

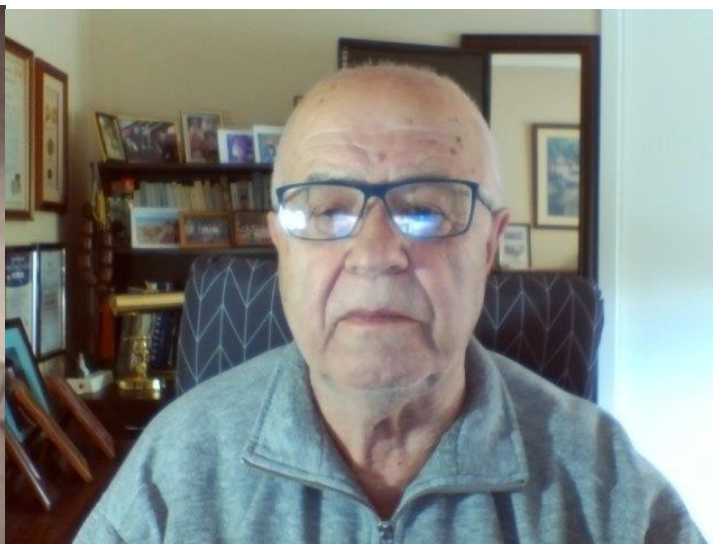
SAILING TO AUSTRALIA WITH CYRENIA



ON THE DECK OF THE SHIP CYRENIA



IN THE CENTRE, ON THE DECK, WITH MY FRIENDS TASOS AND LAZARUS



To Australia as a migrant in 1954 at 25 and now 90 years old

***Self- written By Tasos Kolokotronis
Melbourne 2019***

GRETA /BONEGILLA

PERSONAL MEMORIES

BY TASOS KOLOKOTRONIS

AS A MIGRANT IN AUSTRALIA AT GRETA MIGRANT CAMP

GRETA Dec. 1954. I arrived as a migrant from Thessaloniki Greece in late December 1954 after graduating in agriculture from the American Farm School of Thessaloniki and serving 5 years with the Greek Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers as trained A' Grade motor mechanic in Sydney with 600 other young Greek singles and immediately transferred by buses to a railway station to a steam train, and 4 hours later to the Greta Migrant Centre located on the slopes of a hill 3 km from the town of Greta and 40 km from New Castle.



Silver City - Railway In Background Greta
The silver city was the tin sheds barracks and chocolate city the timber ones

It was 3 AM in the morning and after a pre breakfast meal we settled in our indicated rooms. My friend Lazarus and I talked and thought; "Why we left our beautiful town, parents, friends and jobs to come and live in that tin barrack in sheering hot condition?" In the morning the siren sounded for breakfast standing and waiting in long rows. It was very crowded and my first impression was as if I was landed in an army concentration camp with people of different countries and different languages and dressings like a ghetto

When we left Greece was winter and we were dressed in winter cloths. Nobody told us that December in Australia was summer and hot and should consider having some light cloths with us. Some of us who had second trouser cut them to convert to shorts.

Another problem was that we had our meals outdoor under sheds with millions of flies attacking our meal and us.

We knew it was a temporary stay there but the summer holidays made it harder to be allocated to jobs, so, some people decided to disobey the rules and take into their own hands the responsibility to find a job.

That's what I did with three other friends.



The Greta camp as it was in 1954 with some friends I never saw them again

We made an arrangement with a taxi driver who took us after midnight and dropped us to Maitland railway station and from there in the morning we went to Sydney.

Two weeks in the beautiful Sydney and unsuccessfully to find a job we decided to go to Melbourne where we had some friends who would help us to find a job and settle there.

Four of us, broke and hungry decided to sell our watches going from jewellery to jewellery that all would laugh at as. Then my friend Filotas decided to sell his shaggy red woollen (flokati) in the middle of summer with temperature close to 40C. Again we went to dozens of shops to receive laughter's. Finally, Lazarus managed to find a friend who lent us 20 pounds so to make our way to Melbourne. The journeys by train were very impressive of the landscape and the vastness of the country and particularly when we changed trains in Albury because of different rail gauges among the two states.

On arrival to Spencer Station we rank (Stefano) a friend we knew who picked us to his rented place for a night and next day he found for us a room in Coburg, all payed to a Polish woman owner with light breakfast for two weeks. A week later the lady told us to leave because we were eating too much bread and butter and a jar of marmalade every morning. So

We moved couple of streets down to Brunswick in 20 Cozens St. and to larger house with more Greek tenants and to a Greek family of 4 children named Stamoulis Efthimios. We were happy as the landlord helped us to find jobs at the nearby plaster factory and have enough money to pay our debts.

A few weeks later I found a job to fit my trade as a motor mechanic at Queens Bridge Motors, a large dealership company for G. M. Holden with better conditions and pay and life started to normalize since my English was quite good to assist the other two friends.

In June 1955 four friends and I tried to work in Queensland (Cairns and Babinda) in sugar cane but failed and returned to Melbourne for a new start, then I married and had family I found a better job, with the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation as an aircraft mechanic where I worked for ten years and about 25 with the Ansett Airlines of Australia from where I retired to spent time writing books, poems, paintings, drawing, and miniatures



A view of the Greta Migrant Camp from the nearby hill 3km from the Greta Township



2004. I visited the place 50 years later. On right was the Migrant Camp until 1960, thereafter the whole establishment demolished by the NSW Government without leaving any trace that thousands of migrants passed and started their lives from there. Nothing

GRETA, GRETA, WON'T FORGET YA-- I WAS THOUGH I WAS IN GHETTO

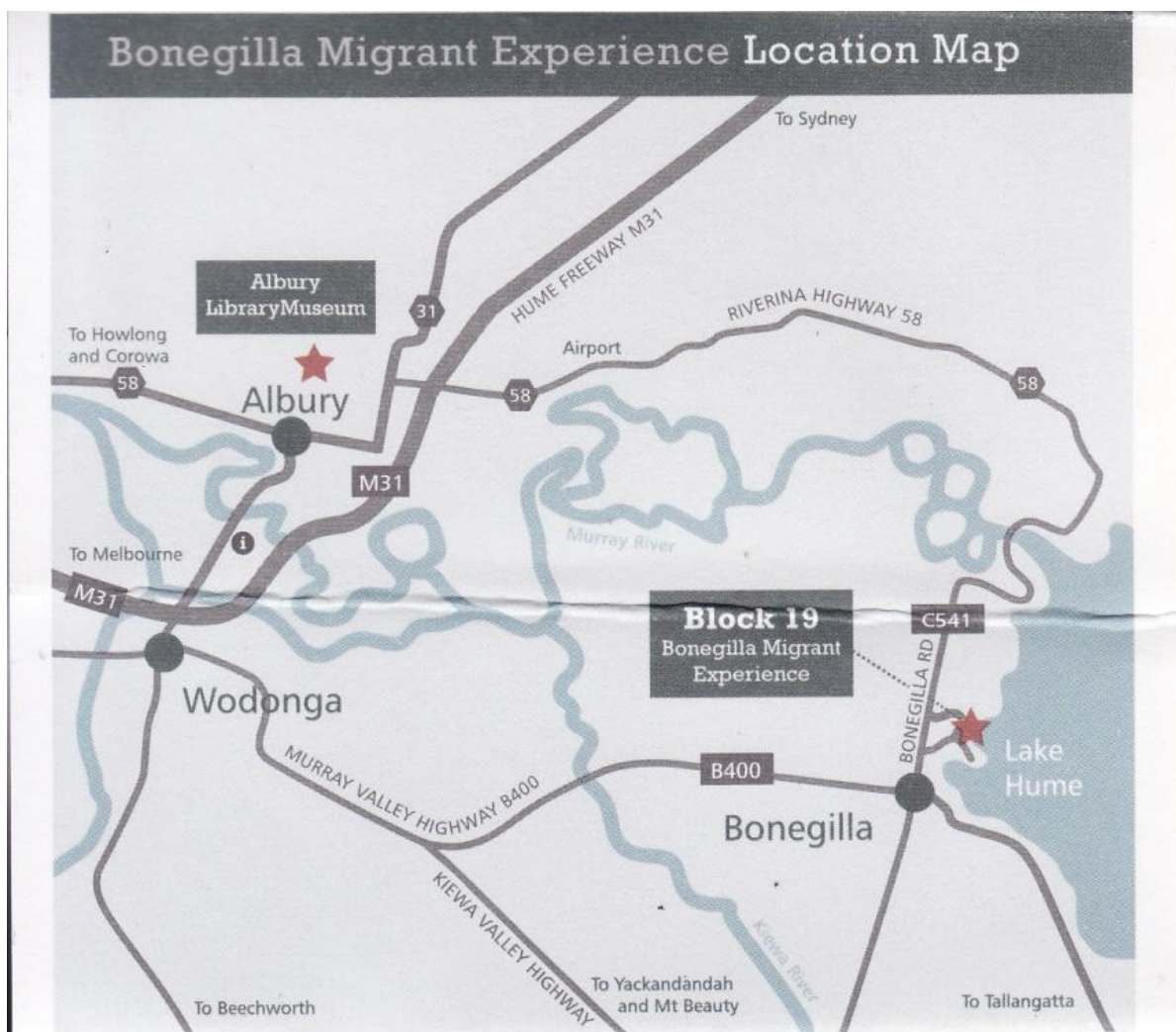
BONEGILLA



BONEGILLA 2017 blocks 19, from right. My wife Christina with her cousin Christina Konakas at Bonegilla Migrant Experience whose husband spent some weeks at the Centre in late sixties (1960) until he had been secured by me a job and accommodation in Melbourne and left the Centre quite happy to start their life in Australia



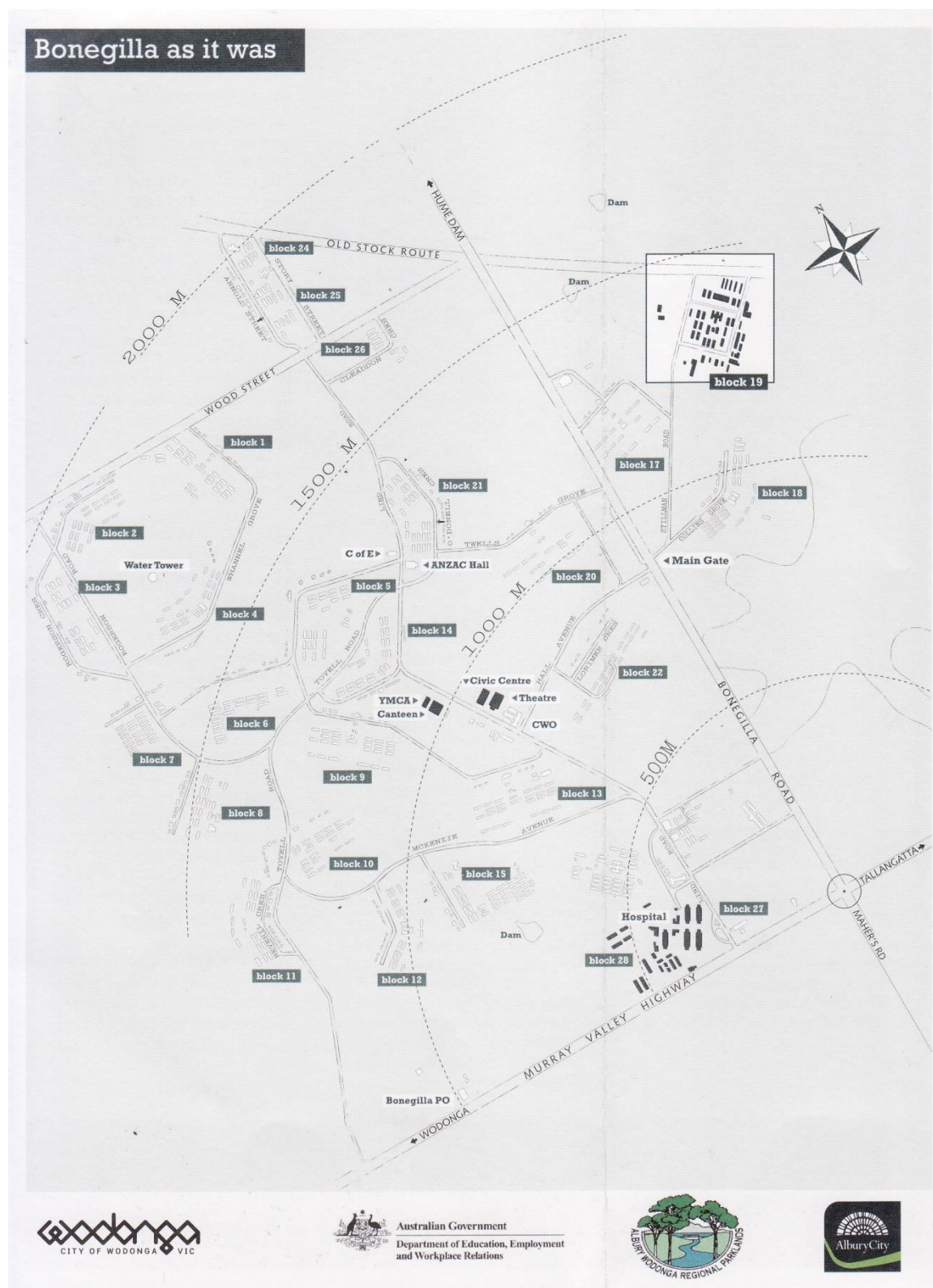
BONEGILLA; The main camp when occupied by the army and later by the migrants



Block 19 is located near the shores of Lake Hume and it is preserved as a Museum displaying Various articles the migrants brought with them to settle in their new country, such as... Suit cases, costumes, tools, musical instruments, domestic utensils, etc. Also on display there is a replica of a Greek village to depict not only what the migrants brought with them, also what they left behind coming as migrants to this lucky country Australia.

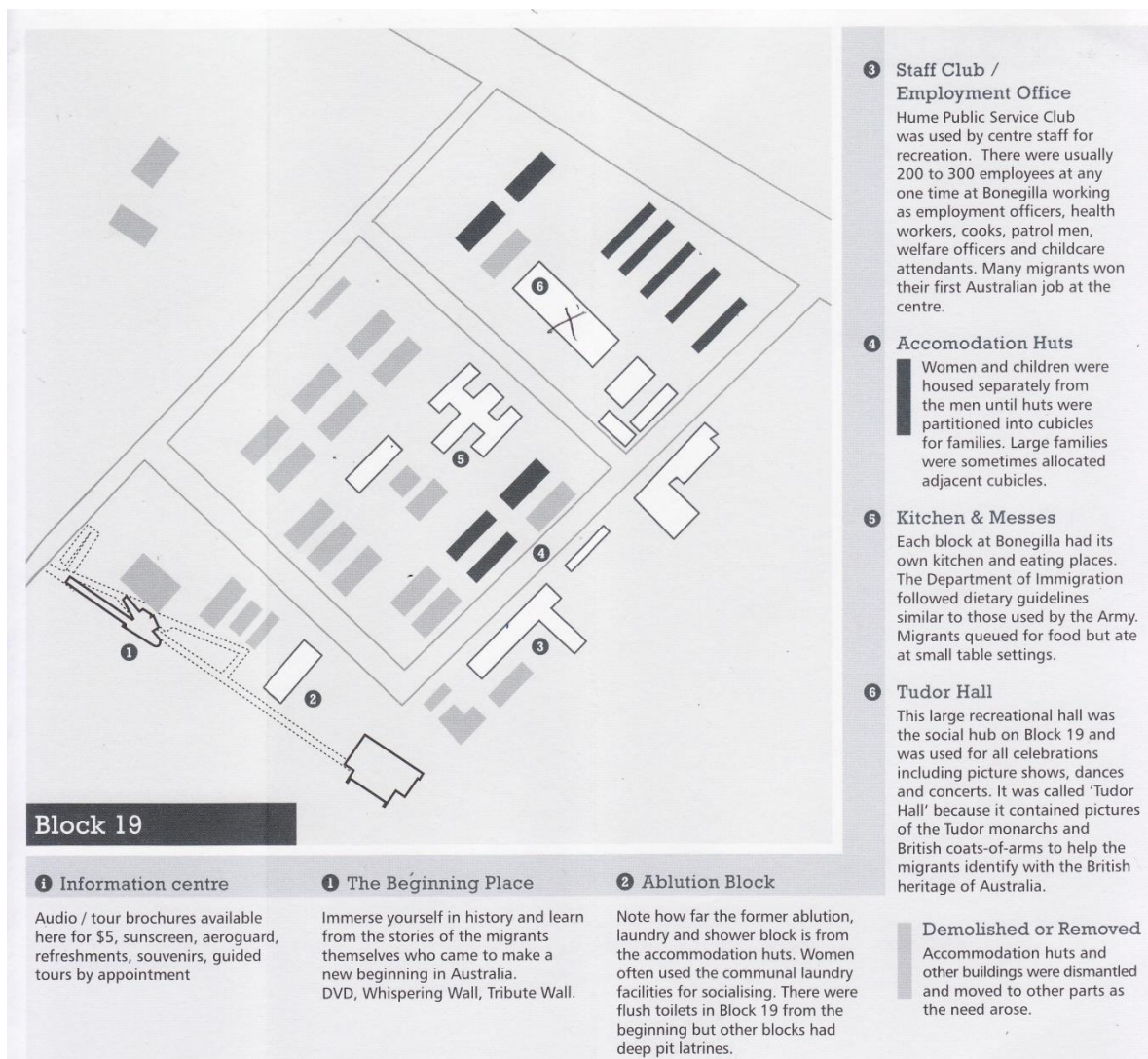
Bonegilla Army Camp build in 1939 and used by the Australian armed forces during the second WW until 1947 when converted to accommodate European migrants for a short period of time until they settled permanently to various jobs and homes all over Australia until 1971. Served as Australia's largest migrant centre to almost 300,000 migrants from more than 50 countries and among them 35,000 Greeks

BONEGILLA BONEGILLA FOR ALL MIGRANTS GRANT VILLA



The former Army Camp of Bonegilla which had been converted to accommodate migrants from European countries after the II WW, from 1947 -1971.

The centre is approximately 13 km from the tween towns Albury/Wodonga



From the whole camp out of 28 blocks only block 19 was reserved by the Victorian Government to serve as a Museum and the Civic Centre with Theatre in the main camp which at present is occupied by the army and special permission is needed to be inspected by tourists and visitors.

Since the block 19 became available for the people to visit and experience how the new post war migrants; married with children and singles lived there; Thousands from all over the country, former residents, their children and grandchildren and some from overseas come to visit this exclusive historical place and the only one to admire proudly and give credit to those migrants who made great contribution to the development of this great lucky country Australia

I am proud to say that I am one of them now 90 years old to write this short story in my own words as good as I can in English particularly for Greta and Bonegilla. Also proud to say is that I have written 17 books autobiographies and others all in electronic format which are readable only at ANAGNOSTIS e-MAGAZINE for free and not for sale

Although the Second World War started in 1939 and ended in 1944 in Europe with devastating results in human lives, in Greece the war continued in a bitter civil war amongst us between the communist guerrillas and the national army for another 4 years until 1949 which was worse than the German, Italian and Bulgarian occupation; The most affected areas were the rural areas and the mountainous regions in Northern Greece which were occupied by the guerrillas forcing most of the people to abandon their villages and concentrated into big cities and towns for safety.

Most villages were burned down or destroyed from both sides until the defeat of the communist guerrillas with heavy price to pay from both sides.

I happened then to serve in the army as a technician and experienced this Greek tragedy As a result of all these most people sick of wars and no hope, started looking to escape from the misery to countries where they could find peace and security.

One of the countries accepting migrants was Australia.

Thousands of Greeks mostly from rural areas and little education accepted to make this country their permanent home and made great contribution to every field with great success and now their children and grandchildren do the same even with greater successes in high professions.

People from villages preferred to leave their houses, farms, implements, stocks, carts and horses which served them for their livelihoods to seek a better life in another strange country with other language and culture.

It was really a hard decision to make. But we did. And we are not sorry.

Rather very happy to adopt Australia as our home. As a singles or married with family we had limited things to bring with us. Maximum a suit case or a sack with a few personal belongings a person needed to have and could carry;

When the government decided to reserve block 19 for a Museum and to suit the purpose of the establishment, asked the migrants who passed from there to make any contributions by offering cultural items, pictures, costumes, tools, etc. that they brought with them and didn't need them anymore.

Soon, enough collection of items gathered to display for the visitors and I've been impressed too when I visited Bonegilla when opened the doors. But, something was missing.

It was OK to see what people brought with them. Missing was what the people left behind leaving their country, particularly from Greece.

As I mentioned above; they were, Houses, farms, carts. Farm Implements, schools, churches, etc. which I've made them from memory in small models (replicas) which they represent the way of life of the last century in urban and rural areas which are not any more there or in use. They have sentimental value for those who lived and remember them, as well artistic value for which they won awards from the State Government of Victoria in 2005; City of Mooney Valley in 2005; And City of Delta in Greece in 2018

At present they are on display at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience Museum for which I am grateful for the officials and staff accommodating the collection there for the people to see what the Greek migrants missed.

Tasos Kolokotronis

I will display some of the models and pictures bellow, in Greek and English explanation



The ship "CYRENIA" After in operation in two World wars and 40 years old she was commissioned to carry migrants mostly from Greece Build in England in 1911 for NZ under the name "MAUNGANUI" served in both WW as a merchant and as a hospital ship and later sold to Greek shipping interest and renamed to CYRENIA and started carrying migrants to Australia until 1956 and then sold for scrap. This was the ship I sailed with from Piraeus on 20-11-54 and arrived in Sydney on 25 of December 1954 and transferred to the migrant training camp of GRETA, NSW.



Δεκ. 1954 στο κατάστρωμα του πλοίου ΚΥΡΗΝΕΙΑ με τους φίλους μου αριστερά ο Τάσος Καβαλιώτης στο κέντρο εγώ, και δεξιά ο Λάζαρος Τύρης

Dec.1954 on the deck of the ship CYRENIA with my friends from left Tasos Kavaliotis, I am in the middle and Lazarus Tyrus on the right



ΜΑΚΕΤΑ. Αυτό ήταν το καφενείο του πατέρα μου. Κτίσθηκε το 1925 και κατεδαφίστηκε το 1967. Αριστερά είναι η δυτική πλευρά και η πρόσοψη η ανατολική. Στη βόρεια πλευρά ήταν η κατοικία μας. Ήταν το μεγαλύτερο της εποχής εκείνης. Το 1940 με τον Ελληνοϊταλικό πόλεμο χρησιμοποιήθηκε σαν κέντρο επιστρατεύσεως και επί γερμανικής κατοχής στο αριστερό μέρος στεγάστηκε το κοινοτικό γραφείο μέχρι το 1945. Είχε μεγάλη αυλή με θέα 180° με μεγάλα δένδρα από ακακίες και τέσσερις κληματαριές. Από την δεξιά πλευρά ήταν η σιδηροδρομικές γραμμές Ειδομένης και Αλεξανδρουπόλεως και η Εθνική οδός Αθηνών – Ευρώπης.

MODEL this was my father's coffee house. Build in 1925 and demolished in 1967. On the left is the west side and the front is facing the east. It was the largest of that time. In 1940 and during the war between Greece and Italy the building used as mobilization center and during the German occupation the left side of the shop had been occupied as an office by the local council. The front yard was quite large with acacias trees all around and four vines. It had 180o view from the right towards the two railways, one to Yugoslavia and the other to Turkey. Also the National Highway leading to Athens and to Europe

Η εκκλησία του χωριού. The village church



Μακέτα. Η εκκλησία του Αγίου Αθανασίου της Νέας Μαγνησίας Θεσσαλ.

ΜΑΚΕΤΑ. Η εκκλησία του Αγίου Αθανασίου της Νέας Μαγνησίας με το νεκροταφείο της . Κτίσθηκε περίπου το 1870 και κατεδαφίστηκε το 1970 για να κτισθεί καινούρια. Εδώ είναι θαμμένοι οι ντόπιοι αλλά και όλοι σχεδόν οι πρόσφυγες, γονείς παππούδες, αδέρφια και συγγενείς που ήρθαν το 1922.

MODEL the church of saint Athanasios of New Magnesia and the cemetery. Build approximately in 1870 and demolished in 1970 to give way for a new one. Here are buried the early settlers and also the refugees, my parents, grandparents, brother, sister and other relatives from Asia Minor who settle here after the 1922 war



Το καφενείο του Αθανασίου Χατζημάρκου/The coffee house of Atha Hadjimarkos



ΜΑΚΕΤΑ Προσφυγικό σπίτι που αργότερα προστέθηκε στο σπίτι το υπόστεγο (σάγια) ο στάβλος με τον αχυρώνα το εξωτερικό αποχωρητήριο, ο φούρνος και σε κάποια ένα πηγάδι με τουλούμπα ή με κουβά Τα οικοπέδα ήταν 1000 τμ και δεν είχαν φράχτη για πολλά χρόνια .

MODEL a house for the refugees where later they added a cart port, stable, hay storage area and an outside toilet, the oven to bake breads and some had wells with hand pumps and others buckets. The houses were build in 1000 square meters land and had no fences for many years.



Αυτό είναι πραγματικό προσφυγικό σπίτι του θείου μου που μείναμε 3 μήνες το 1994 και κατεδαφίστηκε μετά την αναχώρησή μας για νέα κατοικία

This was the real house build for Greek refugees from Turkey, belonged to my uncle in my village where my wife and I stayed 3 months in 1994. It was demolished for a new as soon as we left



ΜΑΚΕΤΑ. Αυτό ήταν το πιο συνηθισμένο και δημοφιλέστερο αλογόκαρο του χωριού μας. Η κατασκευή του άρχισε το 1923 και σταμάτησε το 1960 περίπου και το αυτοκίνητο πήρε τη θέση του. Το λέγανε «σούστα» «αραμπά» και απλά «κάρο». Κατασκευαζότανε από μερικούς τεχνίτες στη Θεσσαλονίκη αλλά ο καλύτερος τεχνίτης ήταν ο Αρμένιος Μαρκαριάν που είχε το συνεργείο του στη οδό Γενιτσών με πολλούς καλφάδες για να προλαβαίνουν τις παραγγελιές. Το κάρο αυτό το λέγανε «σούστα» γιατί είχε μπρος και πίσω ελατήρια για να απορροφούν τους κραδασμούς για την ασφαλή μεταφορά των φρούτων και μπορούσαν να μεταφέρουν πάνω από χίλια κιλά βάρος..

MODEL this horse cart was the most preferred one in the village. The making started app in 1923 and ended in 1960 because replaced by cars. Having had spring suspension system, used mostly for the smooth transportation of delicate fruits and vegetables. Few other craftsmen build such carts but the most famous of all was Mr. Markarian, an Armenian refugee whose tin shed workshop was in Yenitsa Street in Thessaloniki with several qualified tradesmen who worked long hours to keep up with the orders. People called this cart "sousta" springy "araba" in Turkish or simply "karo' the car



Εδώ ένα πραγματικό κάρο που ανήκε στον Αθανάσιο Χατζημάρκο με τον υπάλληλο και τα πέντε παιδιά του έτοιμα να πάνε στο μπαξέ τους για δουλειά..

Here is an original horse cart which belonged to Athanasios Hadjimarkos. His five children and a worker on board ready to go for work to his farm



ΜΑΚΕΤΑ Το βοδόκαρο αυτό χρησιμοποιήθηκε σε βαλτώδη και αμμουδερά μέρη που το τραβούσαν ένα ζευγάρι από βόδια ή και αγελάδες για τη μεταφορά γεωργικών προϊόντων που ήταν βαρεία και δεν είχαν ελατήρια Τα κάρα αυτά αντικαταστάθηκαν από τα φορτηγά αυτοκίνητα και τα τρακτέρ.

MODEL this oxen cart has been used in marshy or sandy areas and had no springs. The cart was hauled by two oxen, even cows, for their ability to pull heavy materials. This cart eventually replaced by the utility cars, trucks and tractors



ΜΑΚΕΤΑ Η άμαξα ή το παιτόνι χρησιμοποιούταν στις μεγάλες πόλεις και κωμοπόλεις σαν αγοραίο ταξί. Τώρα το χρησιμοποιούν σε ορισμένα νησιά της πατρίδας μας για τουριστικές ανάγκες. Για το αμάξι αυτό γράφτηκαν πολλά λαϊκά τραγούδια και τραγουδήθηκαν από το λαό μας και ακόμα ακούγονται.

MODEL the couch or the cab was in use in big cities and towns as a hired taxi. Nowadays they are operating in some islands in Greece for the tourists and entertainment. This particular cab is the most sung by the Greek people and still their popularity is high and is being heard often

ΜΑΚΕΤΑ Αυτή η δίτροχη άμαξα κατασκευαζότανε συνήθως για εύπορους κτηματίες, τζαμπάζηδες «μεσίτες» εμπόρους, γιατρούς κλπ Το χρησιμοποιούσαν όμως και για αγοραίο ταξί. Ήταν ελαφρύ και ευέλικτο με διπλά ελατήρια και τροχούς από καουτσούκ όπως και η άμαξα.

MODEL; this two wheeled buggy was made usually for wealthy farmers stock merchants, merchants, doctors etc. It was light and easy to maneuver, had double springs and rubber hard wheels like the four wheel couch.



Το γαϊδουρόκαρο / The donkey cart





ΜΑΚΕΤΕ. Σκελετός σαμαριού και ένα σαμάρι τελειωμένο με ταγάρι και εξαρτήματα

MODELS the frame of a saddle and another completed with side bags and accessories

Το σαμάρι / The saddle

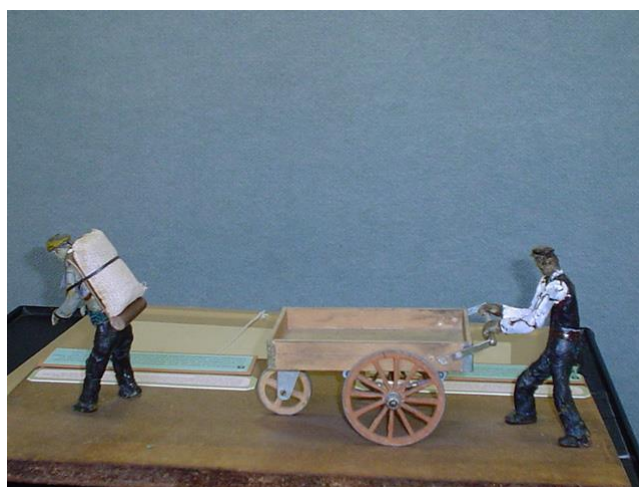




Μακέτα ο ξυλοκόπος. Κάτοικος ορεινών περιοχών που κόβει από τα δάση καυσόξυλα ορισμένου μεγέθους με άδεια του Δασαρχείου. Η χρήση του αλόγου, μουλαριού ή γαϊδάρου είναι πλέον σπάνια και η μεταφορά των ξύλων γίνεται με φορτηγά αυτοκίνητα ή τρακτέρ. Τόσο τα ζώα όσο και οι ξυλοκόποι αυτού του είδους είναι υπό εξαφάνιση

Model the woodcutter. The woodcutter is local of hilly forest area who cuts firewood of certain thickness with a permit from the Forestry Department. The use of a horse, mule or donkey is now rare as the transportation of wood is being done by tracks and tractors. As much as those animals and the woodcutters of this kind are almost disappeared

Οι μεταφορείς / the carriers



Η Νεκροφόρα άμαξα / The Hearse



Το θέρισμα του σιταριού / The wheat harvesting



Το αλώνισμα / the threshing



Το αλέτρι / the plow



Η σβάρνα / The harrow



The well wheel for pumping water/ Το μαγγανοπήγαδο για άρδευση νερού

Ο Λευκός Πύργος Θεσσαλονίκης/the White Tower of Thessaloniki



Ancient fortress; Monument used as a Byzantine Museum. Λευκός Πύργος Βυζαντινό Μουσείο



1949. Μία ομάδα τεχνιτών αποσπασθέντων σε διάφορα συνεργεία επισκευών αυτοκινήτων του στρατού μπροστά στο Λευκό Πύργο Θεσσαλονίκης. Ο γράφων δεύτερος από τους όρθιους

1949 A group of technicians detached to various army vehicle repairs workshops in front of the real White Tower of Thessaloniki. I am standing second from left



Κάτω Πορρόϊα Σερρών

Μακέτα (μοντέλο). Κτήριο του Αστέριου και της Αμαλίας Γκίνη το γένος Τζαμπάζη και των τέκνων τους Γεωργίου, Μιχάλη και Άννας στα κάτω Πορρόϊα Σερρών που κτίσθηκε κατά το 1890. Χρησιμοποιήθηκε σαν κατοικία τους αλλά και κατά καιρούς σαν ξενοδοχείο, Ιατρείο Φαρμακείο Ειρηνοδικείο και Δημαρχείο με Δήμαρχο τον ίδιο. Τώρα κατοικείται από τα εγγόνια τους και δισέγγονά τους εκεί. Μία από τις εγγονές τους είναι και η σύζυγος μου Χριστίνα Κολοκοτρώνη.

Lower Porroia of Serres

Replica (model) Building which belonged to Asterios and Amalias Gini nee Tsambazi and to their children Georgios, Michalis and Anna in Kato or Lower Porroia Build app. in 1890 and has been used as their residence and also periodically as a Hotel, Surgery Chemist, magistrate court, and Town Hall with himself as Mayor. Now days are resided by their grandchildren and great grandchildren there. One of their granddaughters is my wife Christina Kolokotronis.

Tasos Kolokotronis 11-11-08



Παραδοσιακό Ελληνικό Μακεδονίτικο σπίτι

Μακέτα. Παραδοσιακό Μακεδονίτικο σπίτι των Πορροΐων Σερρών. Παρόμοια σπίτια υπάρχουν ακόμα στην Έδεσσα, Φλώρινα, Καστοριά και σε άλλα μέρη της Μακεδονίας. Τα ζώα που ήταν μέρος της ζωής των κατοίκων τα κρατούσαν στο στάβλο που ήταν στο κάτω μέρος του σπιτιού. Στην αυλή είχαν το πηγάδι για νερό το φούρνο το αποχωρητήριο και το πλύσιμο γινόταν συνήθως έξω κοντά στο νερό

Traditional Greek Macedonian house

Replica: Traditional Macedonian house of Porroia of Serres. Similar houses still exist in Edessa, Florina, Kastoria and other places in Macedonia Greece. Their livestock which was part of their life were kept in a stable under the main house. In the open yard they had a well of drinking water the baking oven the toilet and the washing was done outside usually close to the water

Tasos Kolokotronis Jan. 2009



Μακέτα. Κατοικία του Αθανασίου και Ανθής Χατζημάρκου και των παιδιών τους Σοφίας, Νίκου, Γιάννη, Αμαλίας, και Βαγγέλη. Κτίστηκε το 1926 και κατεδαφίστηκε το 2003 και στη θέση αυτή κτίστηκε πολυκατοικία για τα παιδιά του.

Model-Replica the dwelling of Athanasios and Anthea Hatzimarkos and their children Sophia, Nikos, Giannis, Amalia and Vangelis Build in 1925 and demolished in 2003 to give way for an apartment building for the children



My primary school, attended 1935-1940/ Το Δημοτικό σχολείο, φοίτησα 1935-1940



The Municipal office/ Το Κοινοτικό Γραφείο

Μακέτα! Ο Νερόμυλος Νέας μαγνησίας Θεσσαλονίκης κτίσθηκε το 1880 και κατεδαφίστηκε το 1970 λόγω έλλειψης νερού και για τη διάνοιξη της Εγνατίας Οδού.

Replica; The water powered flour mill of Nea Magnisia Thessaloniki build in 1880 and demolished in 1970 due to lack of water and for the construction of Egnatia Road





The Mayor of City of Delta of Thessaloniki Greece Mr Efthimios Fotopoulos and the President of Nea Magnisia Mrs. Sofia Karapavlou, over a special ceremony about Bonegilla and the replicas handing over the award to Australian architect Atha Tsakonias and to his wife professor of architecture of Melbourne University Mrs. Anoma Pieri who is writing a book about Bonegilla, the replicas, and the village Nea Magnisia in Greece, the old and the new



CITY OF DELTA= HONORABLE AWARD TO ANASTASIOS KOLOKOTRONIS FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF NEA MAGNISIA FROM MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA GIVEN BY THE MAYOR E. FOTOPOULOS AND THE PRESIDENT SOFIA KARAPAVLOU TO THE BEARERS A. TSAKONAS AND TO PROFESSOR OF ARCHITECTURE AT MELBOURNE UNI. ANOMA PIERI. GREECE JULY 2018

All these replicas I've made are from memory as I remembered them when I left my village New Magnesia to migrate and seek a better life in Australia, and never regretted to choose this country permanently as mine in 1954.

The time and effort to make them was great but the love for art was greater and while I was fit and able to do what I had in mind decided to do what I loved and finish this difficult task that took almost six years and approximately 5.000 hours of work

Any person who for any reason leaves his country and birthplace where grew up, went to school, worked or married and had family, never ever forgets this part of his/her life.

These models (replicas) are unique, here in Australia or Greece

For the first time in 2003 they've been displayed at the National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research, La Trobe University in Melbourne and widely publicized in Greek newspapers, magazines and radios that attracted more than one million people to visit them till the Centre closed its doors in 2008. Also they were available to be visited at the website ANAGNOSTIS e-MAGAZINE which were the most popular, and still are with my other 17 books, poems, autobiographical etc. in electronic format.

The same humble cultural replicas now are proudly displayed at the Bonegilla Migrant Experience since 2010 with great success so far, making particularly the Greek visitors who most of them were former residents of Bonegilla and coming from rural areas of Greece to see and remember their past life.

As far as I know in Melbourne there are more than 150 Greek Senior Citizens Clubs and one in particular is the "Former Residents of Bonegilla" of Theo's Emmanouilidis who comes every year with 1-2 busloads of people to celebrate the anniversary of their arrivals there and stay one night; I, as a secretary of the Strathmore Heights Greek Senior Citizens Club visited Bonegilla twice in ten years and recommended three other clubs. Airport West, Coburg, Avondale Height who visited once staying in Albury/Wodonga at least one night;

Since 2010, my wife and I and a cousin visited Bonegilla twice a year (16 times) and stayed 3 nights each time spending quite a lot of money for accommodation food and entertainment, like the other visitors as well.

I assume that, those little models, somehow, by being on display there, make some contribution to the local economy which is vital for both cities;

I will display some pictures from various celebrations and visits to Bonegilla and Albury/Wodonga Through the years for historical reason



2003 visiting Bonegilla with an SBS team to make a documentary about the migrants Here I am in front of a barrack similar of one at Greta camp telling my story



2003; Here I am with my friend Zacharias Vogiazopoulos in front of the old unused theatre, a former interpreter and officer for the Greek migrants of the Centre in block 5 from 1953-1956



2003; Here Zacharias Vogiazopoulos with a lady official of the block 19 in front of the old theatre during the film making by the SBS team outside the unused theatre. We were not allowed to enter the building for safety reasons



2003; on left, one of the SBS video operator, and right army personnel escorting us the visitors



2003; outside the Greek Orthodox Church of Albury Zacharias on right talking to our good friend Tony Syperkis from Wodonga and Wangaratta in black costume and hat. Very successful businessman and farmer in both cities; his café in Wodonga was the most popular for the quality and friendly service with exotic Greek dips and appetizers and always generous. He would make his own ouzo and various other wines from his farm produce His sons continued his business with same success, I believe



Top, Albury/Watonga's Greek Orthodox Church, after the Sunday service in front of the church with the president of the Greek Community Mr. George Veneris, my wife Christina with her cousin Christina Konakas.

Below, Later in the afternoon visited the famous Toni's Spiteri's Café in Wodonga for Greek food and drinks



1953. Zacharias Vogiazopoulos in his office at the block 5 in Bonegilla who was employed by the Department of Immigration as an interpreter, organizer and escort of migrants to Bonegilla and Greta camp as well where I met him in 1954



Here on right is Zacharias Vogiazopoulos with the Minister for transport/department of Infrastructure, Peter Bachelor and Mr George Veneris, President of the Greek Community of Albury/Wodonga, in Bonegilla 2005

BONEGILLA FORMER GREEK MIGRANTS RESIDENTS ASS. VIC. INC.



STATION PIER MELBOURNE

BONEGILLA
DEC. 1947 - DEC. 1971

CABBIN

23 Cantala drv. Doncaster Vic. 3108 Australia

Tel. (03) 98486714. Mob. 042 984 8671. Email: theoemmans@hotmail.com



Announcement

It is announced that, following the provision of a photographic exhibition room to the Greek Community on January 18, 2010, the President of the Bonegilla Former Greek Migrant Residents Association, Mr Theo Emmanouilidis, visited the relevant area at bonegilla on February 18, 2010.

During his visit he handed to the officials of Block 19, commemorative photos as well as an Australian and a Greek flag, items that will adorn the photographic exhibition of the Hellenes there.

On behalf of the Association

Theo Emmanouilidis

President

***The official logo of Bonegilla Former Greek Migrant residents Ass; The president Mr. Theo Emmanouilidis; The picture with the Australian and Greek flag
The writing says. "I came" "I saw" "I stayed" "Wherever you live, it is your country"***

Ταξίδι μνήμης Ελλήνων στην Bonegilla

Ο Σύνδεσμος Πρωτοαφιχθέντων Μεταναστών Bonegilla γιόρτασε και φέτος, το διήμερο 20-21 Φεβρουαρίου 2016, με επιτυχία, την 63η επέτειο της άφιξής τους στην Αυστραλία.

Εκατόν δεκαπέντε συνταξιούχες από τη Μεθβούρνη και το Σίδνεϊ επισκέφθηκαν την Bonegilla από εκεί που άρχισε η ζωή και χτύπησε η καρδιά του κάθε μετανάστη για το μέλλον και την επιβίωσή του σε ριζική φιλόξενη χώρα, την Αυστραλία. Ρωτούσε ο ένας τον άλλον «αύριο τι νέα θα έχουμε;», «για πού μας προορίζουν;»

Στις εκδηλώσεις προσκλήθηκαν και παραβρέθηκαν ο δήμαρχος Albury, κ. Kevin Mack, και ο εκπρόσωπος του Δήμου Wodonga, κ. Mike Frazer. Οι δε ομιλίες έγιναν από τις 2.00 έως τις 2.30μμ.

Ο Θεοφάνης Εμμανουηλίδης ανέλαβε καθήκοντα ξεναγού, οδηγώντας τους επισκέπτες στα πιο σπουδαία σημεία του δήλου κέντρου υποδοχής μεταναστών. Πρώτα στην (μόνιμη) Ελληνική Έκθεση Φωτογραφίας, στην αντίστοιχη έκθεση των Λιθουανών, στην κουζίνα, στη γαλιάρια εξήγησης και ερμηνείας, όπου στους τοίχους εκτίθενται 320 ιστορίες αντιπροσωπεύοντας τους 320.000 μετανάστες που πέρασαν από την Bonegilla και η κάθε μία από αυτές έχει μεγάλφωνο και εξηγεί την ιστορία του κάθε μετανάστη. Οι ιστορίες αυτές είναι γαλιανού χρώματος απεικονίζοντας τον απέραντο ωκεανό που διασχίσαμε στο μακρινό ταξίδι για την Αυστραλία.

Τελευταία επισκεφθήκαμε το Latchford Barracks, εκεί που μέναμε τότε, σταθήκαμε μπροστά στο Old Theatre ή Grate Hall, όπως το ονομάζαμε. Εκεί ο Θεοφάνης Εμμανουηλίδης προχώρησε σε ορισμένες επεξηγήσεις όσον αφορά



την ιστορία των μεταναστών και τη διαδρομή τους στην Bonegilla. Πήγαμε, επίσης, στα Μοτέλ, και μετά τις 7.00μμ. δεινίσσαμε στην αίθουσα της Κοινότητας. Εκεί γλεντήσαμε με ζωντανή μουσική από τους Κώστα Κολλοκούθα και Μανόλη Νικοηαΐδη.

Το πρωί της Κυριακής πήγαμε στην εκκλησία όπου έγινε επιμνημόσυνη δέηση για τους θανόντες μετανάστες.

Γευματίσαμε πάλι στην αίθουσα της Κοινότητας και μετά επισκεφθήκαμε το Μουσείο για να δούμε της βαλίτσες και τα αντικείμενα

που φέραμε τότε μαζί μας. Τέλος, στις 3.00μμ πήραμε το δρόμο της επιστροφής.

Το Δ.Σ. του Συνδέσμου ευχαριστεί τον κάθε επισκέπτη που έλαβε μέρος στην επέτειο και ιδιαίτερα το Δ.Σ. και όλα τα μέλη του Συλλόγου Κριθιάς για τη στενή συνεργασία.

BONEGILLA Former Greek Migrants' Residents Ass, Vic. led by the president Theo Emmanouilidis; A trip of remembrance to Bonegilla on 20-21 of Feb. 2016 for the 63th anniversary of Greeks arrival to Bonegilla Migrants Centre met by the Mayor of Albury Cr. Kevin Mack and representative of the City of Wodonga Mr. Mike Frazer and other officials .

30-01-2008

Back to where it all began

AUSTRALIAN migrants returned to the nation's welcome mat last month to celebrate 60 years since many of them first stepped on this country's shores.

Doncaster resident Theo Emmanouilidis helped organise the Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre's anniversary bash, which was celebrated by Greek and Dutch communities.

"It was very successful, with a turnout of up to 600 people," Mr Emmanouilidis said.

The event marked 60 years since the first migrants temporarily stayed at Bonegilla – a former army base near Wodonga.

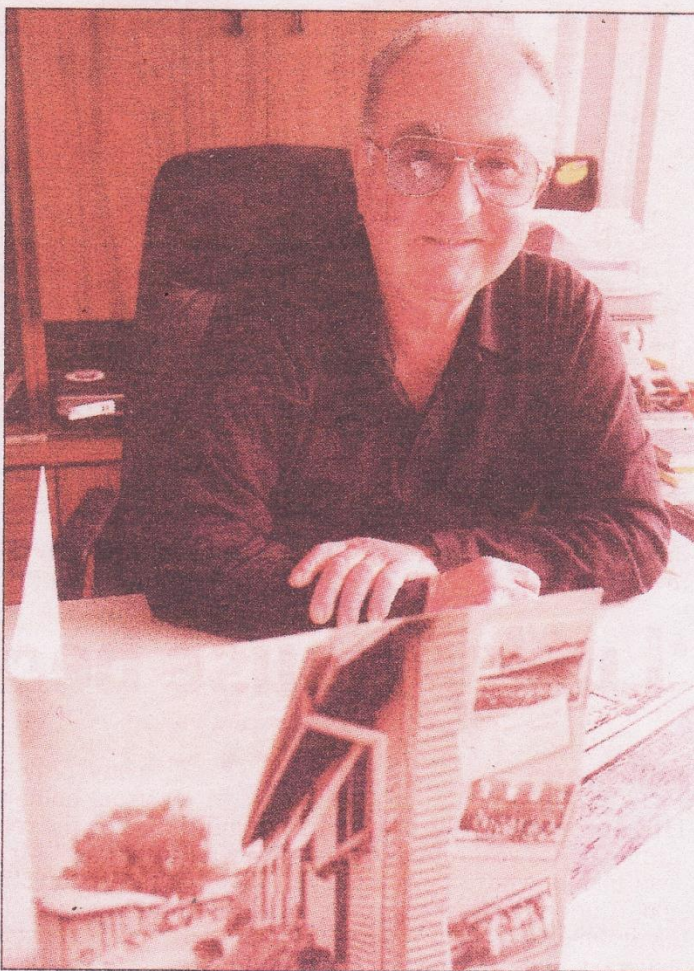
"We came from Europe during the war, where we were not living well or happy and were often very poor," Mr Emmanouilidis said.

"We found a good country and decided to stay here. This country has given us everything we wanted and we have since also brought our relatives and friends to Australia.

"Bonegilla is celebrated because it is remembered as our first place of welcome."

Mr Emmanouilidis was back row, centre in the Greek Florinian Choir, which was central to the anniversary's celebrations.

Led by maestro Betty Exintaris of Box Hill, the choir, earned rave reviews, as did the Florinian Dancing



Theo Emmanouilidis organised a Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre anniversary bash.

N11DT103

Group. "We sang a number of Greek songs and the dancers performed in costume," Mr Emmanouilidis said. "It was absolutely tops. We had very good feedback from all the people there."

And the good times are tipped to continue, with Mr Emmanouilidis planning a celebration for the 55th anniversary of the Greek community's arrival at Bonegilla on March 8 and 9.



Theo Emmanouilidis with some of former residents of Bonegilla at the Greek Orthodox Church Hall in Albury celebrating the 64th anniversary of the arrivals of Greek migrants in Bonegilla with a huge birthday cake and other Greek sweets



Here is the cake; it reads...BONEGILLA 64TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVALS OF GREEK MIGRANTS. There is no doubt that Theo Emmanouilidis is the only former resident of Bonegilla who kept alive the spirit of Bonegilla forming a small and enthusiastic club whose members are dedicated to keep their memories refreshing by visiting the Bonegilla Camp with 1-2 busloads of people at least once a year to celebrate and to appreciate the starting of their new life in a new country Australia. I never miss to participate with my wife and her cousin independently and stay a few days more and enjoy Albury and Wodonga the good food and entertainment

TA NEA | Wednesday March 14, 2018

20 ΤΟ ΠΑΡΟΙΚΙΑΚΟ ΜΑΣ ΠΕΡΙΣΚΟΠΙΟ**Εορτασμοί των 65 χρόνων
από την άφιξη μεταναστών
στη Bonegilla**

Τα 65 χρόνια από την άφιξη των μελών του στη Bonegilla γιόρτασε φέτος ο Σύνδεσμος Πρωτοαφιχθέντων Ελλήνων Μεταναστών Bonegilla. Η εκδήλωση έγινε το Σάββατο 24 και την Κυριακή 25 Φεβρουαρίου 2018. Τις εκδηλώσεις τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους ο Γενικός Πρόξενος της Ελλάδας στη Μελβούρνη κ. Δημήτρης Μιχαλόπουλος, η αντιπρόσωπος του Δήμου Wodonga κα Libby Hall και ο Δήμαρχος του Albury Kevin Mack. Μετά το τέλος των προσφωνήσεων όλοι επισκέφθηκαν την ελληνική φωτογραφική έκθεση, την αίθουσα του κ. Τάσου Κολοκοτρώνη όπου θαύμασαν ορισμένες χειροτεχνίες. Στη συνέχεια είδαν τον πίνακα ονομάτων, την κουζίνα και την αίθουσα εξήγησης και ερμηνείας.

Ο πρόεδρος κ. Θεοφάνης Εμμανουηλίδης αναφέρθηκε στα ιστορικά γεγονότα της εποχής, τότε που η Bonegilla ήταν τόπος φιλοξενίας πολλών Ελλήνων μεταναστών. Κατόπιν η πρόεδρος της Ελληνικής Κοινότητας Albury, κα Ταξιαρχούλα Ανδρονίκου μαζί με τον σύζυγό της, τον Γενικό Πρόξeno κ. Μιχαλόπουλο και τον

Πρόεδρο κ. Εμμανουηλίδη επισκέφθηκαν το Μουσείο του Albury και είδαν τα διάφορα παλαιά αντικείμενα που είχαν φέρει μαζί τους οι μετανάστες.

Το βράδυ στην αίθουσα της Ενορίας δείπνησαν και διασκέδασαν με την ορχήστρα «Κώστα και Μανώλη». Την επόμενη ημέρα στον Ιερό Ναό Ταξιαρχών Albury πραγματοποιήθηκε επιμνημόσυνη δέηση για τους θανόντες μετανάστες. Στη συνέχεια όλοι επισκέφθηκαν το Μουσείο Albury όπου θαύμασαν τα εκθέματα μεταναστευτικού ενδιαφέροντος.

Το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο ευχαριστεί ιδιαίτερα τον Γενικό Πρόξeno κ. Δημήτρη Μιχαλόπουλο, τους υπόλοιπους επίσημους καλεσμένους και το Δ.Σ. και τους εθελοντές της Κοινότητας και Ενορίας Ταξιαρχών Albury.

Ευχές για ένα Καλό Πάσχα.

Για το Δ.Σ. Θεοφάνης Εμμανουηλίδης Πρόεδρος

Αχιλλέας Αμοιρίδης Γραμματέας



25/2/2018 celebrating the 64th anniversary of Greeks arriving in Bonegilla in presences of the Consul General of Greece in Melbourne Mr D. Mihalopoulos, representative from City of Wodonga Mrs Libby Hall and the Mayor of Albury Mr Kevin Mack. After the ceremony we visited the wonderful miniature Greek village on display at the big hall. The list of names on the wall, the kitchen and messes and the hall of information

25-2-2017



Επίσκεψη στην Μπονεγκίλλα

Ο Σύνδεσμος Πρωτοαφιχθέντων Ελλήνων Μεταναστών Bonegilla, γιόρτασε και φέτος τα εξήντα τέσσερα χρόνια της άφιξής μας στην Αυστραλία, με μεγάλη επιτυχία, ταξιδεύοντας για την επέτειο, το Σάββατο, 25 Φεβρουαρίου 2017 με εξήντα επισκέπτες.

Ο πρόεδρος του Συνδέσμου Θεοφάνης Εμμανουηλίδης, ανέλαβε την ξενάγηση των επισκεπτών με προτεραιότητα την Ελληνική Έκθεση Φωτογραφίας, την τότε κουζίνα, τον πίνακα ονομάτων και την αίθουσα εξήγησης και ερμηνείας. Στη συνέχεια μεταφερθήκαμε στο Lachford

Barracks, στον τόπο που πρωτοκατοικήσαμε στην Αυστραλία, με συνοδεία δύο στρατιωτών, για λίγα λεπτά της ώρας, μπροστά στο παλιό θέατρο της εποχής εκείνης.

Το βράδυ γευματίσαμε και διασκεδάσαμε με ζωντανή μουσική από τους Κώστα και Μανόλη στην αίθουσα της Ενορίας. Την Κυριακή εκκλησιαστήκαμε στον ιερό ναό Αγίων Ταξιαρχών Albury, όπου και έγινε η επιμνημόσυνη δέηση για τους θανόντες.

Το απόγευμα της Κυριακής επισκεφθήκαμε την Βιβλιοθήκη-Μουσείο Albury όπου απολαύσαμε εκθέσεις μετα-

ναστευτικού ενδιαφέροντος της εποχής της Bonegilla.

Το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο ευχαριστεί θερμά τους συμμετέχοντες, τον οδηγό μας Σάββα, την πρόεδρο κ. Ταξιαρχούλα και το Διοικητικό Συμβούλιο Ενορίας Αγίων Ταξιαρχών Albury, για την τόσο άψογη εξυπηρέτηση, και τα ωραιότατα φαγητά που μας πρόσφεραν.

Εκ του Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου

ΘΕΟΦΑΝΗΣ
ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΗΛΙΔΗΣ
Πρόεδρος
ΑΧΙΛΛΕΑΣ ΑΜΟΙΡΙΔΗΣ
Γραμματέας

25/2/2017 VISITING BONEGILLA

The association of former residents of Bonegilla visited the Centre to celebrate the 64th anniversary again. The president Mr Theo Emmanouilidis took the group to all interesting places and explained to younger members how life was at the Centre in the early days of arrival in Bonegilla.

Later in the evening the group went to the Greek Churches Hall to be entertain by a Greek band and enjoy the dances and the tasteful meals and drinks

Η επίσκεψη στην Bonegilla

Ο Σύνδεσμος Ελλήνων Μεταναστών γιόρτασε την επέτειο των 60 χρόνων από την άφιξή τους στην Αυστραλία με την Δ.Ε.Μ.Ε., υπό την αιγίδα του πρέσβη μας κ. Χαράλαμπος Δαφαράνου και με την παρουσία του ιδίου για δύο ημέρες μαζί με πρώην κατοίκους της Bonegilla.

Το ενδιαφέρον των Ελλήνων μεταναστών έγινε έντονα αισθητό, όταν στις 23-24 Φεβρουαρίου, συμπληρώσαν δύο δεκαφορέα και ταξίδεψαν για να επισκεφτούν το πρώτο τους σπίτι στην Bonegilla μαζί με συγγενείς και φίλους για να δουν τις παράγκες, εκεί που πρωτοσταθμεύσαμε.

Δάκρυα σεβασμού κύλησαν από τα μάτια των συμπατριωτών μας όσο άκουγαν ιστορίες από επίσημους ομιλητές.

Η πρώτη στάση της επίσκεψής μας ήταν το Bonegilla Hall. Εκεί συναντηθήκαμε με τους επισήμους όπου και έγιναν οι ομιλίες με την κατωτέρω σειρά προτεραιότητας:

Mrs Kate Lundy Federal Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP Federal Member for INDI, Shadow Minister for Innovation and Science.

Mr Bill Tilly from the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship.

The Mayor Cr. Mr Mark Byatt of Wodonga

Ο κ. Χαράλαμπος Δαφαράνος, πρέσβης της Ελλάδας στην Αυστραλία.

Η επόμενη επίσκεψη ήταν στα Lachford Barracks, όπου ήμασταν υπό την επίβλεψη του

στρατού και εν συνεχεία στο Block 19 καθώς και στην φωτογραφική μας αίθουσα.

Το βράδυ του Σαββάτου δειπνήσαμε και διασκεδάσαμε στην αίθουσα της εκκλησίας όπως συνηθίζετε. Την Κυριακή εκκλησιαστήκαμε στον ιερό ναό Ταξιαρχών της Κοινότητας όπου έγινε και η επιμνημόσυνη δέηση για τους μετανάστες που έφυγαν από την ζωή στο διάστημα των 60 χρόνων.

Το απόγευμα επισκεφτήκαμε το Μουσείο όπου είδαμε και τα προσωπικά μας αντικείμενα και τις βαλιτσές γεμάτες ελπίδες για τον ερχομό μας σε αυτή τη φιλόξενη χώρα που τη λέμε Αυστραλία.

ΘΕΟΦΑΝΗΣ ΕΜΜΑΝΟΥΗΛΙΔΗΣ
Εκ μέρους του Δ.Σ.



Η Γερουσιαστής Kate Lundy, Υπουργός Πολυπολιτισμικών Υποθέσεων.



Η Σκιώδης Υπουργός Βιομηχανίας Sophie Mirabella MP

23/2/2013 VISITING BONEILLA

THE Association of Former Residents of Bonegilla visited the Centre to celebrate the 60th anniversary of their arrival in Australia. At the Centre they welcomed by Mrs Kate Lundy Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mrs Sophie Mirabella MP Federal Member for INDI, shadow Minister for innovation and science. Mr Bill Tilly the officer of Multicultural Affairs and citizenship. The Mayor Cr of City of Wodonga Mr. Mark Byatt and the Greek Ambassador Mr. Haralambos Dafaranos; Later the group visited Lachford Barracks escorted by the army officials In the evening we entertained at the Greek Church's hall and next day on Sunday we attended the church service and commemoration for those who passed away. After lunch we departed to go home all happy



Trip to Bonegilla; The Samos Greek Elderly Citizens club of Melbourne and Victoria



Trip to Bonegilla; The Strathmore Heights Greek elderly Citizens Club of Melbourne and Victoria



Trip to Bonegilla; The Preston Greek Elderly Citizens Club of Melbourne and Victoria



5/12/2009; Greek Orthodox community Church Hall of Albury/Wodonga;

On left is Mr. Zacharias Vogiazopoulos, former interpreter and director of Greek migrants at block 5 and on right is Mr. Theo Emmanouilidis, president of the Former Greek Migrants Residents Ass. Vic Inc. in a ceremony regarding Greek migration to Bonegilla Centre;

Zacharias, in his well-written documentary book "Memories of Bonegilla" describes that, when in 1952 Australia and Greece signed a bilateral agreement to support migration from Greece via the I.C.E.M program I.C.E.M. headquarters in Athens campaigned systematically to attract new migrants. However the region of Greek Macedonia and Northern Greece were initially totally excluded from this campaign. Zacharias, a young journalist reveals this discrimination and thought his persistence and meeting with I.C.E.M. officials managed to bring the I.C.E.M. committee to Northern Greece. The people's response was immediate and thousands attended the interviews with I.C.E.M. Zacharias then was required to support the committee's efforts to recruit "New Australians" as part of his new role with the I.C.E.M.

As a result of that the first mission from Northern Greece (the fifth from Greece generally) departed on the 30th of October 1953 with the ocean liner "Skaubryn".

On right, Theo Emmanouilidis a dedicated tireless leader who organised and established the Former Greek Residents Association keeps alive the spirit of people uninterrupted for many years visiting Bonegilla regularly at least once a year and also displaying his vast collection of pictures and other items at various places across Melbourne.

He is bitterly disappointed because Zacharias in his book acknowledgments Theo's name never been mentioned or acknowledged, although they worked for the same cause.

Zacharias, a good friend of mine has passed away some years ago; in his book he included some of my stories and experiences at Greta Camp and few poem and pictures regarding Bonegilla and Greta and I appreciate very much for honouring me

25/11/2011 INAUGURATION DAY AT BONEGILLA/ ΤΑ ΕΓΚΑΙΝΙΑ



25/11/2011, Τα εγκαίνια της έκθεσης του Μουσείου της Bonegilla έγιναν με την παρουσία των δύο δημάρχων των πόλεων Albury/Wodonga Kevin Mack & Mark Byatt, του Υπουργού Πολυπολιτισμού Νίκου Κότσιρα και της προξένου της Ελλάδας στην Μελβούρνη Ελένης Λιανίδου το εφημέριο και με πλήθος κόσμου από την Μελβούρνη και τις δύο πόλεις

25/11/2011; the inauguration of the exhibition of the Museum took place in presence of the two mayors of the tween towns Albury/Wodonga Mr. Kevin Mark and Mr, Mark Byatt, the Minister of Multicultural Commission Mr. Nick Kotsiras, the Consul General of Greece Helen Lianidou and the reverent of the G.O Church of Albury/Wodonga and people from Melbourne and locals



Here Mrs Helen Lianidou Consul General of Greece addressing a speech for the occasion



25-11-2011; Here Mr. Nick Kotsiras, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Commission in a speech about the great contribution the migrants have made to this great country of ours and the important role Bonegilla played to the lives of the new Australian citizens



25/11/2011 A speech by the Mayor of Wodonga Mr. Mark Byatt about Bonegilla



The Mayor of Wodonga Mr. Mark Byatt and the other officials ready to walk toward the Tudor Hall for the opening of the Greek exhibition with traditional blessing of the church

Ο Δήμαρχος της πόλης Wodonga Mark Byatt με τους εκλεκτούς επισήμους έτοιμοι να μεταβούμε στο Tudor Hall που είναι και ο εκθροσιακός χώρος για την ευλογία και της εκκλησίας



The wet weather forced the people to use their umbrella's to attend the opening of the exhibition, inside the Hall in a very respectable atmosphere the priest of the Greek Orthodox Community of Albury/Wodonga surrounded by the two mayors, Mr Mark Byatt and Mr. Kevin Mack the Minister for Immigration, Mr Nick Kotsiras, the Consul General of Greece Mrs. Helen Lianidou and the president of the Greek Community, Mr. George Veneris and his committee blessed the event and the opening



The reading of Bible and blessings by the priest and the president Mr George Veneris



People, with the priest, reverently pray for prosperity and happiness and smooth and successful operation of the exhibition by the staff and volunteers



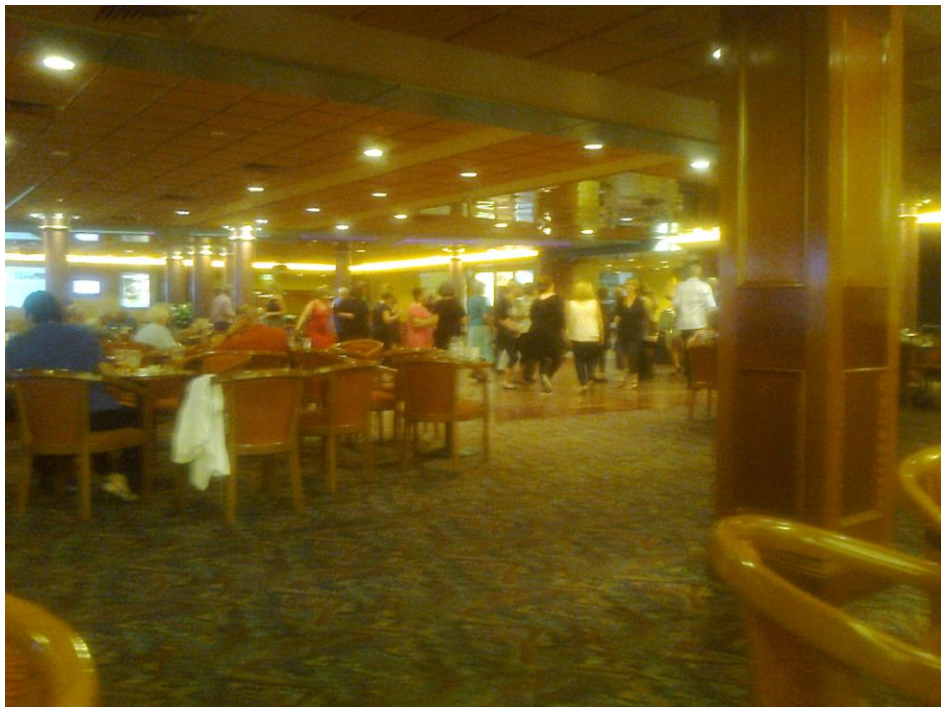
This is the hotel next to the Commercial Club where we stay most of the times and occasionally at the Commodore Motel, Winsor Park Motor In, Astor, and Albury Central, and Clifton Motel



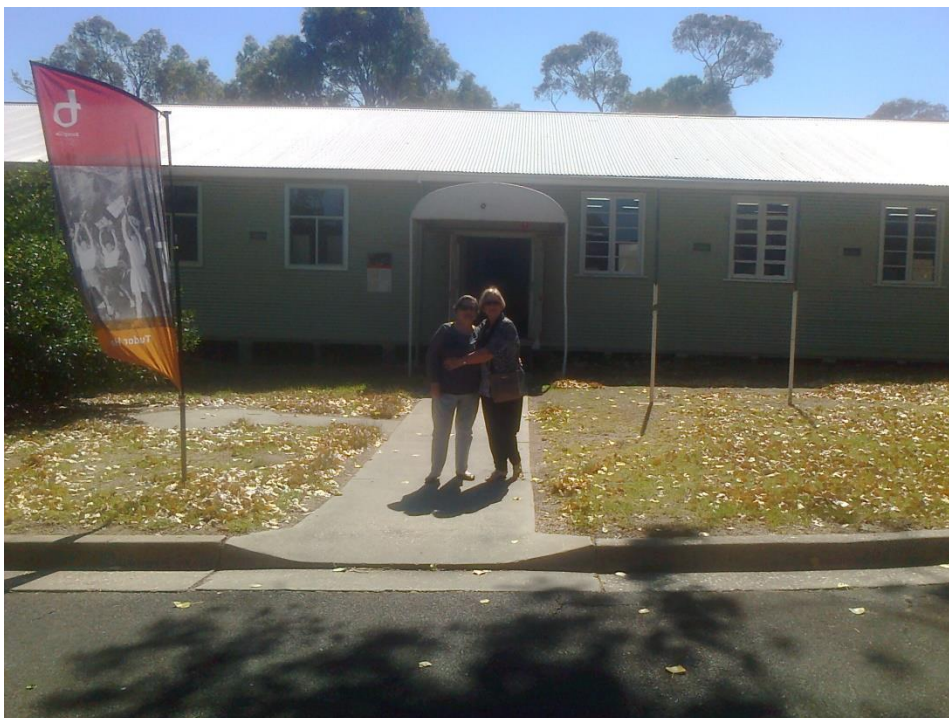
Commercial Club, One of the most popular and busiest clubs in the country



Christina Konakas left and Christina Kolokotronis right (my wife) resting after the dance



Saturday night at the Commercial Club the dancing floor full of happy people enjoying country music and dances and other social events



2016: Left, my wife Christina with her cousin Christina Konakas whose late husband was resident at Bonegilla. Now visiting the Tudor hall exhibition the models of the Greek village



This double storey replica house in Lower Poroia, close to Bulgarian borders, survived the progress and still exists and belonged to my wife's grandparents, she born and raised there and still is occupied by her elder sister.

Since 2010 the replicas are displayed at the Bonegilla Museum, once or twice a year we visit to see them and refresh our memories of the past staying in Albury 2-3 nights at various motels and hotels enjoying the good food and entertainment at the Commercial Club and the RSL club and the Greek Church spending quite a few dollars helping the locally economy

TUDOR HALL EXHIBITION OF REPLICAS



Some replicas displayed at the Tudor Hall that represent rural life of the region of Thessaloniki and the people who left them behind to migrate to Australia for a better life.



Here. Due to renovation of the Tudor Hall the same replicas now are displayed at the old Staff/employment Hall



In this picturesque place in the early years were barracks to accommodate migrants now under the huge trees the only residents are kangaroos grazing freely and resting under the shades



Kangaroos on the green lawns grazing and some resting under the shade of the trees uninterrupted; the same area is used by picnickers where BBQ and benches provided



ΒΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΚΟ ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΤΑΣΟΥ ΚΟΛΟΚΟΤΡΩΝΗ/TASOS'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Ο Αναστάσιος Κολοκοτρώνης γεννήθηκε το 1929 στη Θεσσαλονίκη από πρόσφυγες γονείς και μεγάλωσε στη Νέα Μαγνησία που απέχει 9 χιλ. από την πόλη. Τα παιδικά του χρόνια ήταν τραυματικά λόγω του πολέμου και η παιδεία του έμεινε στάσιμη από το 1940 μέχρι το 1945 που έληξε ο πόλεμος. Μετά τη λήξη του πολέμου εισάγεται στην Αμερικανική Γεωργική Σχολή της Θεσσαλονίκης για μία τετραετή εκπαίδευση στη γεωπονία και γεωργοτεχνική. Το 1948 εισάγεται στη Στρατιωτική Σχολή Τεχνιτών στην Αθήνα ως εθελοντής για μία πενταετία και εκπαιδεύεται ως μηχανικός οχημάτων και αρμάτων μάχης και αποστρατεύεται το 1953 με το πτυχίο του μηχανικού Α' κατηγορίας. Τον Δεκέμβριο του 1954 μεταναστεύει στην Αυστραλία με προορισμό το κέντρο μετανάστευσης της Greta στο NSW αλλά λόγω των κακών συνθηκών στο κέντρο φεύγει κρυφά με άλλους και έρχεται στη Μελβούρνη. Τον Ιανουάριο του 1955 εργάζεται για λίγες μέρες σε εργοστάσιο γύψου και αμέσως βρίσκει δουλειά μηχανικού σε μεγάλη αντιπροσωπεία αυτοκινήτων G.M. Holden.

Έξι μήνες αργότερα με άλλους τέσσερις συμπατριώτες αποφασίζουν να πάνε στην Κουηνσλάνδη για να εργαστούν στο κόψιμο του ζαχαροκάλαμου αλλά αποτυγχάνουν και επιστρέφουν στη Μελβούρνη φτωχότερη και χρεωμένοι. Προσγειωμένος τώρα βρίσκει δουλειά στα εργοστάσια κατασκευής πολεμικών αεροπλάνων Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation ως μηχανικός. Στη συνέχεια ακολουθεί η γνωριμία με τη νέο αφιχθείσα νεαρή εκ Θεσσαλονίκης δασκάλα δεσποινίδα Χριστίνα Τζέγκα και σε λίγες μέρες παντρεύονται και αποκτούν δύο κόρες.

Το 1965 για δύο χρόνια εργάζεται στο Department of Civil Aviation και στη συνέχεια στην αεροπορική εταιρεία ANSETT ως ειδικός μηχανικός κινητήρων και εφαρμοστής

Το 1983 ιδιωτεύει και εκπληρώνει ορισμένες επιθυμίες του. Παίρνει μέρος στην αναδιοργάνωση της Ένωσης Θεσσαλονικέων. Εκλέγεται αντιπρόεδρος, πρόεδρος και με την αδελφοποίηση των πόλεων Μελβούρνης και Θεσσαλονίκης διορίζεται μέλος της επιτροπής αδελφοποίησης. Αργότερα τελειώνει το ελληνικό γυμνάσιο. Μετά παίρνει το Vic. Cert of Education και το Basic Electronics από το Broad meadows TAFE. Τις ελεύθερες ώρες ασχολείται με τη ζωγραφική, χειροτεχνία, κηπουρική, κομπιούτερ, διάβασμα, ποίηση και ταξίδια. Έχει γράψει δε την αυτοβιογραφία του την ιστορία του χωριού του που εκδόθηκε στη Νέα Μαγνησία το 2007.

Με τη σύζυγό του Χριστίνα απολαμβάνουν τώρα τους κόπους της σκληρής δουλειάς, τις κόρες, γαμπρούς τα έξι εγγόνια και 10 δισέγγονα που τους γεμίζει χαρά.

TASOS'S SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Anastasios (Tasos) Kolokotronis born in Thessaloniki Greece in 1929 and grew up in the nearby village Nea Magnesia. His parents were Greek refugees from Turkey who settled in Greece after the disastrous war in 1922. His childhood years were traumatic due to the Second World War and the occupation of Greece from the German forces during which his education disturbed for more than 4 years.

After the war in 1944 he enrolled for a four years course at the American Farm School of Thessaloniki to study agriculture

In 1948 he joined as a volunteer for a five year training course with the Greek Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and became a qualified A' grade mechanic

In December 1954 arrived in Sydney Australia as a migrant and settled temporarily at the Greta migrant training camp in NSW. Because of the harsh situation there and the hot weather, flies and mosquitoes, he, with some others left for Melbourne where he had friends and compatriots. In January 1955 he found a job as a labourer at a plaster factory and a few weeks later he gets a job as a motor mechanic in South Melbourne at the Queens Bridge Motors for Holden cars with good wages

Six months later he and four other friend formed a group and decided to go to Babinda in Queensland to cut sugar canes for more money but their attempt failed due to the weather conditions and other factors and two months later almost broke returned to Melbourne where soon he finds a job at the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation as an aircraft jet engine assembler and later qualifies to become an aircraft mechanic

Soon follows the acquaintance with the newly arrived young teacher from Greece of Miss Christina Tzega and within a month they got married and some years later they have two lovely daughters

In 1965 he gets a mechanics job with the Department of Civil Aviation and in 1967 with the Ansett Airlines of Australia as an aircraft mechanic and in 1983 retires on a package offer. Soon after he fulfils some of his dreams He studies Greek to get the high school certificate and after that he studies English and gets the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education in English) and soon after he studies two years as a hobby basic electronics at the Broadmeadows TAFE.

He also shows interest in the Greek community organisations and involves reorganizing the Thessalonica Association. He served as a vice president and after as a president and in 1984 he participates in negotiating as the City of Thessaloniki to become a sister city with Melbourne and at the same time he becomes a member in the sistership committee for six years in the City of Melbourne

During the period of his retirement and until now he spends time painting, drawing, and writing. He has written his autobiography and other books, poems and made models (replicas) of houses of his village, agricultural tools and machines and all the horse carts of the last century which none of them are any more in existence. They are all the memories he left back home

Now with his wife Christina he enjoys the company of their two daughters their six grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, and does some travelling in Australia.



2003 BONEGILLA

Tasos Kolokotronis

THE END

MELBOURNE 2019