

The Pan-Ikarian Brotherhood of South Australia "Ikaros" Incorporated.

2008 – 2010 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

The Association's Annual General Meeting was held at Ikaros Hall Unley on Sunday, 30 March 2008.



In accordance with the registered rules nine [9] members and three supplementary members were elected to form the 2008-2010 Administrative Council.

The inaugural meeting of Council members met on Monday 7 April 2008 and elected the Officer positions. The 2008-2010 Administrative Council members are:-

President	Leonidas Kalamboyias
Vice President	John Lesses AM JP [Justice of the Peace in SA I.D. 21067]
Secretary	Chrisanthe Koutsikas
Assistant Secretary	Bill Starr
Treasurer	Ilias Mavrogeorgis
Assistant	Argyris Tsouris [Bar Service]
Treasurers	George Gronthos [Ikaros Hall]
Councillors	Haris Kaiafas Kostas Gronthos
Supplementary Councillors	Dimitris Karapetis, Dinos Hatzis, Dimitris Carapetis, Dimitris Tsantes [Elders' Group]

ELDERS' COMMITTEE

Dimitris Tsantes [Team Leader];	George Tsounis
Asimina Tsantes	Despina Tsounis
Fotis Klapsos	Kostas Vlahou
Kaliopi Klapsos	Despina Vlahou
Vasilis Papazaharoudakis	John Panteladis
Joanna Papazaharoudakis	Moscha Panteladis
Theodoris Gronthos	

1958- 2008 GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

Eleni Glaros [Coordinator], Mary Cook, Bill Cook, John Apostolakis, John Panteladis, Roxani Papageorgiou, Carlene Starr, Maria Tsounis, Demeter Tsounis, Leonidas Kalamboyias, Chrisanthe Koutsikas, Jim Lesses, Elia Mavrogeorgis and John Lesses.

Articles Published by the "Greek Community Tribune", June 2005
Edited by Dr. Michael Tsounis

Part 1: Panagos Papageorgiou has given us an informative story on Australia's Ikarians most of whom have settled in Adelaide where they founded their organisation in 1958. By 1986 they had also acquired their spacious Ikaros Hall in Arthur Street Unley. This year they have started to plan celebrations to mark some 100 years of more or less continuous migration to Australia and fifty years of creative collective activity. This activity has been recorded in detail recently by John Panteladis, an activist and now honorary president of the Ikaria fraternity.

Papageorgiou used extensively Panteladis's material for his story which will be published in two parts. He also used several scholarly works on the history and ethnography of the island of legendary Icarus which lies in the middle of the Aegean Sea. According to all scholars Ikarians have retained many elements of the Homeric Greek language and culture—certainly in wine-making—because of the geographic isolation of their island. Ikaria is the only Greek island without a natural port so that trade and travel were limited.

The political upheavals of the twentieth century—wars, civil wars and dictatorships—uprooted many Ikarians from a basically self-sufficient rural economy and life: in the 1900-2000 period the number of permanent residents on the island decreased from about 15,000 to 5,000. During the Greek civil war of 1946-49 Ikaria had to host up to 20,000 political exiles—among them Mikis Theodorakis. The greatest exodus of Ikarians was after 1950—like it was for many Greeks, as Papageorgiou notes.



Construction of Ikaria's Hospital Άγιος Κύρικος

But in abandoning their island Ikarians never forgot it. Six months after founding their fraternity in 1958 they sent 200 English pounds to help build Ikaria's first hospital. Photo of volunteers working on Icaria's first hospital which was generously supported by Australian Ikarians as well as American Ikarians.

More donations followed for the hospital and for other needs like schools, roads and water services which authorities clearly neglected. Just as generous were the monetary contributions of the Ikaria fraternity to Adelaide's hospitals and other institutions and to the SA Greek community institutions like churches, schools and homes for the aged.

Both Papageorgiou and Panteladis note that Ikarians were not parochial or "localist": some became involved in numerous other community wide South Australia organisations, not least youth clubs, the Greek Orthodox Community of SA [GOCSA], the Greek workers Educational Association of SA "Platon" and bodies which worked for Cyprus' independence, Greek democracy and often joined peace committees. To our knowledge Ikarians were the first Greek migrants in Australia to elect a woman as president of their brotherhood.

Part 2: The story of every migrant group is unique. This is certainly true in the case of the Ikarians whose story by Panagos Papageorgiou. From his Greek text we learn quite a lot about their contribution through their own organisation which was founded in 1958.

By this time Adelaide's Ikarian community had increased substantially through immigration from Ikaria but also from our own countryside centres where Ikarians had settled in the earlier part of the twentieth century - Port Pirie, Port Lincoln in SA and Mildura (Victoria) being some of these centres.

Recipients of the Ikarians generous contributions included all of Adelaide's public hospitals, the GOCSA's Riddleyton Greek Home for the Aged (one donation was \$5,000), fire victims in Ikaria itself (\$13,451), the Ikaros soccer team and above all financial contributions to purchase and complete the Ikaros Hall in 1986.

We also learn that collective work to serve social needs has been an important element in the history of Ikaria in their contributions to Australia and their homeland

There was a lot of volunteer work over a long period of time associated with the Ikaros Hall, something which is still proceeding. The volunteers were numerous. Among them were builders, cement workers and several carpenters whose work is easily discerned around the hall. Some fine woodwork went to make the bar and the cabinets for books and artefacts.



Photo: of the Ikarian Brotherhood members and volunteers during Ikaros Hall renovations.



Ikarian Dance Ensemble

Caring for and honouring our elders is yet another important element of Ikarian culture. Younger members of the Ikarian fraternity prepare and serve meals for the elders several times every month in the Ikaros Hall.



From the official opening of the Ikaros Hall, 19 July 1986, by members of the first executive Council of the Pan-Ikarian Brotherhood of SA. From left: Stamatis Kalamaras, Stamatis Vasilakis, John Karapetis, Harilaos Kotzamanis and George Tsounis



Wine and Olive Tasting at the Pramneios Wine Festival held annual in November.

Quite a few Ikarians have become artists in Adelaide and are contributing to the visual arts, music and literature of the community as a whole. The musicians are certainly contributing to the traditional Ikarian dance in social gatherings. This dance, which is sometimes chanted, has many verses one of which invites us to:

"Dance, dance, let's be free
let your skirt catch the breeze."

Their cultural activities also include celebrating annually their own independence from the Ottoman Turks (17 July), the Pramneios Wine Festival, Christmas and New Year. There also are the occasional art exhibitions plus music activities such as when the Meraki ensemble featuring traditional instruments (bouzouki, violin, oud, baglamas, tzouras, tumberleki) play at social dances.