

NAME:

SUSAN KARABERIDIS

TOPIC:

INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPTS WITH:

MR. B. TSOUSIS
MR. M. KARABERIDIS

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY - REGIONAL HISTORY

INTERVIEW WITH MR. MICHAEL KARABERIDIS, BUILDER

S.K.

Michael, you are a relative new comer to Australia. You have been here for nineteen years and you came from Greece originally. What city in Greece did you come from?

M.K.

I came from Thessaloniki which is in the north of Greece. I was born in Kavala but we shifted later to Thessaloniki which is a bigger population.

S.K.

And you spent your childhood in Greece and your early working life in Greece as a joiner.

M.K.

Yes, I spent my childhood on a farm, which was a very hard life, but we are not here to talk about that life. Then we shifted to Thessaloniki and I served my time as a cabinet maker.

S.K.

You spent time in the army, two years in the army, in National Service.

M.K.

Yes, two years in the army and then I decided to come to Australia to get rich.

S.K.

Did you have family in Australia.

M.K.

I did. I have a brother and sister in South Australia, Whyalla.

S.K.

So you went to them first?

M.K.

Correct.

S.K.

How was it that you came to Newcastle?

M.K.

I got to Whyalla....I wasn't very impressed with the country and decided all Australia was the same....

S.K.

What was it like down there?

M.K.

It was terrible. Some people might love it, but I did not like it. It was like dessert, the climate was very hot and the water was undrinkable. We had to drink rain water which was unusual in Greece because we had so much beautiful water and I found it was very depressing in Whyalla and my first two years were very hard but in those two years I met a lady who was from Newcastle and she is my wife now. She is an Australian and she always wanted me to come to Newcastle. We stayed four years down there and eventually we did come to Newcastle where she comes from originally.

S.K.

What were your impressions when you saw Newcastle?

M.K.

I thought it was a beautiful town, I liked it, I fell in love from the first sight.

S.K.

Did it remind you of your home town?

M.K.

Yes it did, a little, I mean nothing can replace where I was born because it is completely different, the climate and the environment but still I loved it.

S.K.

What did you like about it?

M.K.

I liked the waterfront, the lakes, the beaches, the rivers and the mountains and it is not far to go. In half an hour you are in all these places and it is wonderful.

S.K.

You say you settled in Newcastle and you had your family here?

M.K.

I did

S.K.

Now what has been your work experience. How did you find work when you came here? Did you speak English well enough to get a job straight away or what difficulties did you find?

M.K.

I had a lot of difficulty in South Australia, I couldn't get a job in my job and I had to go and work for the Painters and Dockers for a few months and then when I start.....I used to go the night classes to learn English.....I thought I could speak very good English when I came to Australia but I couldn't communicate with the people.....and when I met my wife I was forced to learn the language because I didn't expect her to learn my language because I was in her country and I had to learn her language.....and maybe I was young and I picked the language very quickly.

S.K.

What type of work did you do when eventually you came to Newcastle.

M.K.

I came to Newcastle and I worked in Carrington Slipways, I worked for a builder for one year, and then I always wanted to be my own boss and I decided to go on the building by myself and since then I have never looked back. That would be fifteen years ago.

S.K.

What type of building do you do?

M.K.

I do extensions, renovations and repairs. I work for a lot of big companies.....Insurance companies.....all the repair work. I mix with a lot of people, all types of life and I love that, I love mixing with people, I love meeting people, I love talking to them.....any nationality.....Europeans included.....not speciality..... I try not to treat people differently to others.

S.K.

Do you work all over the Hunter Valley or only in the Newcastle area? Where about do you carry out your work?

M.K.

I do work all over Newcastle. I travel, sometimes, to Muswellbrook and Singleton and around that area..... Maitland, Cessnock and the vineyards

S.K.

So you would be well at home in the Hunter Valley.

M.K.

I am.

S.K.

You know your way around.

M.K.

Yes, I feel at home while I'm running around. I feel that this is my home.

S.K.

Michael, where do you fit in to the Greek Community?

M.K.

I don't have anything to do with the Greek Community.

S.K.

Do you have any Greek friends in Newcastle?

M.K.

I do

S.K.

Are they part of the community?

M.K.

Some of them are and some aren't.

S.K.

Do you feel that you are missing out anything by not being part of the Greek Community.

M.K.

I used to feel I was missing out but I don't anymore.

S.K.

What did you feel you missed out on?

M.K.

I missed out on communicating in my own people, my country people.... and I felt that I would lose a lot out of it because, not because I won't have a tradition to carry on, but maybe they were going to look at me with different eyes, I suppose.

S.K.

Do you think that that has happened?

M.K.

I don't know how they feel about me and I don't really worry about it. I don't.

S.K.

And what traditions have you brought into your family that would be different from perhaps the normal run of the mill Newcastle person - the Novocastrian?

M.K.

One thing I found out about.....The Australian people are really from English background or Anglo Saxon.....I found out that they haven't got great ties into the family.....they do not emphasise the family a lot.....like, for example, when a child grows up to sixteen or seventeen and is off the parents hands and the child is leaving home and it's finished they are still going to see the child but that child is really on it's own. But the Greeks like to think till the child or parents die still they have the same caring ideas. They don't live in each others pockets.....though some Greeks do.....but the family idea.....the mother always the mother even if the child is forty, fifty or sixty and the father is always the father.....and I love that part of Greeks and I love when the mother is the mother to the children and stays at home to do and to look after the children..... when the children come from school she has to be there to take care of the children.....and if she wants to do any career well she will have plenty of time when the children leave off her hands. Till then, I think the mother should stay home.

S.K.

And have you noticed in Newcastle that these values and traditions that you hold have changed in the last fifteen years? Do you think they have always been like that? Do your children find difficulty with those ideas that you hold because they were born as Australians?

M.K.

Yes they do and they probably might rebell later.... or they are rebelling now. Maybe because of the peer pressure at school.... other children leading different lives and my children probably want to be as them but I don't really like that part of it.....I like my children to beto listen to what I say and to do what they have been told to do... and I think if you take away that authority of the mother and the father towards the children you have broken society down. And this is the disobedience of the children....they are just going to do their own thing and a child's mind is very immature.

S.K.

So that is a tradition that you have brought in from your Greek heritage.....

M.K.

.....and I love that tradition....

S.K.

Right! And how does your wife feel about that? Does she support you?

M.K.

Yes

S.K.

Even though she is Australian?

M.K.

I think she does support me.

S.K.

Greeks have along tradition in Newcastle of being in the food industry. Do you have Greek food at home? Does your wife cook Greek meals?

M.K.

Yes, she does.

S.K.

Have you noticed a changing attitude in the last fifteen years from the Novocastrians, regarding their diet, in the wider community? Do you think there is more availability for European food?

M.K.

Yes. We have a lot of restaurants in Newcastle....Greek restaurants....I have found out that a lot of Australians are becoming more adventurous and trying Europeans meals and I think that goes with the acceptance of the Australians towards the Europeans.

S.K.

How would you say that Novocastrians are more adventuresome in their food ideas? Can you give me an example of something that you have experienced?

M.K.

Yes, about ten years ago I used to go and buy squid. The people who were selling the squid used to look at me funny, like they were saying what do you want that for. But I wasn't buying the squid for bait it was for eating and I could see them....their expression on their faces was not very happy... but I didn't worry....I was a bit embarrassed. But a lot of my friends they were making fun about me because I was eating.....Australian friends.....squid but the funny part about it, now the Novocastrians have turned around and they love the squid.....it is one of the best delicacies in the restaurants and really one of the most expensive foods to buy now. They have changed a lot.

S.K.

In the short time you have been here, which is only fifteen years, really when you look at it through history it is not a long time, you have seen a number of big events happen in the regions industry.....you've seen part of B.H.P. collapse and lay off a considerable number of men; and the mining problems with more laying off of more men and the doom and gloom of Newcastle, unemployment is rife and for want of better words 'it's going to the dogs'....do you see that or do you see a more positive view to where Newcastle is going

M.K.

Well, I think all this business about B.H.P. and unemployment in politics. I see Novocastrians, especially in Newcastle, to go ahead because the people want to. The people are becoming very patriotic from what I have noticed driving around Newcastle. A lot of Novocastrians have the Australian flag in front of their houses. They care about this country and want to have a go.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. BOB. TSOUSIS, DEPUTY LORD MAYOR ON LAKE
MACQUARIE CITY COUNCIL.

S.K.

Were you born in Australia or Greece.

B.T.

Australia

S.K.

Your parents were Greek?

B.T.

Yes

S.K.

When did they immigrate?

B.T.

Dad arrived in Australia in 1912. He was sixteen and my mother came in 1925. She would have been twenty seven years old.

S.K.

Where did they meet.

B.T.

They met in Sydney, married in 1927 and they went to Albury and opened a business.

S.K.

What type of business?

B.T.

A cafe and mixed business. I was born in 1929 then they moved to Melbourne. Dad went into a business in Melbourne.

S.K.

In the food industry?

B.T.

Yes.

S.K.

You came to Newcastle during the war?

B.T.

Dad went into the army in 1941. We came to Newcastle in 1942. Mum had a sister, Aunty Lily, and I lived there for a while, for a couple of years, and went to school from Swansea. At Tech High in town, which was at Tighes hill, where the Technical College is now, that was Tech. High. I commuted by bus every morning from Swansea to High School in town.

S.K.

It must have been quite a run?

B.T.

Yes, it was good. It was a school bus, double deckered, camouflaged. They took the windows out and put tin windows in. They were probably frightened of imminent attack by the Japanese.

S.K.

Well, they had submarines off the coast, didn't they?

B.T.

Yes, they shelled Newcastle.

S.K.

And your Aunty, Aunty Lilly, what type of business did she have?

B.T.

A mixed business and cafe in the main street of Swansea.

S.K.

It seems all the Greeks in Newcastle were in the food industry.

B.T.

They all gravitated to fast food.

S.K.

They made a lot of money out of it, I can tell you! And how did you find that part of your boyhood in Newcastle? Did you find that there was a difference because you had a Greek background? There would not have been the big Greek community that there is now.

B.T.

No, it didn't make any difference, being born here. I didn't have much problem with that.

S.K.

Did you enjoy your life in Newcastle and your studies.

B.T.

Yes, my school life was very eventful and I enjoyed it. I was active in sports.

S.K.

And do you think that is the reason why you moved back to Newcastle.....because you liked it?

B.T.

Yes, more or less. I think I developed a fondness for Newcastle. And we decided to come back here because we had Auntie and Uncle here, who had moved into a business in Hamilton by then.

S.K.

Into another shop?

B.T.

Yes, for a while and then retired. They both retired.

S.K.

Your Mum and Dad decided to come here after the war?

B.T.

Well after the war, in the 1950's they came up.

S.K.

So your father got out of the army, went back to Melbourne for a while and then moved up here.

B.T.

Yes.

S.K.

Where did you move to?

B.T.

Hamilton.

S.K.

Did your father go into any particular type of business?

B.T.

Yes, he went into another mixed business in Newcastle and he was in it until he retired.

S.K.

Where was the business at?

B.T.

Hunter Street. He was involved in the Treasury Cafe up the top of town.

S.K.

And had that cafe always been in Greek hands.

B.T.

Yes.

S.K.

You wouldn't know how long that business, the shop, had been in Newcastle?

B.T.

Years before we came into it.

S.K.

Did he stay in that business until he retired?

B.T.

Yes.

S.K.

What did you do? Did you finish your schooling in Melbourne?

B.T.

No, I finished my schooling in Newcastle and then went into the navy. I was in the Navy for three years and came out. I'd met Rosie and we got married.

S.K.

How did your family feel about you marrying an Australian girl?

B.T.

No problem.

S.K.

No problem at all?

B.T.

No, Dad thought she was one in a million, a country girl.

S.K.

Well, it has proved successfull, a lovely family!

B.T.

Well, we've been married thirty five years.

S.K.

So there were no problems with that because I know a lot of Greek families would have objected strongly to an Australian girl coming in.....

B.T.

Oh, yes, I think some of them still do, you know the old fashioned ideas. They hold onto their old ties and bring their culture out from Greece.

S.K.

Where did your Mother and Father come from in Greece?

B.T.

An island called Kythera.

S.K.

Both from the same island?

B.T.

Yes, they only came from towns about four miles apart.

S.K.

And yet they had to come to Australia to meet?

B.T.

Yes, but the people from certain parts of Greece gravitated to small communities here where they would get together generally.....if they came from Athens, Athenians ...there was a centre here for Athenians to meet. But originally, before Kytheriou, Dad's people came from Sparta.

S.K.

The Peloponnesians?

B.T.

The island was off the Peloponnesians. Actually we are Spartans, I suppose.

S.K.

Warlike?

B.T.

Yeah, a bit aggressive!

S.K.

Right, now you were in the Navy and then you came out and got married and you are now on the Council. I know there are a few years in between but you are on Lake Macquarie Council. What caused your interest in Lake Macquarie Council.

B.T.

Well, I have been an alderman for eleven years and what first drew my attention and attracted me to the Council was the fact that I lived on a dirt road and wanted it curbed and guttered and tar sealed and didn't seem to be getting anywhere so I made up my mind that I was going to get on and get something done about it. And that is the best part of what we have been doing ever since. Curbing, guttering and tar sealing all of Lake Macquarie.....apart from other things of course, but it's been interesting. I've enjoyed it, They make you feel as though you're doing something, becoming involved in the decision making process to improve our community life.

S.K.

Do you envisage big changes to Lake Macquarie?

B.T.

Yes, I do. I envisage changes that will benefit Lake Macquarie if we can get on with people who seem hell bent on stopping progress. We've got a development going on at the moment which is being hampered by environmentalists who think that the end of the world is coming because

S.K.

That would be the Caves Beach....

B.T.

...the little piece of greenery is going to be bulldozed. Caves Beach, that's right.

S.K.

It has caused a lot of controversy!

B.T.

But I think that everybody can live in harmony with that. It's going to create 1,200 new jobs. minimum of 1,200...

S.K.

And a lovely resort?

B.T.

A beautiful resort. You know, people from here will get first preference, we've been promised we'll get first preference with work in the resort and they are saying that it is going to ruin the escarpment, right up the cliff faces that front onto the ocean but parts of it are inaccessible now which the developer will make accessible. And they talk of rain forest, well that is a load a rubbish.

S.K.

There isn't any rain forest there, is there?

B.T.

There are remnants of a rain forest which the government considers insignificant to come under Section 26 of the Protection Act. So the government is not interested in it because it is the remnants of a rain forest. That will be protected. What little bit is there will be kept. But the rest of it is all scrub and rubbish that needs beautification.

S.K.

Well it will bring tourism to the Hunter Valley and that seems to be the way we are going in Newcastle, doesn't it?

B.T.

Well, we have been giving lip service to tourism for ten years. We opened an account nine years with the Council and put \$100,000 in it for tourism and I think now, if we looked at it, there is probably still \$90,000 still in it. That will tell you what we have spent on tourism.

S.K.

We should be looking towards that.....
So your an Australian of Greek heritage and you're certainly well and truly part of the community in your Council work.

B.T.

My word, yes! Never considered to be anything else.

S.K.

Well the work I have been doing for my essay shows that the majority of Greeks, even if they are Australian born Greeks tend very much to stay in their own community and they don't really take part in the affairs of the wider community at all, so.....

B.T.

They are a bit loath to mix.

S.K.

.....yes.....and I feel I have come to the conclusion that if they went back to Greece they would find that they wouldn't fit into the community over there neither.

B.T.

Well, I think the fact that they aren't mixing like they should is their loss because they are being narrow minded and

S.K.

They are not forward thinking are they?

B.T.

No.

S.K.

This is their country now. Once you settle here and start to raise a family that is where you're.....

B.T.

You're first allegiance is here

S.K.

I was interested to hear at the weekend, we had a friend down, and he was saying that there are so many Greeks go back to Greece now to retire but in Athens they have an Australia club, but not for Australians living in Greece but its for Greeks who lived in Australia for the majority of their lives and go back to Greece to retire and they can't assimilate into their community. So they have this club called the Australia club.

B.T.

For expatriots!

SUSAN KARABERIDIS
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY - TERM III

ESSAY - A BRIEF HISTORY OF GREEKS IN NEWCASTLE.

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

NAME: SUSAN KARABERIDIS

TIME: TUESDAY, 1.00 - 3.00 PM

TERM III REGIONAL HISTORY

A Short History of Greeks in Newcastle
A Taped Interview with Mr. Bob Tsousis
and Mr. Michael Karaberidis
A Summary of the Tape.

Greeks have migrated to and lived in Australia from early convict days although up until 1851 only isolated arrivals occurred. In 1818 a Sydney newspaper noted the dangers presented to children of free settlers by 'Irish, English and Greek riff-raff'. In 1829 seven Greek male pirates were transported to New South Wales for raiding an English vessel and were assigned as convict servants. After they obtained their freedom five returned to Greece but the remaining two married Anglo-saxon women and became farmers.¹ In 1837 Newcastle acquired its first Greek resident - Ekaterini Georgia Plessos wife of Major James Henry Crummer.

Ekaterini Plessos came from a village in north-western Greece and was a niece of a friend of Lord Byron.² Her first sixteen years of life were unusually exciting. She and her mother were abducted by Mouktar, a Turkish head sultan, and lived in his harem until his demise. She broke off an engagement to Mouktar's physician, Ioannis Koletis, who later became Prime Minister of Greece.³ In 1825 she married James Henry Crummer who was commandant of the island of Calamos and protector of Greek refugees during the War of Independence against the Turks.⁴ Captain and Mrs. Crummer arrived in Sydney in

1. Newcastle Morning Herald, 26/7/1986
2. Australia Dictionary of Biography. Vol.1, 1788-1850. Melb. U.P.1966
3. Newcastle Morning Herald, 26/7/1986
4. Newcastle Morning Herald, 5/9/1947

1835. In 1837 Crummer was appointed to Newcastle as assistant police magistrate and commander of the Iron Gang. Ekaterini bore eleven children, five of whom died at an early age, and the large family lived on a small farm in the Newcastle region. The family moved to Port Macquarie in late 1858. Ekaterini died in 1907.⁵

The search for good land, employment, freedom from Greece's political faction fighting, and the discovery of gold in 1851 caused a major Greek migration to Australia.⁶ Many were from the coastal regions of Greece and as they were used to harvesting the seas became fishmongers and set up 'oyster saloons'. Greek settlement began in Newcastle in 1885, one year after it was declared a city.⁶ In that year Stratus Andrulachis and Peter Soteriou opened separate oyster saloons in Blane Street (now Hunter Street) and in 1886 Spiro Marks opened a fruit shop. Andrulachis sold his first oyster saloon to a Greek, George Peters and opened another oyster saloon at 100 Hunter Street (Rundles) which he later sold to a relative, George Andrulachis. In 1888 George changed his name to Andrews. This was a common practice among 'foreigners' in order to acquire greater

5. Newcastle Morning Herald, 26/7/1896

6. Ibid.

7. A. Burn, Newcastle Studies in Geography - Greek Settlement Patterns in Newcastle, N.S.W. 1979

social acceptance.⁸ In 1889 Andrews sold his shop to more Greeks and out of this sale bought George Peter's shop in Blane Street and a house close to Civic. He became the first Greek to own his own home in Newcastle.

During the 15 years up until 1900 Greeks arrived in Newcastle but most did not stay. They tended to open or work in an oyster saloon or fruit shop and when they had made enough money return to Greece. During the period of the 1890's depression oyster saloons transformed into the more popular and familiar fish and chip shops and cafes. Greeks began to purchase shops previously owned by other Greeks thus beginning the continual Greek ownership of certain shop premises.⁹ This caused chain migration. Established settlers would write and encourage younger relatives to come to Australia to assist in their shops as they could be trusted and work for less money.¹⁰

A feature of Greek settlement in Newcastle was the close proximity of the shops and saloons to the Queens Street wharf and the railway station. During this time their place of business was also their place of residence but as changes in status through marriage and prosperity occurred the Greek community began to expand.¹¹ Greeks did

8. L. Janeszewski and E. Alexakis. The Greek Presence in Newcastle - a Brief History, To Neo 83

9. Burns. Newcastle Studies In Geography....p.25

10. Newcastle Morning Herald 26.7.1986

11. Burnley I, Encel S, and McCall G. Immigration and Ethnicity in the 1980's p.205 **Melbourne 1985**

not move into any of the small villages beyond Hamilton and Glebe until after 1920 when the smaller villages of Lambton, New Lambton, Adamstown and Wallsend became incorporated into the Newcastle Metropolitan area. Hamilton and Hamilton South have remained the centre of Greek settlement in Newcastle.

The majority of Greeks living in Newcastle came from Ithaca originating with Stratus Black who bought the Andrulachis Oyster Saloon in 1890.¹² They formed the core of Greek settlers in Newcastle and are still the largest group today. The second largest group of Greek settlers in Newcastle were from the ~~Poloponnese~~ and this group appeared first to have migrated to the United States and continued their migration to Australia shortly after 1900. They brought with them ideas and items from the United States including the milkshake and American names for their cafes - the Niagara and the Brown Derby.¹³

Two important events occurred which concerned the growth of a number of permanent Greek settlers. The first was in 1905 when, at the request of the Greek people of Newcastle, a vice-consul, Mr. S. Cohen, was appointed to the Newcastle Greeks. This suggests the importance the Greek Government placed on the Greek people of Newcastle, and of Newcastle to international trading.¹⁴ The second was the

12. Newcastle Morning Herald 26.7.1986

13. Burnley, Encel, McCall. Immigration and Ethnicity... p206

14. Ibid p.203-204

Greeks of Newcastle. One of the major ways to serve the Greeks was and still is 'Saturday School' where children of Greek families learn Greek language, literature, history and culture. The Greek community is now divided into two rival groups operating from the two Greek Orthodox Churches in Newcastle. Nevertheless the overall aims of the two groups lead to a strong sense of community and the continuation of Greek life in Newcastle.

Even 'isolated' Greeks in Newcastle who are not part of either community carry on the strong sense of Greek family life and its values. Desendants of the original Newcastle Greek settlers still identify themselves as Greeks. The persistence of Ethnics in the Newcastle community indicate strength of the group.¹⁷

17. Alexander Burns, Greek Settlement in Newcastle, N.S.W. 1885-1978: A Study in Cultural Geography. March, 1985 p.62 Thesis submitted to the University of Newcastle, N.S.W.

gradual arrival of Greek born women. By 1913 'whole' Greek families were established. Up until this time, with the male/female ratio at 22:1, Greek men had been intermarrying Anglo-Australian females. One interesting aspect of these intermarriages was 'reverse assimilation'. The strength of the Greek way of life overcame much of the 'Australian' way of life and many women learnt Greek and adopted Greek family values. In return they were held in high esteem by the Greek community.¹⁵

After World War II with the signing of the migration agreement between Australia and Greece in 1952, Greek immigrants flooded the country. Greta migrant camp, situated just outside of Newcastle, was established to receive the new arrivals. ¹⁶ Many Newcastle Greeks started their 'new' lives in this camp.

The Greek Food Industry continued to flourish after the War but gradually occupations began to change with the new immigrants becoming entrenched in labouring jobs while children of more established Greek families took up professional positions. ¹⁷

Originally the Greek community was formalized with a written constitution in 1933. The organization was the Greek Brotherhood, Omonia and it's aim was to serve the

15. Burnley, Encel, McCall. Immigration and Ethnicity..p.205

16. Janiszewski and Alexakis The Greek Presence.....

17. The Newcastle Morning Herald 26.7.1986

SUSAN KARABERIDIS
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY - TERM III

SUMMARY OF ORAL HISTORY - MR. BOB TSOUSIS
MR. MICHAEL KARABERIDIS

Mr. Bob Tsousis is an Australian of Greek heritage. He was born to Greek parents in Albury in 1929. His father had emigrated to Australia in 1912 at the age of sixteen years and his mother emigrated in 1925 at the age of twenty seven years. They were both from Kythera, an island off the Peloponneses and had lived approximately eight kilometres apart. They had not known each other in Kythera and met in Sydney and married in 1927. Historians have found that people from certain parts of Greece gravitated to small communities in Australia and stuck together. People from Kythera gravitated to Sydney. Mr. and Mrs. Tsousis moved to Albury into a mixed business and then onto Melbourne into another mixed business.

Mr. Tsousis joined the army in 1941 and Mrs. Tsousis and her family moved to Newcastle to stay with a sister - Aunty Lily. Aunty Lily had a cafe/mixed business in the main Street of Swansea. Bob commuted by bus every day to Tech. High at Tighes Hill. The bus was camouflaged and had tinwindows against Japanese attack. The Japanese had shelled Newcastle in 1942. Bob enjoyed his school days and was involved in sport. He was not discriminated against because his parents were Greek.

The Tsousis family moved back to Melbourne after the war into a mixed business. In the early 1950's they moved back to Newcastle where Mr. Tsousis owned the Treasury Cafe, a milkbar/fast food outlet, at the east end of Hunter Street, Newcastle. This business had always been in Greek

hands. Bob finished his schooling and joined the Navy for three years. When he left the Navy he met his wife to be, Rosie. His intermarriage to an Anglo-Australian woman created no problems in his family. His father thought she was just wonderful. They have four children.

Bob has been an Independent Alderman on Lake Macquarie Council for eleven years. The dirt road at the front of his home, which he wanted kerbed, guttered and tar-sealed attracted him to Council work. He has been kerbing, guttering and tar-sealing the Lake Macquarie District ever since. Bob enjoys his Council work as it allows him to be involved in the decision making process of improving community life. He has found that many Greeks are loath to mix into the broader community and feels this is their loss as they are holding onto traditions that are not even in vogue in the 'old country'.

Mr. Michael Karaberidis is a Greek-born Australian who has lived with his family in the Newcastle area for fifteen years. He was born in Kavala on a farm where his family had a very hard life. The family moved to Thessaloniki due to his mother's ill health and it was here that he became an apprentice cabinet maker. In 1968 he was conscripted into the Greek army for two years.

In 1970 he emigrated to Australia and lived with an older brother and sister in Whyalla, South Australia. He found Whyalla to be a very depressing place, very hot, with terrible drinking water not like the sweet water in Greece. Within two years of arriving in Australia he met his wife to be, Susan. Michael had been to night classes to learn English and on meeting Susan was forced to learn English quickly as he did not expect her to learn his language. In 1973, after the birth of their first child, Stella, they moved to Newcastle which was Susan's home town.

He loved Newcastle from the first glance especially as the waterfront, lake, beaches, mountains were all in close proximity to where he lived at Wallsend. It reminded him of his home town in Greece.

Initially he worked for a builder in Newcastle and then for Carrington Slipways as a joiner until he was retrenched during a credit squeeze in 1976. Michael had always wanted to be his own boss so he became self employed as a builder and has never looked back. He specializes in extensions,

renovations and insurance repair work. His work brings him in contact with people from all walks of life and it is this that he especially likes. Michael works all over the Hunter Valley.

Michael is not part of either Greek communities in Newcastle. He has Greek friends who belong to either community and some who are like himself - 'isolated'. Initially he felt he had missed out by not being in continual communication with his own country people but now does not really care as he mixes so widely in the broader community.

Michael does not like the way children from Australian families become totally independent from their parents. Greeks have very strong family ties and he loves this part of his Greek heritage. He feels strongly that the mother should be at home raising and caring for the family. It is fine for her to continue or start a career when the family has grown. His own children, he feels, will have difficulties with these views probably because of peer pressure at school and from friends. Nevertheless he wants his children to listen to what he has to say and do what they are told. Susan supports him totally in these views.

Susan cooks Greek food at home and both have noticed a big change over fifteen years in the Australian attitude towards European food, especially Squid or Calamari. Michael feels that this changed attitude towards European food has brought greater acceptance of Europeans in the

community.

Michael has a very positive outlook for Newcastle. He has noticed that Novocastrians are becoming very patriotic, often flying Australian flags at the front of their houses. He likes this because it shows that the people of Newcastle are wanting Newcastle go ahead and are willing to 'have a go!'