians as a whole, both from Government and non-Government resources.

I was interested to see that last financial year the Society provided direct service delivery to 6,800 clients - an increase of approximately one-third. It reflects a greater demand for specialist marital and family support counselling, emergency relief, support for the ill, referral for Home and Community Care Services, crisis intervention and many other services.

In this you are meeting a most important need among people in the Greek Community - among young people as well as older people - and fulfilling the very fine aspirations that lay behind the foundation of the Australian Greek Welfare Society 20 years ago.

I congratulate you on your achievements, and give my very best wishes for a very successful future.

Bill Hayden



PREMIER OF VICTORIA

Parliament House
Melbourne
Victoria 3002



Message from the Premier of Victoria
The Hon Joan E Kirner MP AM

Congratulations to the Australian Greek Welfare Society on its 20th anniversary.

Today the society is not only the leading welfare agency for Victoria's Greek population, it is also one of the foremost welfare providers within the ethnic community as a whole.

This record is particularly impressive for an organisation that started with no trained staff and received no outside funding. During its early days, the society was entirely dependent upon voluntary helpers and the assistance of Greek community groups.

I well remember working with Dr Spiro Moraitis in my early days in the parent education movement, to establish multicultural education in our schools. I am pleased to say that Spiro, the Greek Welfare Society and I are still fighting for the same social justice aims.


Since then, the society has pioneered a whole range of services, many of which have become models for more recently arrived ethnic communities.

The society deserves special commendation for its enormous input to the welfare rights movement, migrant education, culturally appropriate child care and women's issues.

The society has also responded quickly to emerging issues and social change, undertaking initiatives relating to family breakdown, youth unemployment and drugs, and the growing elderly Greek population.

My Government has always enjoyed a very good working relationship with the Australian Greek Welfare Society, and I expect that relationship to continue in the future.

On behalf of the people of Victoria, I congratulate the society on its achievements during the last two decades, and offer my very best wishes to all its members.


JOAN E KIRNER
Premier



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
MELBOURNE, VIC. 3002
TELEPHONE: 651 8911
EXT

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

3rd April 1992

On behalf of Victoria's Coalition, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the 20th Anniversary of the Australian Greek Welfare Society.

The A.G.W.S. has contributed much in the past two decades to the welfare of Greek-Australians in Melbourne and Victoria.

Like many other organisations, the A.G.W.S. has relied on the hard work and dedication of a network of volunteers who, without reservation, have assisted and cared for fellow Australians.

As a service provider, the A.G.W.S. has remarkably succeeded in catering to people's needs and their welfare and must be encouraged to continue to do so.

Victoria's Coalition congratulates you and assures you of our support in the future.

Yours faithfully



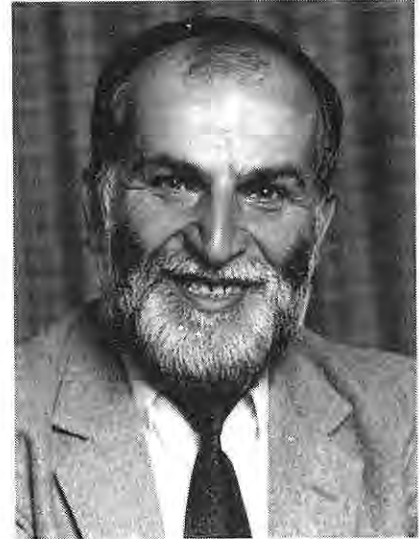
JEFF KENNETT

Leader of the State Coalition



Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission

232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Telephone: (03) 419 6700 Fax: (03) 417 1211



MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

I wish to congratulate the Australian Greek Welfare Society on 20 years of solid work and achievements on behalf of the Greek community of Victoria.

The Australian Greek Welfare Society has, under very able and creative committees of management, pioneered many services since its inception in 1972. Psychiatric services, childrens services, womens services and rehabilitation and retraining of workers are now areas where Greek Welfare makes a significant and direct contribution. And, of course, it is important to remember also the pioneering role played in education and in practically all fields of ethnic affairs and multiculturalism. Greek Welfare is not simply an excellent and forthright advocate for the Australian Greek community; it is not simply an ethnospecific and culturally specific organization; it is in many ways a "total institution" contributing actively to the development and implementation of multicultural policies for all ethnic communities and, indeed, for the whole of Australian society.

I look forward to Australian Greek Welfare's further development over the next twenty years, and believe that its services and its advocacy role have never been more valuable than in this current recession, when some areas of social policy risk being considered luxuries and being rendered marginal.

DR. FRANCO SCHIAVONI
CHAIRMAN
VICTORIAN ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION



CITY OF RICHMOND

Town Hall, 333 Bridge Road, Richmond
P.O. Box 168, Richmond 3121
Ausdoc DX30205 Richmond
Telephone: 420 9600
Facsimile: 429 3677

Our Ref: 50/001/004/003
TKH:wac
Contact:

14 July 1992

Doctor Spiro Moraitis, CBE
President
Australian Greek Welfare Society
8 Corsair Street
RICHMOND Vic 3121

Dear Doctor Moraitis,

On behalf of the Councillors and Staff of the City of Richmond, it gives me great pleasure to extend my congratulations on the occasion of the Society's 20th year of operation.

During its life time the Society has continued to provide a most impressive array of services to the Greek community and has established a reputation amongst the human services fraternity as a professional and committed organisation.

The Australian Greek Welfare Society was formed at a time when the Australian economy was buoyant. Twenty years later, the country is experiencing its worst economic recession since the 1930s and this factor undoubtedly places a strain on the resources of organisations such as the Society. I know that the Society will meet the challenges ahead.

With renewed congratulations on achieving such an exemplary record of service and with best wishes for the future.

I remain,

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR SANG NGUYEN', written over a light blue horizontal line.

CR SANG NGUYEN
Mayor of Richmond



26th September, 1992

The success of the Australian Greek Welfare Society has been due to the need of the Australian Greek community for services, an advocacy and lobbying organisation, a research and policy agency.

Its success has occurred because of its ability to take a broad view of the community and to cooperate with a variety of health and welfare agencies and Governments, as well as being in the vanguard for initiating new serviced, in Child Care, Education, Health and Welfare.

Australian Greek Welfare Society's survival is as a consequence of a dedicated, enthusiastic and committed group of people who have been issues oriented and have taken a neutral political stance. Its durability has been a combination of persistence, good luck, integrity and good friends.

Australia enters a decade of massive re-structuring with an increase in the relevance of organisations such as the Australian Greek Welfare Society, and these changes in the community have been reflected with changes in our agency to meet the needs of the 1990' s.

We warmly thank all our supporters, members and Government for their past, present and future assistance in order to discharge our duties to the community.



Spiro Moraitis, C.B.E., M.B.,B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.
PRESIDENT, A.G.W.S.

Profile of Presidents of the A.G.W.S.



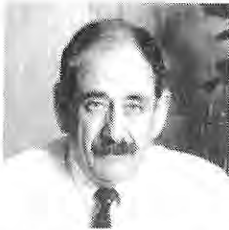
NICK POLITES O.A.M.

President 1972 - 1973

Nick Polites went into business after completing a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1948. He retired from business in 1970, and became a voluntary worker and first President of the Australian Greek Welfare Society, which was inaugurated in 1972. The requirement for a qualified Social Worker forced him back to studies to complete the post-graduate Social Work course, having previously gained the Bachelor of Arts degree in history and philosophy.

Nick became Director of the Society during its first years of quick growth, participated in the Galbaly Immigration Enquiry, and was on the advisory Council for the Minister of Social Security and Community Services. He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for "Services to the Ethnic Community".

Music, of the New Orleans traditional jazz variety, has been Nick's life-long interest, and he has played his clarinet around Melbourne for over fifty years, and has made several overseas tours and many visits to New Orleans.

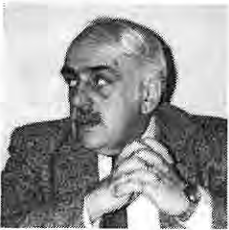


GEORGE PAPAPOPOULOS

President 1979 - 1980

George Papadopoulos of Ithakan parentage born in Melbourne 1937 and educated here principally at Melbourne High School and Melbourne University. Married to Melody nee Hetrelezis they have two children Andrew and Angelika.

George had served on AGWS Committee from its inception firstly as Chairman for some time then as President from 1979 to 1980. He has also served in other positions in Greek Community Organizations and Government with the Victorian Ethnic Affairs Commission from 1986-1991.



JACK BISAS O.A.M.

President 1980 - 1988

President of AGWS for nine years, Jack Bisas was born in Australia and educated in West Australia.

He was recognised in the Honors List in 1985 where he received the OAM for his services to the Greek Community.

Jack has been involved in Community work for the last 25 years.

First person of Greek origin to be elected to the Melbourne High School Council (has served on many committees including The Society for the Care of the Elderly a member of the Institute of Multicultural Affairs.

Joined AGWS 1977 is current President of the Castellorian Society of Victoria, is married to Marika Bisas (nee Koutsoukis) who joined AGWS as a committee member in 1976 has four children Eula, Ian, George & Jim.



Dr. SPIRO MORAITIS, C.B.E., M.B.B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.

President 1973 - 1978, 1988 - 1992

Currently President of Australian Greek Welfare Society, having held the position of President or Chairman since the Society's formation in 1972.

He is a founding member of the Australian Greek Welfare Society and a life member of the Australian Greek Society for the Care of the Elderly, and a trustee of the A.G.S.C.E. in its formative years.

Dr Moraitis was educated in Melbourne after arriving in Australia at the age of six years in 1939, with his parents who migrated from Athens, Greece.

Spiro has been a General Practitioner in the Melbourne Suburb of St. Kilda since 1959 working with the Greek population.

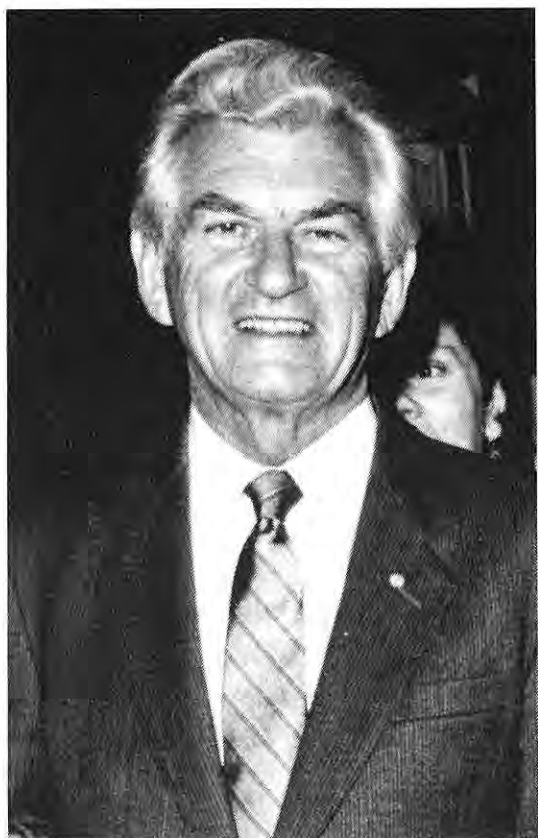
He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1978 for exceptional services to migrants and their health and the C.B.E. in 1983 in recognition for his outstanding services to the ethnic communities.



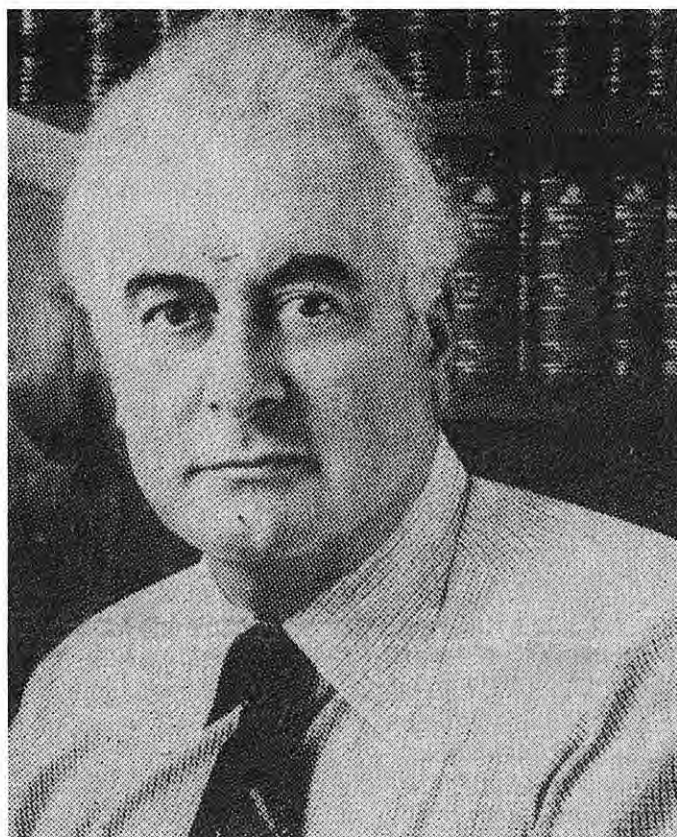
MALCOLM FRASER
Visited A.G.W.S., 1977, 1979



BISHOP ARISTARCHOS
First Patron, A.G.W.S.



R.J. HAWKE
Visited A.G.W.S., 1989



E.G. WHITLAM
Visited A.G.W.S., 1972



**THE AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY
ΑΥΣΤΡΑΛΟΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑ**

INVITES YOU
to their

20th Anniversary Ball

to be held at

SAN REMO BALLROOM

365 Nicholson Street, North Carlton

ON SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER, 1992

from 8.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

Featuring two Bands

KOSMOS, DENIS FARRINGTON

Guest Artist

NICK POLITES

Master of Ceremonies

ROSS ANDREWS

TICKET: \$38.00 per person
(all inclusive)

LOUNGE SUIT

CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1991 - 1992

PRESIDENT: Dr. Spiro Moraitis, C.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.G.P.
VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. John Petrakis, B. Arch., A.R.A.I.A.
CHAIRMAN: Dr. Peter Gogorosis, B. Com., Dip. Soc. Stud. (Melb.).
SECRETARY: Ms. Eugenia Grammatikakis
TREASURER: Margaret Moraitis, O.A.M.
DIRECTORS: Mr. Chris Christophi, F.R.A.C.S., F.R.C.S., M.B., B.S.
Mr. George Darivakis, B.A. (Lat. Uni.), Dip. Soc. Stud. (Melb. Uni.)
Ms. Poppy Kostarakis, B. Soc. Stud.
Mr. Mitch Karafilis
Mr. George Livaditis, L.L.B.
Mr. Pashalis Zapparas, L.L.B.

PRESIDENTS

1972-1973	NICK POLITES O.A.M.
1973-1979	SPIRO MORAITIS C.B.E, O.B.E.
1979-1980	GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS
1979-1988	JACK BISAS O.A.M.
1988-	SPIRO MORAITIS C.B.E, O.B.E.

VICE - PRESIDENTS

1972-1977	CONN CONSTANTINOU O.A.M.
1978-1980	KEVIN A. ZERVOS
1980-1983	GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS
1983-1987	MARIA XEROS-COLBERT
1987-1988	ANASTASIOS V. PIPEROGLOU
1990-	JOHN PETRAKIS

CHAIRPERSONS

1972-1979	GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS
1980-1982	NICOLAS A. ZERVOS
1982-1988	SPIRO MORAITIS C.B.E., O.B.E.
1988-90	CHRIS CHRISTOPHI
1990-	PETER GOGOROSIS

SECRETARY (HON)

1972-1974	MARGARET MORAITIS O.A.M.
1974-1977	EUGENIA MITRAKAS
1978-1980	FLORA ZERVOS
1980-1982	JOHN PATSIKATHEODOROU
1982-1984	MARGARET MORAITIS O.A.M.
1984-1987	MIRANDA DI GIORGIO
1988-1990	LYDIA PHILIPPOU
1990-	EUGENIA GRAMMATIKAKIS

TREASURERS

1972-1974	SAVAS AVGOUSTAKIS
1974-1977	CHRIS DOUFAS
1977-1980	EVANGELOS VOUZAS
1980-1982	HARRY ELEFSINIOTIS
1982-1986	EVANGELOS VOUZAS
1986-1990	NICK ARVANITAKIS
1990-1991	MITCH KARAFILIS
1991 -	MARGARET MORAITIS O.A.M.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1976-1986 NICK POLITES
1986-1988 NIKI DOLLIS

1988-1989 MIRANDA DIGIORGIO
1989- VOULA MESSIMERI-KIANIDIS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1972 - 1992

JOHN ANAGNOSTOU	1980	LEN KRITHARIDIS	1984
CATHY ANGELOPOULOS	1981	DIMOS KROUSKOS	1987
SAVAS AVGOUSTAKIS	1984	DIMITRY KTENAS	1980
MARIKA BISAS	1976	GEORGE LIVADITIS	1990
JACK BISAS	1977	MARGARET MORAITIS	1990
MINI CHRISTOFAKIS	1980	SPIRO MORAITIS	1972
CHRIS CHRISTOPHI	1984	JACK NALPANTIDIS	1981
HELEN CHRONIS	1984	K. PAPADIMITROPOULOS	1974
GEORGE DARIVAKIS	1988	SAVAS PAPASAVAS	1974
DEMETRI DOLLIS	1988	FLORA PEARCE	1976
NIKI DOLLIS	1984	JOHN PETRAKIS	1989
ELIAS DOUFAS	1978	LYDIA PHILIPPOU	1987
MIRANDA DI GIORGIO	1982	C. PHOTAKIS	1981
PETER GOGOROSIS	1988	AN. V. PIPEROGLOU	1974
EUGENIA GRAMMATIKAKIS	1986	PHILIA POLITES	1976
CHRISTINE HIONIS	1986	CON SARRIS	1986
MARGARET IOANNIDIS	1981	ANTHONY TOUMBOUROU	1974
GEORGE KAPETANAKIS	1972	CON TSINGAS	1984
POPPY KOSTARAKIS	1990	PASHALIS ZAPARAS	1988
POPPY KOSTARIDIS	1988	NICHOLAS P. ZERVOS	1982

GRANT-IN-AID WELFARE AND PROJECT WORKERS

1972 - 1992

1972 - 1979			
CELESTINE DOUFAS	1974	CYNTHIA KOUTSOUKIS	1988
RITA PACKER	1974	NIKI KARAMOUZIS	1985
CHRISTI GERONDAKI - TSAFOS	1977	STEPHANIE KONDOS	1991
DIMOS MAVROTHALASSITIS	1977	JOHN LIOUPAS	1992
MAGDA ACHKAR	1977	NIKI MATZIARIS-GARAY	1988
STELIOS ARGYROPOULOS	1978	NICKY GATZANIS	1992
EFFIE KONSTANDINIDIS	1978	MAX HATZIDIMITRIOU	1992
1980 - 1992		NATALIE NA WROCKI	1989
FAY AXIOTIS	1980	TITA PALLANDIOS.	1992
CHRYSOULA BARZOUCAS	1989	NIKE PAVLOU	1992
TINA BOUREKAS	1992	PHILIP PELADARINOS	1991
LENA DIMOPOULOS	1989	G. PERNITZIS	1986
MARY DIMOPOULOS	1989	FOTINA TASIPOULOS	1989
NIKI DOLLIS	1985	JIM TILKERIDIS	1989
TINA DOUVOS	1990	POPY FOTIADIS	1988
ANNA GIANNAKIS	1989	VICKI TSAKONAS	1987
PRODROMOS HAITIDIS	1989	CHRISTOS TSIOLKAS	1990
MARIA SARMAIS	1987	LIA ZAPARAS	1989
MARY IOANNIDIS	1987	SIA LEVENTIS	
HELEN KALABOUKAS	1989	ARTHUR PAPAKOTSIAS	1990
VOULA KALLIANIS	1988	PANTELIS ILIADIS	1989

CHILD CARE DIRECTOR

KOMINOS C. ZERVOS	1977 - 1979	HELEN SILVESTRO	1987 - 1989
JANET ELEFSINIOTIS	1980 - 1984	JENNY GROSDAS	1989 - 1991
LYDIA PHILIPPOU	1985 - 1987	HELEN SILVESTRO	1992 -

CHILD CARE STAFF

MAUREEN BREEN	1980	M. MITCHELL	1982
SOULA CHRISTODOULOU	1987	MARY MOUTZOURIS	1980
LEANNE CLIFFORD	1978	KARYN NAYLOR	1990
HELEN COCAROPOULOS	1990	MARY NEOFITOU	1989
ANGELA DAGLAS	1980	DIMI NITSOS	1986
CHRISTALA GEORGIU	1978	HELEN RAZMOVSKI	1981
S. GEROVASSILIS	1980	FAYE SAKARIS	1985
ANASTASIA GRIGORIADIS	1987	MYROULA SHEKERIS	1977
RONALD HOLMES	1988	RUTH SILBERMAN	1980
K. HANSEN	1981	HELEN SILVESTRO	1982
TOULA KARANTZIS	1977	MARGARET STEWART	1977
SANDRA KOGAKIS	1980	M. THEOCHAROU	1979
ANDROULA KYRIAKOU	1977	H. ZAVITSIANOS	1980
MARY LAZOPOULOS	1982	NOEMI ZICCONI	1984
ANNA MOUTZOURIS	1980	SOFIE DAWS	
ALISON HANDEL			

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMME 1980 - 1992

V. ATHANASIOU	1984	M. LAZOPOULOS	1981
GEORGINA ARAPIS	1988	GINA LEBESSIS	1988
SANDRA COOK	1980	N. LOGIOTATOS	1987
DINO EFTHYMIADES	1991	P. MARWOOD	1984
A. GRIGORIADES	1985	ANGELA POULOUPATIS	1988
L. HANCOCK	1982	J. ROUSAS	
MARIA HATZICONSTANTINO	1991	G. SIDERIS	1986
PENNY HINOPOUROS	1984	V. SKIPITARIS	1982
MARY IETTO		MARIA TRIANDAFYLLAKOS	1989
M. KARADIMOS	1982	S. TSIHLAKIS	1984
T. KOGAKIS	1984	ANETA VLAHAKIS	1989
A. KOKONIS	1981	N. MAVRAGANIS	1988
S. GLAVAN	1986	S. PAPASTRATIS	1988
B. SPERLIOTIS	1986		

YOUTH WORKERS

ATHANASIS KOUNOUPIS	1975	CON TSINGAS	1980
KOMNINOS C. ZERVOS	1975	K. BAKOS	1981
MARIA KOVIMTIS	1975	J. ANNAKIS	1981
BILL MATANAS	1977	K. KAMATEROS	1982
BILL MAVROGIANNIS	1977	LITSA GOUVOUSIS	1982

EDUCATION LIAISON TEAM

A. V. PIPEROGLOU	1978 - 1980	K. CHRISTODOULOU	1982 - 1983
ARTHUR KOUNOUPIS	1978 - 1980	E. BELAGIA	1983 -
ARIS PAPPAS	1978 - 1980	H. THOMAIDIS	1983 -
GEORGE KERAMAS	1981 - 1982	D. LASKARIS	1985 -
NIKI DOLLIS	1981 - 1983	D. GEORGOPOULOS	1986 -

SECRETARY

CHRISTINA SOFARNOS	1974 - 1976
TANIA KEHRIDAKIS	1977 - 1980
MICHELLE DOUDOULIS	1980 - 1985
DIMITRA DRAKOPOULOS	1985 - 1989
DESPINA GEORGIADIS	1989 -

ANCILLARY STAFF

NICK KAILIS(Bookkeeping)	1977 - 1985
VICKY MESARVITHIS(Cook)	1977 -
P. VORRIAS	1980 - 1985
P. LOGIOTATOS	1975 - 1986
MARIA BELLOS(Admin. Officer)	1986 -
CHRIS BELLOS	1991 -
ANASTASIOS TELIDIS	1988 -

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY 20 YEAR CELEBRATION

September 1972 to September 1992

By Dr. Spiro Moraitis

In the 1960's a small group of people began to discuss the concept of ethnicity, maintenance of culture, religion, language in the context of the Australian community. Ineffective services to the migrant communities and the rights of non-English speaking Australians was debated. In particular the poor education received by children of migrants in the inner suburban schools was of grave concern.

The catalyst that brought together this group of people was the Committee to Establish the Chair of Modern Greek in 1969 and its subsequent offshoot, the Greek Professionals' Association formed in February 1972. One sub-committee of the G.P.A. was welfare which subsequently became the Australian Greek Welfare Society following an informal meeting convened by Margaret Moraitis on August 15 1972. Advice was sought and obtained from a variety of sources including Australian Jewish and Relief Welfare Society, Ecumenical Migration Centre, Centre for Urban Research and Action and Patrons were Bishop Aristarchos and Sir Eugene Gorman.

The aim of the Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) was to lobby for the rights of migrants and their children and improve services particularly in the area of education, health, welfare, child care and language services.

The AGWS from its very concept maintained a politically neutral stance, requested support and worked in co-operation with all political parties, Governments and Public Servants. Policies were carefully and constructively developed but strategies and lobbying were conducted in an ad hoc and "trial and error" method until expertise was developed. The Newspaper "Neos Kosmos" supported the establishment of a welfare agency with many articles.

The AGWS began on September 5, 1972, in the Cyprian Community with a group of volunteers - Nick Polites, Celestine Doufas, Vivy Gounaris, Margaret Moraitis, Melody Papadopoulos and Francis Toumbourou.

"We thus ventured forth. No money. Little expertise, no understanding of Government, with colossal cheek but high ideals."

Many people outside the organisation held deep reservation about the organisation including its ability to service and survive. In January 1973 the AGWS moved into the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria's building in Lonsdale Street, Melbourne.

The AGWS became an independent organisation although it continued to work closely with many people and community organisations. Members of the Agency were appointed to Government committees and lobbied strongly on behalf of the community. In 1974 the establishment of the radio station 3ZZ gave AGWS access to the media and the number of clients quickly doubled and tripled. The first Grant-in-Aid was given in July 1974, Celestine Doufas and Rita Packer were appointed.

In June 1975, the State and Federal Governments combined to buy the present property in 8 Corsair Street, Richmond from the "Opportunity Youth Club" for AGWS. AGWS became an incorporated body. It was declared to set up a bilingual, bi-cultural Child Care Centre catering for the needs of migrant workers, namely opening 12 hour per day. It was opened by Senator Margaret Guilfoyle on February 18 1977.

In April 1977 AGWS began discussions for the establishment of Hostels for the Frail Aged and Nursing Homes. As a consequence the organisation could not obtain Tax Deductibility (because

A brief history of the A.G.W.S

the Taxation Department regard us solely as a lobby group and not a relief organisation!!) and a new organisation was mooted. Several members of the AGWS left to form Australian Greek Society for the Care of the Elderly. They were led by John B. Salvaris, John M. Salvaris, Marika Bisas Conn Constantinou and Anna Mathews.

In July 1977 AGWS received Bulk Funding from the Federal Government and consequently the agency significantly increased its services.

A further grant was made to form the Education Liaison Team in 1978 and this subsequently had a significant impact on education services in the State.

In the decade of 1980 - 90 the AGWS worked hard to maintain its grants in an increasingly negative environment as Government funds were reduced. It was competently led by Jack Bisas as President and Nick Polites as executive officer. The AGWS maintained its high standard of services. Nick Polites was the executive officer from 1976 to 1986, and, although a volunteer since 1972, he oversaw the growth of the Agency.

Despite the financial constraints of the 1990s we can look to the future with optimism and the

past with great satisfaction.

To those associated with AGWS since its inception it is a source of amazement that it lasted so long. However, we are not at all surprised at the tremendous impact that it has had in the community by way of its policy and community development and its vanguard in change.

The significance of the organisation is that it demonstrated to the Australian-Greek community that agencies could be viable if they were politically neutral, that lobbying was vital to their existence, the need for hostels and nursing homes, that welfare was more than just a handout of money, there was a need for bi-lingual schools and programs, the teaching of community languages and the need for language services. It has shown the value of ethno-specific agencies in working with mainstream services providing impartial links with Australians of a Non-English speaking background.

From a small acorn of about six (6) volunteers, the organisation has grown into an agency employing 38 people and volunteers of another 120 people. The dedication, integrity and professionalism of its staff, Board of Management and volunteers has infused tremendous initiatives in the organisation.



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY TWENTY YEARS

A Ruminative Reflection

with no apology for the redundancy, the tautology whatever...

By George Papadopoulos

It is appropriate at this juncture in the history of A.G.W.S. that we consider some of the factors that have been influential in its history or at least in the perception of it as an organisation. What is presented here is not intended as a history but rather a brief consideration of what to the mind of this participant are some of the crucial factors in the history and style of A.G.W.S, or Greek Welfare as we came to refer to it in insider parlance.

These points are not offered in any prioritized sense or analysis and indeed many may wish to take issue with my formulations and also to point out my errors and/or omissions. This will be all to the better as perhaps from any debate that may follow a fuller history of Greek Welfare may be developed. In any event it is time for some attention to be given to developing such a history as, to my knowledge, very few pieces of research have been done in this area and indeed only one which focused specifically on Greek Welfare.

Greek Welfare was the first overtly and aggressively ethnic agency, particularly in terms of the 1970's and working from a rights-based approach. This is not to say there were not other ethnic-specific agencies but that they operated on a quieter and at that time a more welfare (charitable?) based approach. In essence they were passive about their ethnicity.

Certainly in terms of the Greek community (PAROIKIA) of the 1960's and 70's, Greek Welfare's style and activity were a change. The various communal organisations and the Church were defensively ethnic and more inward-looking in their orientation. Greek Welfare introduced a more (publicly) political element into the debates within the Paroikia; political in the sense that it was partisan as to issues and not in the political party sense or committed to any of the then institutional frameworks of the Paroikia.

Greek Welfare in its first years in effect worked to a tripartite division of labour in a functional sense, namely -

- (a) Research and analysis.
- (b) Advocacy, and
- (c) Service delivery.

It also employed a very broad definition (or description) of welfare, enabling it to range across (traditional) welfare, health, educational and cultural concerns and issues.

At the time of the formation of Greek Welfare only the various elements of the Greek Left, principally the Communist Party branches, did any sort of social policy discussion - consider the issues of Epitheorisis and the Greek Left Review and the Neos Kosmos newspaper. The Left analyses were, however, maintained within constrained frameworks, in particular by over-reliance on class as a non-dependent variable. Interestingly in recent years Australia's discussions of Multiculturalism are similarly vitiated by reliance on ethnicity as a non-dependent variable and by omitting class, race and gender from certain key elements of discussions re policy and issues.

At the same time (and other than the Communists) no other political party had any ethnic affairs policies or ethnic branches, although it is fair to note that the Greek branches of the Australian Labour Party were then forming. But they became more publicly involved and influential in policy discussions and communal issues at a later time in the 1970's.

Greek Welfare early on started to publicize per the media and to publish its concerns and the outcomes of its action research, as well as its policy proposals and what it saw as the lack of existing programs and policies. Over the first few years Greek Welfare developed rapidly in several areas of policy, as well as experiencing significant growth as an agency.

A Ruminative Reflection....

Areas such as direct welfare, the Education Liaison team, child care, ethnic broadcasting, immigration policy and care of the elderly figured prominently in this period, but at the same time Welfare established the practices that kept it in the forefront of debate as well as service delivery and also contributed to its "aggressive" image. It is fair to say that others followed both in policy debate and organisational practice where Greek Welfare had been - both within and beyond the Greek Paroikia. Characteristic also of Welfare's approach in this period and since was the desire and capacity to cooperate with other organisations which shared either policy and practice concerns or similar goals. Amongst these were the Centre for Urban Research (CURA), the Ecumenical Migration Centre (EMC), the Ethnic Communities Council (ECC) CO-ASIT, Filef, Australian Jewish Welfare Society, Migrant Education Action, the Migrant Workers' Conference and the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria and the Cyprian Communities. With some of these organisations there was also an overlap of personnel. (An apology is tendered to other organisations omitted from the above list, but the object was not to write a complete statement of A.G.W.S.'s history).

In many ways Greek Welfare either pioneered or refined aspects of practice in such a way as to establish new styles and approaches. It suffices to list these in this context offering minimal explanation only to clarify, although someone ought to be persuaded to do a full study of Greek Welfare's approach to ethno-specificity in service delivery and, in particular, its use of welfare and welfare rights officers and the controversy and dispute that followed that practice.

However as to styles and approaches consider the following -

- * the lobbying techniques
- * the advocacy at communal level, both within and beyond the Paroikia.
- * policy development
- * practice techniques

- * recruitment and training, particularly of staff, but also of volunteers.
- * recognition of the need to specialise in certain areas whether for policy or other reason (accompanied by a non-imperial stance) - A good example of this was the development of the Australian Greek Society for the Care of the Elderly which sprung from Welfare somewhat like Athena from Zeus (without the power connotations).
 - * The monthly meeting, which was not only a forum for advocacy but an arena for debate, dialogue and networking, and which for several years and despite the growth of organisations was well attended by significant numbers of people, whether staff of Greek Welfare or its members or people prominently involved in other organisations, government departments, political parties or academe. The common concern was ethnicity and multiculturalism and their implications for policy and practice. This was perhaps for many years the most effective public networking activity in the areas that affected ethnic groups.
- * The Greek Action Bulletin newsletter (GAB).
- * The broadcasts on 3ZZ and elsewhere, particularly those on specific welfare issues.
- * The involvement with Government Advisory bodies, particularly Committees but also Inquiries.
- * The documentation of needs and concerns.
- * The involvement of representatives of other Greek organisations and non-Greek as well in many of the processes and projects of Welfare.
- * The involvement of Greek Welfare (et al) in the development of 3EA and subsequently of the Special Broadcasting Service.
- * The policy of "radical" accommodation which entailed working within the frameworks of programs of whatever Government was in power whilst still trying to change those frameworks secured "benefits" for Greek Welfare from time to time and recognition of its capacity for innovation in policy and practice.

A Ruminative Reflection

Clearly Greek Welfare was an influential organisation at crucial periods of the debates over ethnicity and multiculturalism, also evidenced by the number of politicians and others who have consulted with Welfare over the years.

In passing who can forget the Federal election campaign of 1977 when Greek Welfare was one of the few organisations visited by the three major leaders of the political parties at the time. Messrs. Frazer, Whitlam and Chipp, and the numerous visits in later years by ministers and politicians prominent at Federal and State level.

Another factor of importance in the development of Welfare was (despite the age of the Committee) the recruitment, promotion and advancement of younger staff and members and the support ("backing up") given to them. In particular this support was strongest for them in their role as spokespersons, a support which was also extended to other, particularly Greek, organisations and individuals.

In this note Greek Welfare is referred to as a singularity, which of course in real terms it was not.

It was a collection, an aggregation of individuals who worked together and who amongst themselves disputed and debated fiercely over many of the issues and concerns, but who never allowed those internal debates and disputes to degenerate into internal politicking which would have weakened the organisation and vitiated the principles and policies which it was supporting. This is not to say that there weren't serious moments in its history, but ultimately these moments were not disruptive of the momentum and of the ethos that has been generated and which continues albeit in modified form, as is appropriate to changed environments and issues.

Perhaps the closest analogy in a language which is no longer fashionable is that Greek Welfare for some time has performed the role of a vanguard party. It has elaborated and articulated an approach to principles, policies and practice based on concepts of rights and needs more systematically than many other organisations.

Ultimately Greek Welfare's contribution to ethno-specificity in policy and practice will be seen to be of major significance, but it is fair to say after twenty years, that recognition is still a long way off.



SPIRO MORAITIS - a friend's tribute...

By Dr. Conn Constantinou

In many ways I have followed in Spiro's footsteps, but I've never matched his giant stride. Spiro and I both went to Melbourne High School and later the Melbourne University, but I was not aware of him until I myself started in medical practice in 1967.

Then I started hearing of "Dr. Moraitis", and the love and esteem with which his patients regarded him. Eventually I got to know him and I realised that he earned that esteem because he genuinely cared for those who came to him. He would willingly champion their social needs as well as treat their ailments.

Our meeting was through the Appeal for the Chair of Modern Greek for the University of Melbourne. That was a watershed movement for Melbourne's Greeks because it brought together for the first time the few professionals who served them, and led to major projects still active today.

Spiro's attitude at meetings then, and still today, is light-hearted and seemingly flippant. But not an issue, not a nuance escapes him. His cheerful disrespect for authority endeared him to me at once and I have not had a single reason since to ever regret our friendship.

The spark generated at meetings of the Modern Greek group led to wide-ranging discussions of the problems of the Melbourne Greek community and so we formed the Greek Professionals Association (G.P.A.) to do something about it. George Kouvaras, George Papadopoulos, Eugenia Mitrakas and Michael Economou were some of those involved whose name springs easily to mind.

Spiro's concern was the need for welfare services, and so the G.P.A. applied for a grant from the government for a social worker. A new body was constituted, the famous Australian Greek Welfare Society, and most of us moved over to it.

Spiro was the figurehead as we moved in a flurry of action to set up the child care centre, the

education task force, worker's groups etc. We thought we were pretty good, but Spiro was way ahead and involved in many other community activities for the ethnic and general communities.

He seemed to find time for everything. You would open "The Age" and there would be another letter from Spiro about the plight of the migrants. The Journal of the A.M.A. would have another editorial on comments by Spiro. The A.B.C. would be broadcasting more opinion from him. Just as he ran daily for enjoyment and health, so he bustled through incredible catalogue of community commitments.

It got so if any media representative or government department wanted to ask questions they would go straight to Spiro. He had many invitations to work on government committees and task forces, and served on several, including the Committee of 3EA, the Committee to Establish the Independent and Multicultural Broadcasting Corporation (SBS), the Health Advisory Council of Victoria, the Victorian Council of Social Security, Victoria's 150th Anniversary Board and the Board of the Office of Psychiatric Services.

Greek organisations were also graced by his presence, including the Castellorizian Brotherhood, Greek Housing Cooperative, Greek Education Committee, Greek Doctor's Association and the Greek Professionals Association.

Spiro was careful not to become locked into the negative partisan politics of the Greek community and apart from a short spell on the Committee of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, the senior Greek organisation, he has managed to stay free. That two year stint began with intentions to reform and ended in sad frustration at the immovability of the forces on the Committee.

During all this time Spiro and Margaret were raising four children, and another incredible aspect of this man is the closeness and love he has managed to create in his family group. Now a doting grandfather chasing grandsons on bicycles around Albert Park lake, Spiro has lavished

SPIRO MORAITIS

- a friend's tribute

love on those close to him in a selfless way, and now receives it back in gratifying quantities.

I have sat at a sidewalk cafe with Spiro and our wives drinking retsina in a cloud of Athens pollution. I have split my sides laughing with Spiro at an amorous donkey on Hydra, I have been with him on official delegations and I admire the evenhanded way he treats everyone. No forelock tugging, no arrogance, just cheerful respect and concern.

It was Spiro who urged the establishment of the Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly and stirred me into it where I have been working for 16 years. He was one of its four trustees. He continues to give us moral support and direct help.

Now he has just established the National Association of Australian Greek Community and welfare organisations which hopefully will act as a peak body for all Greek welfare and community groups.

The Australian Government has recognised Spiro's community work with two major awards, the higher being Commander of the British Empire (C.B.E.). The Greek Government has yet to do likewise. And anyway, Spiro is a modest man and he does not do his work for awards. He accepts awards because of the honour they bestow on the groups for which he works.

So Spiro, I'm sorry that I haven't listed all your achievements, and catalogued all your letters, articles, papers and speeches, but the list is far too long. As an ardent archivist you have a wealth of information about little Greece in Melbourne, and I hope somebody uses it one day to enrich a history of the Greeks.

And I hope that history pays greater tribute to you, the true Renaissance man of Melbourne, than I can pay.

Anyway, I can't catch you around the lake to ask you for more details!

The A.G.W.S. is extremely fortunate to have had you steering the ship.



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

Celebrating

20 Years

of

Service

to the

Community

GREEK WELFARE: A PERSONAL REFLECTION

By Alan Matheson

A snap shot of some of the events in the early 1970s provides not only an insight into Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) but into immigration and multicultural policy developments at that time.

Each of these events signalled not only a dramatic break with the past but each in its own right set the future direction of settlement policy.

Storer, saw the 1970s as a critical period. He wrote:

"Up until 1970s, ethnic organisations tended to be social (meetings, games etc.) regional, church or sporting associations and were largely 'invisible' to the wider community. The early 1970s saw the embryonic beginnings of a number of newer active more socially and politically oriented groups.

The AGWS, Australian branches of the Federation of Italian Workers and their Families (FILEF); the Australian Turkish Association; Spanish Workers Commissions; Italian Committee of Assistance (Co. As. It.); Migrant Workers conference committees and a number of other ethnic/migrant groups began to seek out the support of concerned Australian community-based organisations".

(Babylon or the Promised Land, D. Storer, 1980).

Three events in which AGWS played a significant role and which provide such an insight were:

- * Welfare Rights Programs (1973)
- * Ethnic Action Movement (1973-74)
- * Migrant Education Action Conference (1974)

WELFARE RIGHTS PROJECT

At the end of 1973 (19.12.73) the Minister for Social Security, Mr Bill Hayden announced a scheme whereby 'welfare rights officers' were to be appointed "to assist disadvantaged groups to become aware of, and to attain their social welfare rights and entitlements". (We've Got No Choice: A Welfare Rights Perspective, VCOSS, 1977)

By May 1974, the Minister announced that following the election 'ten pilot welfare rights projects designed to identify the most effective way of breaking the communication barrier between disadvantaged people in need and Government departments' would be introduced. (Press Statement 1.5.74).

By the end of 1974 the five organizations in Victoria received grants were:

- * COASIT
- * AGWS
- * ATCA (Australian Turkish Cultural Association)
- * Council for the Single Mother and Her Child
- * FILEF.

Writing about her experiences, Rita Packer (welfare

rights worker with AGWS) noted that there were 3 main areas of her work

- * community education - the dissemination of information, as widely as possible, on services and procedures to ensure that people are aware of their rights;
- * individual advocacy - where specific cases of violations of people's rights are used as a basis for gaining evidence for system changes;
- * social action - pressuring for changes in existing structures and services to ensure that they are more accessible and accountable to the community. This includes fighting for changes in laws, regulations and procedures.

The primary problem with the program was what could happen when government policies and procedures were criticised

*"Will our supply of funds be cut off?
Will we be considered to be too political for the government of today?"*

These repercussions are very real and perhaps explain why so many welfare agencies are so low key and tend to remain silent about important social issues.

Public involvement in demonstrations aimed at criticising governments is hardly welcomed by politicians and bureaucrats when fully exposed by the media".

The Project not only epitomised an emerging different approach to the question of social welfare - in shorthand, the beginning of a 'rights' approach, but it had its impact on broader community agencies.

In a discussion paper prepared for the Ecumenical Migration Centre (EMC) I argued that the Centre should become more involved in collaborative programs with ethnic organisations. Such collaboration would involve the following elements:

- * the ethnic group must participate in and determine the direction of the programs,
- * the ethnic group which will be selected will be an oppressed minority within the context of education, job opportunity, housing, political impotence, and
- * EMC must for its own survival as a prophetic team, take a radical stance of identification with the minority group.

However, the Project is judged, and some of you will recall that one of the original groups - FILEF - had its grant terminated by the Liberal Government in 1976, it marks the beginning of a new era in social welfare policies and ethnic organisational development.

GREEK WELFARE: A Personal Reflection

ETHNIC ACTION MOVEMENT

1973 was significant for three events which had a lasting impact on developments well into the 1980s. All three events have been ignored in the writing of the history of multiculturalism in Australia, yet they provided the very base for the development of future multicultural policies.

Between April and June of that year, CURA (Centre for Urban Research and Action) organised a series of seminars strongly supported by AGWS, around the theme - "Ethnic Rights, Power and Participation: Toward a Multicultural Society" (the background papers and presentations were later organised into a booklet with the title of seminar series, edited by Des Storer, and published by CURA and EMC).

The aims of the Seminars were:

1. To raise the question of the rights of non-anglo-saxon migrants to participate more fully in all aspects of the social, cultural, economic and political life of present day Australia,
2. To help develop and publicise the recognition of present day Australia as a multi-cultural society in which nearly one in every five persons is of non-anglo-saxon origin, and people follow a lifestyle different to that of the predominant anglo-saxon culture, and
3. To provide a forum for persons of non-anglo-saxon origin to present their own views and perceptions of the relationship between their ethnic group and the various social institutions of Australia.

The speakers, all but one were males (June Hearn prepared a background paper and Angela Jurjevic spoke) would surely be now judged as the 'fathers of multiculturalism' (that judgement will surely be opposed by Canberra based academics!) Bertelli, Moraitis, Schiavone, Zangalis, Storer and Papadopoulos!

Secondly, in October of that same year, the first Migrant Workers Conference was held in the Trades Hall in Melbourne.

While the focus was on the role of trade unions it is of interest to note almost 20 years later the declaration of the Conference on 'social needs and rights'.

1. All workers on minimum wage be exempt from taxation and that money sent overseas for the support of family and other dependants should be tax deductible.
2. Support for the National Health Scheme. Free hospital and medical services as well as free medical care for the aged parents of migrants, regardless of length of residence.
3. No migrant should be denied any social service payments or political voting rights on the grounds of length of residence and nationality. The trade union principle of equality of rights must apply in this social and political sphere. Information on all matters related to voting in elections should be available in all languages.
4. Old age pensions to be paid at 60 years of age and at no less than 75% of the workers' normal income.
5. Paid maternity leave for 12 weeks on full pay and paid paternity leave for one week.

6. All information and documents on social services and legal transactions should be in the migrants' languages.
7. All 15-21 year old migrants should have the opportunity to be taught English and a trade on an apprenticeship scheme basis.
8. All incoming migrants should enjoy the same assisted passage facilities as British migrants.
9. Adequate housing for new arrivals together with security of employment, should be an integral part of Australia's immigration policy. To achieve such a policy there should be increased representation of workers and their unions on all Immigration Department advisory Committees.

And finally, in March 1973 a small group of people came together at CURA (then the Fitzroy Ecumenical Centre) to prepare the first draft of what was called, "Proposals For a Project Towards Equal Rights for Ethnic Minorities". Primarily an internal document of the Centre, it attempted to set the agenda for future action by the Centre. Included in that draft were references to the lecture series previously mentioned. Also referred to was "the inauguration of a committee of migrant representatives to plan and develop a common statement of aims and strategy for action". (First Draft March 1972, p.3).

It was agreed according to the Draft, "that the first step should be to draft a statement of demands or a platform which the various communities should jointly work for".

The Committee produced in 'mulberry pink' a document titled ETHNIC RIGHTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A MULTICULTURAL AUSTRALIA; subtitled "a first draft of a platform on ethnic rights" and signed by the following.

- * L. Bertelli (Il Corriere)
- * A. Faulkner (Fitzroy Ecumenical Centre)
- * C. George (Clothing Trades Union)
- * H. Gonsalves (Portuguese Interpreter)
- * B. Howe (Fitzroy Ecumenical Centre)
- * A. Matheson (Ecumenical Migration Centre)
- * S. Moraitis (Greek Orthodox Community)
- * G. Papadopoulos (Greek Orthodox Community)
- * N. Polites (Greek Australian Welfare Society)
- * F. Schiavone (F.I.L.E.F.)
- * T. Sideropoulos (Councillor)
- * D. Storer (Fitzroy Ecumenical Centre)
- * F. Trafficante (Co-As-It)
- * F. Vazquez (Migrant Rights Society)
- * G. Zangalis (Australian Railways Union)

The platform noted that within the framework of the principles outlined under the health, citizenship and education sections, the following provisions should be made:

1. i. All ethnic groups who so desire be provided with Grant-in-Aid social workers.
ii. Finance provided to cover the employment of necessary ancillary personnel by way of interpreters, office staff and facilities etc.
iii. Ethnic groups aided by government loan to establish centres in which they may meet and help new settlers.

GREEK WELFARE: A Personal Reflection

2. i. More day care centres preferably close to where mothers or fathers are working.
- ii. Such centres developed to accommodate the norms of different ethnic groups.
- iii. Migrant women to be employed at child minding centres where a high percentage of children are of migrant origin.
3. Trained interpreter services and facilities provided in all public hospitals, courts, schools, prisons, government departments, factories and work places.
4. Greater use made of ethnic press for disseminating information about Australian services and for public notices.

This was the first attempt in Australia to set out a declaration or platform of ethnic rights in the context of a multicultural Australia. While no claim was made about the "representatives" of the Committee which produced the draft, the list of people who signed it provides an insight into the groups which were involved (eg. FILEF and Co As It); Unions and the two church based Centres - CURA (Fitzroy); AGWS, GOCMV and EMC but no broad community agencies.

Following release of that document it's of interest to note very briefly what followed. Storer, in a report to the Centre for Urban Research and Action (Ekstasis 10. November 1974) referred to discussions with a group of Italians in the Sydney area. In September of that year "a small pilot survey of perceived injustices was carried out on nearly 200 persons in the area. This Survey indicated that education and welfare were considered to be RIGHTS that were not being received, as they believed they ought to be."

MIGRANT EDUCATION ACTION CONFERENCE

While the Conference itself did not take place until September 1974, the preliminary work and organising took place in 1973. One of the critical aspects of the preparatory work was the "Survey into the Needs of Migrant Children: A Greek Viewpoint" (August 1973) carried out by the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, Greek Professionals Association and Australian Greek Welfare Society.

This probably was the first study by an ethnic community of education provisions for migrant children generally, but with a specific focus on Greek Speaking children.

The Conference, according to a report in EKSTASIS (the quarterly journal of CURA) was opened by Mr Grassby (Special Advisor on Community Relations to the Australian Government) and followed by a number of speeches from a Headmistress of Brunswick Girls High School, a Yugoslav student; a Greek parent (Basil Keramus, who is described as 'a Greek parent and works on the Victorian Railways) and a Turkish parent" (No. 10 1 November 1974).

In a background paper, prepared for the Conference, by Storer and Matheson, it was noted that, "By the year 2000 on current trends the percentage of persons born outside Australia and their children will be between 35% and 45%".

The Conference decided on the following action:

1. Elect a continuing committee on Migrant Education; Consisting of up to 5 delegates from each ethnic group, this Committee will have the power to elect sub-committees. It will meet at least once a month and it will organise this type of conference at least once a year, the meetings of the Committee will be open to the public! Explore the possibility of acquiring Government funds to aid in the achievement of these aims.
2. That this conference give a mandate to the Committee in order to organise such action as necessary to achieve our demands, eg. - strikes, work stoppages, demonstrations etc.,
3. Delegations formed to address the Trades Hall Council, Teachers' Unions, Government bodies, to put the Conference demands of the groups involved.
4. Delegation to diplomatic representatives of countries of foreign origin where desirable and necessary, and also to the Australian Government authorities to recruit foreign teachers.
5. Recent formation of Ethnic Teachers' Association, that this Conference supports and commends the formation of the E.T.A.
6. Attempt to achieve regular contact with Parliamentarians, Schools Commissions, Federal and State Departments of Education.
7. That this Committee publish details of courses available in English languages, in areas of need.

Out of that Conference the Greek community began to develop a decade of commitment to the issues of education.

In 1975 the same three Greek organisations which had produced the survey (1973) organised a three day seminar to further review developments in migrant education. The editors of Migration Action, the journal of EMC, in a special issue on the seminar noted that,

"The Seminar itself heralded a new era for perhaps the first time in Australia an ethnic group...organised the Seminar". (Migration Action 2:1, 1975).

The editorial continued, "Members of Greek organisations have been among some of the most forceful, articulate and creative forces for changes in the education of not only migrant children but all children. At the moment the Greek Education Committee is the only ethnic organisation in Australia being funded by the Schools Commission to carry out research in the educational needs for migrant children.

It was designed primarily for Greek-speaking Australians to address themselves to the implications of education in a multicultural Australia. The events of the early 1970s, in particular those that have been noted:

* the Welfare Rights Program

* Ethnic Action Movement

* Migrant Education Conference

signalled a turning point in both ethnic community organisation and settlement policy.

In all of this AGWS played an active and integral role.

NOTE: The above is an edited version of the paper delivered by Alan Matheson at a 20th Anniversary Seminar on the 25th of May. The material omitted (here) relates to involvement of A.G.W.S. members with the Good Neighbour Council.

AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

An Historical View

By Nicholas Zervos

It goes without saying that the Australian Greek Welfare Society has provided our Community a unique vehicle in which, members have had the benefit of the variety of services offered. It's value within the Greek Community alone is immeasurable. It's impact within the Australian Community as most probably the lead spokes organisation on social issues is without comparison.

From my own perspective, however, is that one of the most unfortunate things about the creation of the Australian Greek Welfare Society in the early 70's is that our then existing mainstream Community organisations in particular the then Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria did not take on the responsibility to act as the advocate on behalf of the then migrant Greeks, especially in the welfare related areas.

I say this because the difficulty today when one looks at the Greek Community from a global point of view is that it is comprised of a number of splinter groups and in many ways this creates a duplication of work that is undertaken and more importantly allows for competition amongst these Community groups when it comes to obtaining Government grants and other forms of assistance.

Furthermore it could be said that because of the intimate nature of the membership of the Society it is not deemed to be a representative voice of the "Paroikia" in general. This is no doubt true, however, this in my opinion has been the major asset of the Society because of the fact that it's limited membership is committed to ensuring that the objectives of the Society are met and translated into action.

It goes without saying that the Society's past 20 years has been one of on-going challenges and in many ways this is a reflection of the issues of the day that occur within our mainstream Society. The changing nature of politics has also had a major impact on the effect the Society has in general.

The changing nature of our own Greek population reflects the changing demands that the Society has to meet.

The Society's biggest challenge is not what it has done in the past but what it will strive for in the future and from this point of view the Society has to address it's role for the next 20 years.

Upon reflection of my years of involvement in the Society one cannot help but think of the wealth of information that has been circulated by staff and invited guests. The most striking feature has been the Society's ability to attract prominent politicians to it's Richmond Centre and to speak at it's Annual General Meetings.

It is my opinion that an organisation's worth in the Community is measured by it's ability to attract the interest of politicians and more importantly to be successful in obtaining Government financial assistance and no doubt to this end the Society has, under difficult conditions, been very successful.

Furthermore a successful organisation is reflected in the strength of it's personalities and to this point it can be said that the Society has over the last 20 years successfully managed in maintaining strong personalities who have allowed the Society to maintain a prominent and active role within our Community at large.

As an activist in both the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria and the Australian Greek Welfare Society the greater strength that the Society has provided is stability in it's organisation. It has weathered "the storm" so to speak during a period of change and the very fact that we are now celebrating it's 20 year anniversary speaks highly of the organisation itself.

The Society in the last 20 years has in many ways been our Community's defacto spokes organisation, especially on social issues. But at times it has been required to extend it's jurisdiction to matters it would not normally undertake.

A.G.W.S.

An Historical View

The sphere of the Society's influence over the last 20 years has been overwhelming from merely being an organisation that was there to provide some type of social welfare assistance it has extended its tentacles into areas of Child Care, Youth Work, Industrial Relations, Social Research, Education and at times intra Community issues.

More importantly it has been the advocate of its social issues that were of immense sensitivity at the time and the volumes of submissions that have been prepared over the last 20 years have all proved to be of immense value and contribution to our Community.

As previously said no organisation is successful without the strong personalities that are involved. The Society has been fortunate as it has been able to attract committed and articulate people who have demonstrated a sense of leadership, direction and more importantly making the appropriate decisions when required.

I wish to congratulate those personalities and the many people that have supported the Society over the last 20 years as the contribution of the Society has been enormous and without it our "Paroikia" would have been a lot poorer for it. ■





AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY IN THE 90'S AND BEYOND

*By Voula Messimeri - Kianidis
Director*

The Australian Greek Welfare Society (AGWS) is this year celebrating its 20th year of operations: the motto that AGWS is using is "20 years of advocacy and service". This motto goes a long way towards capturing the essence of the organisation and its continued legitimacy within the welfare sector at large.

AGWS first opened its doors in September 1972 as the first Greek community - based organisation in Victoria aiming to meet the specific and hitherto unmet needs of Melbourne's Greek community.

For the first six months AGWS provided its services using exclusively volunteer assistance till the first government grant of \$10,000 was received from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs thus enabling AGWS to employ its first social worker.

In 1992 AGWS employs 38 people and has over 120 volunteers. AGWS is involved in a multiplicity of projects and direct services, aiming to identify and cater to the needs of the Australian Greek community. AGWS has been and remains so today, one of the leaders in service provision and advocacy for ethnic communities often pioneering models of work that have been taken up by other ethnic communities and "mainstream" service providers.

Advocacy has always been an area of great energy within AGWS. In 1990 this element remains strong and has been channelled into the current areas of primary concern, including settlement and the ageing Greek community, the needs of carers, mental health, womens issues and industrial and occupational health, to name but a few.

AGWS maintains a keen interest and commitment to issues affecting other ethnic communities working collaboratively with numerous ethnic groups and umbrella organisations at a regional and state wide level. A key focus of all the society's work is with government instrumentalities and mainstream service providers, seeking to effect change in the way these bodies respond to the needs of non-English speaking background people.

Consequently, members of the Board and staff often represent AGWS on ministerial advisory

committees, special task forces and consultations on matters as diverse as health, social security and HACC services. AGWS, like many other ethno specific organisations, by virtue of their geographically dispersed clientele, is a state-wide organisation with a potential target group of well over 200,000. For this enormous client base, the Society has three workers who provide a casework service from a central location in the inner urban suburb of Richmond.

Clearly, these resources are inadequate. The need for services has increased given the forced retrenchments of the mid and late 80's in industries such as footwear, textile and manufacturing generally, the high number of work related injuries, the current recession and the unprecedented high rate of unemployment. All of these factors have led to a high demand for services, especially for crisis counselling and intervention.

For the first time in twenty years of service AGWS is recording significant and disturbing increases in the level of family disharmony, marital breakdown and conflict, domestic violence and divorce, mental ill health and drug and alcohol related problems. Compounding the increased need for services is the fact that the Australian Greek community is rapidly ageing and in need of localised specialist services to be provided in their own language and in a manner that does not further alienate them from this society.

A number of specialist services have been developed by AGWS in the last few years in an attempt to meet the needs of the community. These needs have been identified from casework statistics and various research projects. The services have been initiated in recognition of the urgent needs of the community and in light of the fact that on the whole, "mainstream" service providers have not met the challenge in targeting their NESB clients. Service provision, advocacy and support continues to remain the responsibility of ethno-specific organisations and a handful of other ethnically-based agencies such as migrant resource centres. This responsibility is carried in the face of an ever increasing complexity of problems facing migrants in their struggle to settle in Australia and to

Australian Greek Welfare Society in the '90s and beyond

readjust, given unemployment, ill health, isolation and old age.

In 1992 AGWS established the first Greek specific adult day care centres in Victoria based in Oakleigh and Preston, in cooperation with the Australian Greek Society for the Care of the Elderly. These services have been developed after many years of research and advocacy work at the regional level which have documented the increased need for respite for carers of older and younger disabled members of families as well as the need for social and recreational contact for the elderly themselves.

Very few mainstream service providers have been successful in attracting and maintaining significant numbers of participants of NESB to their day care programs. Consequently members of the Greek ageing community were missing out on vital support structures at a critical time in their lives. Through this type of program AGWS has a strong presence at key regions, in recognition of the importance of working with local networks and with generalist service providers to develop and deliver the best possible service for its client group.

Moreover, given the importance now apportioned to regional decision making government bodies, it has become essential to work at this level in order to legitimise claims for funding and to guarantee an equitable distribution of resources for NESB communities generally and the Greek speaking community more specifically.

Additionally, AGWS has developed close working relationships with local governments and is looking ahead to working in partnership with councils in order to develop appropriate services in the 90's for the Australian Greek community.

AGWS over the past few years has focused significantly on women and their needs. Numerous innovative projects have been undertaken including the establishment of a Greek Womens Learning Centre, domestic violence support groups and divorced womens groups. Other programs specifically target middle-aged and older women aiming to prevent general ill-health with a specific focus on mental health. Interesting approaches have been developed in working with women who suffer from mental illness, including the use of drama, dance and poetry.

The needs of parents or sometimes spouses of psychiatrically ill family members has been incorporated into the AGWS work frame by the establishment of schizophrenia support groups for carers

and sufferers.

Child care services and family support structures remain strong elements within AGWS in the 90's. The child care centre, established in 1977 continues to provide a bilingual extended hours program, continually reassessing its special place in pre-school care and education in order to meet the changing needs of the second and subsequent generations of Australian Greeks.

The Before-and-After School Care Program provides families with a reliable and high quality program. Increasingly, the diversity of the population in Richmond and the surrounding areas is reflected in the composition of the above mentioned programs posing new challenges for servicing more than one ethnic group.

Other major areas of work for AGWS include an extensive visitation program to isolated elderly at home and in nursing homes. A total of 120 volunteers have been recruited and trained to provide much needed social support and companionship to the elderly.

The Society provides specialist casework and operates groups for injured workers in four regions in the metropolitan area. This area of work remains an integral part of direct service provision and advocacy by AGWS.

Given that the Australian Greek population is expected to peak, in terms of age, in the year of 2010, AGWS has a vital part to play in advocacy, direct service delivery and in the development of specialist services for its ageing clientele for at least another 20 years. AGWS continues to play a diverse role in welfare. This role will continue in future to encompass the provision of information, referral and advocacy, direct casework and increasingly specialist counselling as well as research. It is anticipated that AGWS will continue to develop and implement special services such as the adult day care program and support services for carers.

These diverse and essential roles need to be recognised and strengthened with appropriate resources that will consolidate service delivery to the Australian Greek Community in Victoria. AGWS is and will remain to be a unique part of the whole welfare and community services sector, continuing to meet the needs of its changing community with the development of programs and models for service delivery that is appropriate in the 1990's. ■





AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY CHILD CARE PROGRAMME

An Historical Overview

By Janet Elefsiniotis

INTRODUCTION:

The Australian Greek Welfare Society commenced providing child care at the Richmond Child Care and Family Centre in 1977.

The decision to embark upon this area of service delivery was based upon a number of concerns:

- the high and increasing proportion of migrant women either in or entering the workforce, who were in desperate need of affordable, quality and culturally relevant child care;
- the inability (and often unwillingness) on the part of mainstream services to acknowledge the need of migrant families requiring access to child care programmes which actively reinforced their cultural values, and language;
- the social isolation experienced by many young pre-school children of Greek origin who were being cared for at home either by older siblings, elderly grandparents, or "backyard" minders. This often while parents worked long hours in exhausting factory jobs.
- the tendency of many Greek families to return children to their land of origin for care by their extended family during pre-school years;
- anecdotal reports of underachievement of Greek children at school, often attributed to the lack of adequate care and educational opportunity during pre-school years.

The pressing need for AGWS to become actively involved in child care became sharply observable during 1976. This was when youth worker, Kevin (Komninos) Zervos organised a school holiday programme at the Society's Richmond venue. Staff were inundated. The majority of children who attended brought their pre-school-aged siblings for care within the programme.

Over the subsequent fifteen years (1977-92) the Society was to embark upon a unique and unprecedented multicultural experiment. This was far beyond the anticipation of the Board of Management of that era, which was successful in attracting a meagre amount of Commonwealth capital and recurrent funding to establish a 50-place child-care centre in Richmond.

THE MODEL

With the support of numerous dedicated and committed parents, professionals and volunteers: a "model" bi-lingual, bu-cultural child-care and before- and after- school programme was established. This task was not easy. Resources were restricted, there was a dearth of expertise in the field of bi-lingual pre-school education and general community attitudes were not supportive of this form of human development.

Unfortunately, the energy consumed establishing and promoting the service and ensuring appropriate standards were in place precluded the opportunity formally to evaluate (via academic research) the positive impact that the programme has had on the language and cultural maintenance of the many children who have attended the centre over the past fifteen years. This precludes formal quantitative assessment but reflects the general experience of those who took part in the programme.

Hours of operation:

One of the first considerations in establishing the centre was to ensure that the hours of operation were conducive to the needs of migrant working parents. A survey of the users' work obligations showed the need for extended hours, i.e. 6.30 am to 6pm, including a breakfast programme for children who arrived very early and a light supper for those children who left late. The Richmond Child Care and Family Centre was

A.G.W.S. CHILD CARE PROGRAMME

An Historical Overview

one of the first centres in Victoria to operate over extended hours.

Staffing/training:

One of the major difficulties during the early phase of the Centre was an acute lack of suitably-qualified, experienced bi-lingual child-care workers.

This situation was redressed by the introduction of in-service training and professional development for unqualified staff. Also creation of professional on-the-job training for permanent staff via accredited TAFE training courses. This was achieved by appointment of additional personnel through the CEP job creation schemes in the early '80's.

Another significant achievement during the early development of this child care centre was the Society's success in gaining a specific grant to employ a Director of Child Care over and above child-staff ratios. This additional resource enabled the organisation to assume strong advocacy and developmental roles in this specific area of family support.

Positive and collaborative relationships were forged with a number of tertiary institutions. This resulted in the development of an accredited ethnic child care worker training course. The Centre has also provided considerable input into various tertiary institutions via the publication of written material, the development of audio-visual teaching aids, regular talks and lectures and the supervision of students on placement. The emphasis of this work has been to sensitise people to the needs of young children of ethnic background. The AGWS has made a most significant contribution to the field of pre-school education over the past fifteen years.

The society's innovative child care programme has been successful in providing impetus for growing appreciation of the need for professional training, which reflects the cultural diversity of Australian society.

Industrial conditions:

A.G.W.S. introduced a 38 hour working week for child care staff in the early 80's, long before

the relevant trade unions began to take action on this issue.

The child care staff collaborated very closely with the H.E.F. No 1 Branch to run a work value case at the centre which resulted in significant improvements to the Child Care Workers' Award. This action was strongly encouraged and supported by the A.G.W.S. who lobbied hard at that time within the industrial sector for improved wages and conditions for migrant workers.

Overall A.G.W.S. has demonstrated a genuine commitment to ensuring sound employment and industrial policies. Significantly, the majority of child care staff have been employed for between 10-15 years at the centre. This has been most beneficial in terms of providing continuity for the many hundreds of children who have passed through the centre over the years. The A.G.W.S. possibly has the highest record within Australia of staff retention within the child care sector.

Impact on the early childhood services field:

Throughout the fifteen year history of the child care programme the Society has cooperated with numerous mainstream and ethnic community organisations and government agencies responsible for and/or interested in the planning and delivery of children's services. In this report we have attempted to highlight more significant and diverse projects in which the society has collaborated. Examples include:

- Participation in a State Government Review of Early Childhood Services, aimed at providing a planning framework for provision of child care and pre-school services, commissioned by the Ministers of Health, Welfare and Education.
- Active involvement in the development of the Victorian Co-operative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups (VICSEG) which resulted in the employment of a number of ethnic children's services workers throughout Victoria (Post Galbally Inquiry).

ΤΑ ΔΕΚΑ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΤΗΣ «ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΚΗΣ ΠΡΟΝΟΙΑΣ» ΜΕΜΒΟΥΡΝΗΣ

Την εκδήλωση ετίμησε με τη παρουσία του ο Πρωθυπουργός Μάκαου Φραϊζερ και ανακοίνωσε και τα ονόματα των πρώτων Ελληνίδων που κέρδισαν τη «Προεδρική Υποτροφία-Καραμανλή για σπουδές στην Ελλάδα».

Πριν από 10 χρόνια, απομνημόνευσε η Ελλάδα με μεγάλη οδύνη το θάνατο του Κωνσταντίνου Καραμανλή. Ο Καραμανλής, ο οποίος υπήρξε ο πρώτος Έλληνας πρωθυπουργός που κέρδισε το βραβείο ΝΟΒΕΛ, με εμπνευσμένη και γενναία προσπάθεια, δημιούργησε το Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, το οποίο σήμερα αποτελεί τον κορμό της Ελληνικής Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας. Η ίδρυση του Κέντρου Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, το 1972, αποτέλεσε ένα σημαντικό βήμα στην προσπάθεια της Ελλάδας να αντιμετωπίσει τα κοινωνικά προβλήματα που αντιμετώπιζε.



Ο κ. Καραμανλής με την παρουσία του Πρωθυπουργού Μάκαου Φραϊζερ, κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης.



Ο Πρωθυπουργός κ. Καραμανλής με την ομάδα των στην Γενική Συνέλευση της Ελληνικής Προνοιας.



Ο Πρωθυπουργός με την Ελληνίδα Αλβα Μπενιουχίου που κέρδισε με τη Βαριάντα την Προεδρική Υποτροφία.



Ο κ. Καραμανλής με την ομάδα των στην Γενική Συνέλευση της Ελληνικής Προνοιας.



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Μία άποψη της εκδήλωσης εορταστικής με την παρουσία του Πρωθυπουργού κ. Καραμανλή.



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Η Ελληνική Προνοιας, με την παρουσία του Πρωθυπουργού κ. Καραμανλή, ετίμησε τα δέκα χρόνια της ύπαρξης της. Η εκδήλωση πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, στην Αθήνα, και προσέλκυσε μεγάλο αριθμό επισκεπτών. Ο Πρωθυπουργός κ. Καραμανλής, στην ομιλία του, αναφέρθηκε στην ιστορία της Ελληνικής Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, από την ίδρυση της το 1972, μέχρι σήμερα. Ο κ. Καραμανλής, που κέρδισε το βραβείο ΝΟΒΕΛ, με την εμπνευσμένη προσπάθειά του, δημιούργησε το Κέντρο Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας, το οποίο σήμερα αποτελεί τον κορμό της Ελληνικής Κοινωνικής Πρόνοιας.

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EDUCATION 1972 - 1992

By Anna Coveos

The Australian Greek Welfare Society is a model organisation in the best traditions of democracy, egalitarianism and the principle of a "fair go", it is reformist, visionary and pioneering. Its many achievements since its inception have often been spectacular, sometimes brilliant, usually trailblazing.

AGWS more than any ethnic-based organisation has furthered the cause of justice in education by advancing individual and collective rights. It has imprinted itself on contemporary Australian society more than any other Greek community-based organisation.

Over the years the AGWS has forced the various layers of government and a wide range of groups to reassess attitudes towards people from non English speaking backgrounds. It has persistently chipped away at the culture of assimilation.

At the turn of the 1970's Anglo monoculturalism and English monolingualism were desirable social goals, deemed to be in the natural order of things. These assimilationist attitudes underpinned the nation's curricula. The relatively successful reversal of these trends is AGWS's greatest educational achievement to date.

Cultural diversity, interest in bilingualism, the view of languages as natural resources would have been unthinkable two decades ago. Australian education has a lot to thank AGWS for.

In the course of promoting social change the AGWS pioneered numerous educational programs from pre-school to tertiary, to after-care, to community education, to policy development and implementation.

Over the years AGWS members and friends have sat on numerous committees from local school council to federal ministerial reviews. They disseminated information at various forums, inserviced, taught skills and strategies.

They consulted with individuals and groups,

shared knowledge and learnt from others. They collaborated with similar minded groups such as Co-As-It and Migrant Action. They were very successful.

AGWS's earliest tangible successes were in community education. The highlighting of the need for professional interpreting and translating and the setting up of courses and organisational structures is a major achievement.

Another was in helping to bring about a broadcast service that would cater to the needs of non English speakers. 3EA brought many a person out of communicative isolation and into the broader society. More recently, AGWS has been sensitising the Greek Community to its needs. The work of the Society for the Care of the Elderly is an outstanding example of community education.

Another AGWS model project can be found in the pre-school area. Bilingual bicultural child care centres are a rare commodity. The Richmond Child Care Centre caters to working parents and actively promotes cultural and linguistic diversity.

The relatively short-lived Education Liaison Team was masterful in bringing about educational reform. Its numerous achievements include the teaching of lobbying skills to other ethnic groups and the carving out of successful communication channels between parents, teachers and students and between schools and their communities.

The ELT established the now defunct Greek Parents' Federation and founded countless Greek Parents' Associations throughout the state. It improved the quality of educational provision. It helped initiate and formulate state and federal educational policy. It was too successful.

The first time that the Victorian Education Department (as it was then known) formally sat down at the senior bureaucratic level to directly work with a community group on specific curriculum innovation initiated by the community,

Education 1972 - 1992

as at the turn of the 1980's. It worked with representatives of AGWS and the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria on the implementation of the Richmond-Greek-English Bilingual Project. This project was the major forerunner of later state and federal language policies and guidelines.

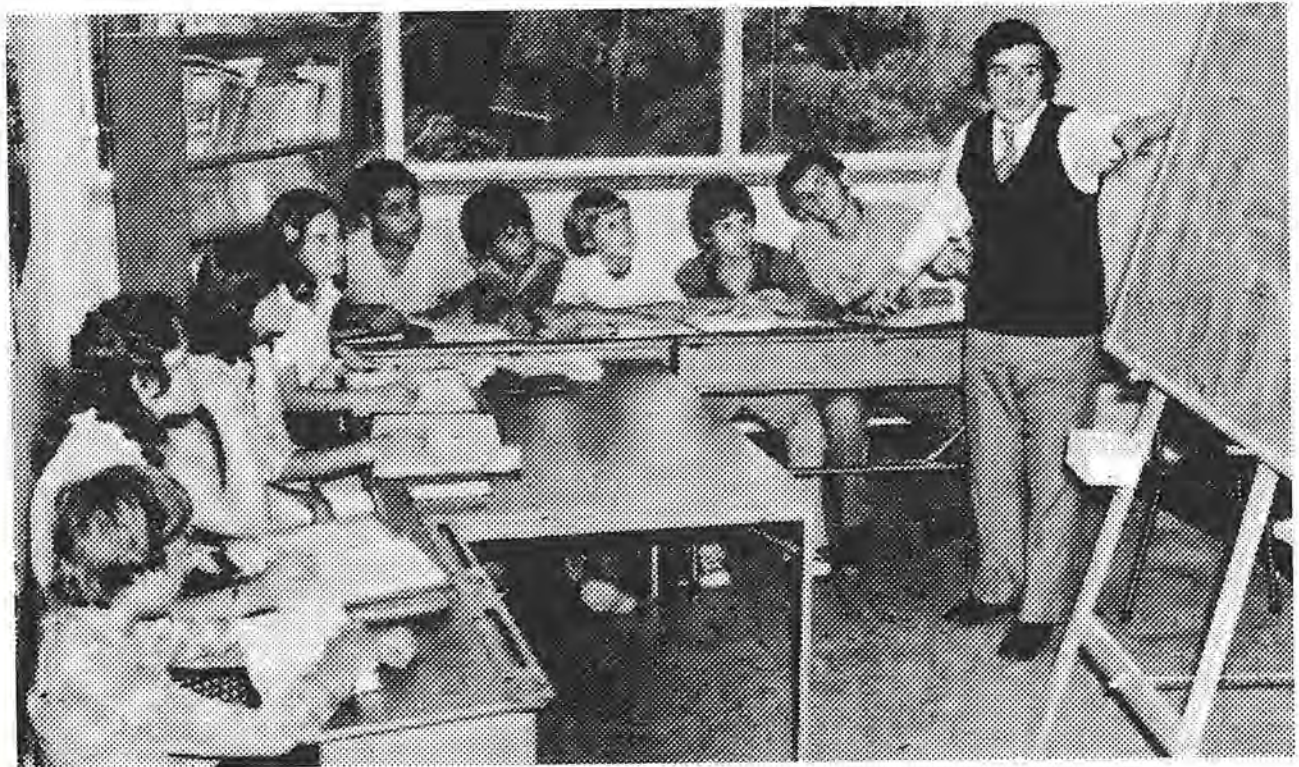
Policy initiation, implementation, review and refinement has been AGWS's lasting contribution to education in the first twenty years of its existence.

Because of AGWS not only young people of Greek background but all Australians enjoy a higher quality of educational provision. AGWS, of course, did not work in isolation.

It collaborated with other agencies and groups.

It was helped by a number of prominent social reformers who were not of Greek background. It was also fortuitous in that its existence coincided with more enlightened government administrations, from the Whitlam era onwards. However, it was most singularly fortunate in the quality and dedication of its volunteers and of its paid workers.

AGWS's educational legacy in the first twenty years is formidable. Now, in the post multicultural era, we can look forward to equally spectacular achievements. After all, AGWS has always been an astute reader of the times! ■





Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly
Αυστραλο - Ελληνικός Σύλλογος για την Φροντίδα των Ηλικιωμένων

94 Springs Road, Clayton South 3169
Tel: 551 8433 Fax: 558 1247

Patron:
His Excellency the Governor of Victoria
The Honourable Richard E. McGarvie

"Pronia" Hostel: 551 6556
"Steyl" Nursing Home: 551 8433

**MESSAGE FROM THE
AUSTRALIAN GREEK SOCIETY
FOR CARE OF THE
ELDERLY**



**TO THE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY**

On behalf of the Committee of Management of the Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly (a charitable organization), I wish to congratulate the Australian Greek Welfare Society in celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

The Australian Greek Welfare Society has been a focal point for the Greek speaking community of Victoria in providing welfare services for the last 20 years, and it continues to do so.

The Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly was established in 1976 by committee members of the Australian Greek Welfare Society. The vision of the those committee members has now become reality, and the problems of the Greek speaking elderly were accurately foreseen back in 1976.

Since 1976, the Australian Greek Welfare Society has supported the Australian Greek Society for Care of the Elderly. At present both organizations have established "Merimna" Day Care Centres in Preston and Oakleigh.

I wish the Australian Greek Welfare Society continued success in the future, and it is quite evident that the need for its services is just as great now as it was 20 years ago.

Jacob Fronistas, B.Sc., LL.B.
PRESIDENT
A.G.S.C.E.

**THE
CASTELLORIZIAN
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**



*Congratulates
The
Australian Greek Welfare Society
on its
20 Year Service
to
the Community*



G R E E K
ORGANISATION
OF YOUNG
AUSTRALIANS

*GOYA extends its
Congratulations to the President
and Members
of the Australian
Greek Welfare Society
on the occasion of
its 20th Anniversary
and for its efforts, contributions
and achievements
in the Greek Community
throughout its 20 years.*

*Continued success and best wishes
The Goya Commitee*



*The Management and Staff
of
SUN HEALTH FOODS
Congratulate
The
Australian Greek Welfare Society
on its
20 years of service
to the community*

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΣΤΡΩΜΑΤΟΠΟΙΪΑ

Όλοι γνωρίζουμε
την ευεργετική επίδραση ενός καλού στρώματος στη ζωή μας.

Ένα καλό στρώμα είναι απαραίτητο διότι πάνω σ' αυτό
περνάμε την μισή ζωή μας.

Ο ύπνος, η ανάπαυση και οι χαρές του κρεβατιού
συνδέονται αναμφισβήτητα με ένα καλό στρώμα.

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- ★ Στρώματα ορθοπεδικά

ΕΡΓΟΣΤΑΣΙΟ:

55 VICTORIA STREET, FITZROY 3065

(Παράλληλα της Johnson Street)

☎ 417 2257 - 417 6778

FAX: 416 0872

*To
The Australian Greek Welfare Society*

*Wishing the Society every success
in the future
and Congratulations
on its 20 years of Service
to the community*

Theo Conos

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Every night
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Nick Polites
President
1972 - 1973

Congratulates
the
Australian Greek Welfare Society
on its
20th Anniversary

Alfredo Kouris
Congratulates
The Australian Greek
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on its
20th Anniversary

“PYRSOS”
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Peter Lathouras
Congratulates
The Australian Greek Welfare
Society
on its
20 years of service
to the community

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to
The Australian Greek Welfare
Society
on its
20th Anniversary
From Peter Kanis

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Fitzroy Council decides against employing a social worker for migrants

AID FOR ETHNIC GROUPS

CLUB HOUSE FOR CHILD CENTRE



"The Australian school system has stripped Greek students of their linguistic and cultural heritage, giving them few of the system's benefits in return."

ΕΛΕΙΠΕ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΝ ΠΑΡΟΙΚΙΑ ΜΑΣ Τὸ Γραφεῖο Κοινωνικῆς Προνοίας

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Interpreter row

Migrant schools deprived: Greeks

NEW CHILD CARE CENTRE FOR CITY

A Richmond property is to be converted into a Child Care Centre by the Australian Greek Welfare Society following a grant of \$29,750 by the Federal Government.

The important role of migrant welfare agencies

Μὲ στόχο τὴν ἀναδιοργάνωση τῆς Κοινότητος Η ΣΤΙΓΜΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΛΛΑΓΗΣ

Our changing society

"WHITEWASHING EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS"

MIGRANTS NOT GETTING HELP
—says welfare man

Child-care plan limited, say centre owners

ΚΡΙΣΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ

Bilingual bid by schools

Migrants gaoj wrongly: Gras

Greeks get new help at school

Migrant needs are ignored

Playing the welfare roulette

The Families
George and Christine Dimer
and
Chris and Irene Mingos
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on its
20th Anniversary*

**AUSTRALIAN GREEK
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

(Subdivision of the A.M.A)

*The President Dr. Nick Lolatgis
and the members of the A.G.M.A*

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on its*

20 years service to the community

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Pleasant Sunday Morning

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, 21st December, 1975

at

86 WESTBURY STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

★

In Aid of the
Australian Greek Welfare Society

★

DONATION: \$4

Sorry, Males Only



Pleasant Sunday Morning

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday, 2nd April, 1978

at

86 WESTBURY STREET, EAST ST. KILDA

★

In Aid of the
Australian Greek Welfare Society

★

DONATION: \$6

Sorry, Males Only



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

GRAND FINAL HANGOVER

☆

PLEASANT SUNDAY MORNING

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

☆

SUNDAY, 5th DECEMBER, 1982

AT 52 CHAPEL STREET, ST. KILDA

DONATION: \$10

Deeply regret, but
Men Only



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

☆

MELBOURNE CUP PREVIEW

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

☆

SUNDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER, 1985

AT 52 CHAPEL STREET, ST. KILDA

DONATION: \$12

Deeply regret, but
Men Only







AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

GREEK ST. PATRICK'S DAY



**PLEASANT
SUNDAY MORNING**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



SUNDAY, 17th MARCH, 1985

AT 52 CHAPEL STREET, ST. KILDA

DONATION: \$12

Deeply regret, but
Men Only



AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY

PLEASANT. SUNDAY. MORNING.



IMPOSSIBLE DREAM

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



SUNDAY, 28th SEPTEMBER, 1986

AT 52 CHAPEL STREET, ST. KILDA

DONATION: \$12

Deeply regret, but
Men Only

AUSTRALIAN GREEK WELFARE SOCIETY



**PLEASANT
SUNDAY MORNING**

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



SUNDAY, 13th APRIL, 1980

AT 52 CHAPEL STREET, ST. KILDA

DONATION: \$7

Deeply regret, but
Men Only



LADIES AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

SUNDAY, 4th NOVEMBER, 1979

2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.

at

250 DORCAS STREET, SOUTH MELBOURNE

in aid of the Australian Greek Welfare Society

Guest Speakers:

MAGDA ACHKAR (Aged)

JANET ELEFSINIOTIS (Child Care)

RITA PACKER (Welfare)

Donation: \$4.00

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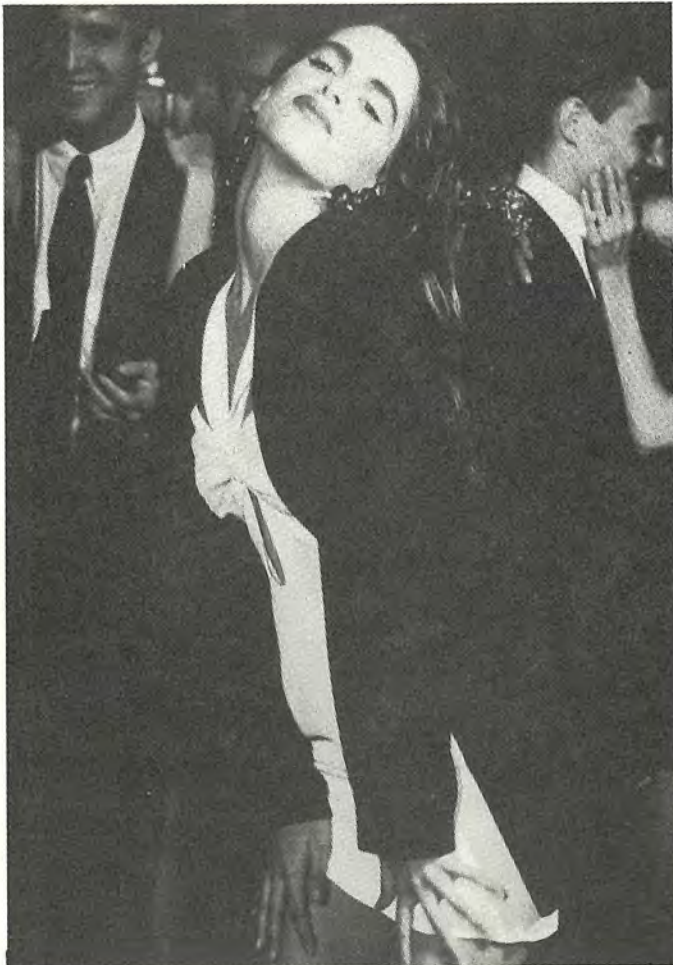


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