



KAZZIE CHRONICLE

March 2016

KCA Conference

Brisbane

22-26 January

2016



The objectives of the KCA Convention were to 'Celebrate all that is Kazzie' and give all delegates (from interstate and locally) the opportunity to connect with each other. The conference did indeed deliver on this and much mirth and merriment was experienced as our mutual love of all that is 'Kazzie' was showcased and honoured. The array of speakers showed the strength of character of people who had emigrated from our tiny island.

Over two hundred people attended various events of the convention. The conference was structured to allow people to attend both seminars as well as many social events such as:

- Welcome Drinks at the Greek Club
- Dinners at IL Centro (a beautiful waterfront restaurant) and the Greek Club
- St Andrew's Theological College, Campus - Bribie Island Retreat and Recreational Centre
 - Breakfast at Rydges Hotel
 - Ferry ride along the Brisbane River

With the seminars addressing such topics as ancestry, future directions and why the youth are not connecting with their Kassie heritage, the conference provoked interesting debate and discussion on these matters. The Q & A Youth Panel and prominent Kazzies showcasing their experiences demonstrated why Kastellorizians have been so successful and will continue to play an important role in Australian society in the future.



Members of the Convention Steering Committee



Members of the Kastellorizian Council of Australia

Report from KCA Convenor:

Stathis E Efstathis OAM

The Queensland Kazzie Committee nominated six individuals; Dr Anastasia Anastas , Michael Boubaris, Despo Efstathis, Stathis E Efstathis (Convenor), Betty Yanardasis and George Yanardasis (the 6PAK) and charged them with planning , promoting and executing a viable and attractive First Kastellorizian Convention under the KCA banner. Every member of the 6PAK was unwavering in their commitment to the job at hand, and it was an absolute pleasure working with them during the many long hours of meetings. It proved to be a success in putting an organising structure in place which featured an overall Convenor and five others who would be responsible for different facets of the Convention.

In choosing the timing of the event, consideration was given to the long weekend of Australia Day 2016, the Anzac Day weekend and a period during our Northern Winter. Anzac Day was ruled out as it was too close to our Greek Easter. A time during our winter was excluded on the basis that there was an anticipation that Kazzie members would be trekking to Europe and Greece. The Australia Day weekend was settled on and it was decided that the convention would be for five days in order to make it worthwhile for those people who had to travel from distant States. The strategy employed involved events to be user pays, sponsorships introduced to pay for expected heavy outlays in certain areas such as shortfalls in guaranteed function numbers, booklet/brochure and satellite link.

I must emphasise that the concept of sponsorship was designed to raise funds in each participating state from private enterprise and NOT from State Kazzie Associations; no special invitations or free/subsidised registrations were to be issued. In the end, sponsorships were raised from West Australia (6) and Queensland (6) only, and NSW, South Australia and Victoria contributed nil.

The first release of the intent to hold Convention 2016 took place in October 2015 with the National President's note to the States and a mention in the National Newsletter. We had to rely on the various State Kazzie Associations to distribute our numerous promotional items to their members. The KCA is currently not permitted to hold State Membership lists. It would seem that the States attended to the dissemination of this promotional material with varying degrees of intensity and effectiveness. Our most effective promotional tool was the booklet/brochure which we distributed electronically as soon as it was completed in December.

The numbers for the Convention were: 22 from West Australia, 3 from South Australia, 4 from Victoria, 28 from NSW and 150 attended events from Queensland.

I must acknowledge the superlative effort of the WA organisers, the most distant State, who locked in their 22 attendees and six sponsorships by early December with minimal fuss for us.

The advertised programme was adhered to without any changes or failures. All seminars and functions were well attended and I would believe that every day was a highlight.

Arising out of the Saturday afternoon Youth Forum, is a recommendation that all State Kazzie Associations must make every effort to develop and nurture a Kazzie Youth wing.

In conclusion:

- My thanks for the huge effort put in by the Convention Steering Committee
- I believe that we have set the bar quite high with this first Kastellorizian Convention, and that we met everyone's expectations
- My thanks to all guest speakers and keynote speakers, Professor Byron Kakulas and Andrew Liveris
- My thanks to Dow Chemicals and Andrew Liveris for meeting the high cost of the live satellite transmission from the USA
- Our thanks to the six sponsors from WA and the six sponsors from Queensland
- I acknowledge the anonymous donation from WA and the donation for the gifts to the Convention Steering Committee by National President Mrs Yvonne Panagacos
- The Convention has made a surplus of close to \$10,000-00 (not finalised as yet)



Andrew Liveris via satellite at the Conference Dinner at the Greek Club, Brisbane.

Important Outcomes from the Convention:

- **Members to stay connected – across Australia and within each state**
- **More cultural events for people to learn the 'Kazzie traditions'**
- **The formation of a KCA for Youth**
- **The formation of a Youth Association in each state**
- **Mentor programs and cultural exchanges for the youth of Australia**
- **To give the youth of Greece opportunities in order to be inspired to be better future leaders. This could be achieved through mentoring programs and cultural exchanges**

Photo Gallery: All photos from the convention can be accessed at www.kassieq.com.au



Delegates at the Sunday afternoon seminar



Professor Byron Kakulas at the Conference Dinner



Sunday Luncheon at the Greek Club



Delegates at the Conference Dinner at the Greek Club.