

#### THE GREEKS IN AUSTRALIA

The Greeks have made an enormous contribution to Australian cultural and social life, and this book tells their story. Beginning with an examination of the conditions in Europe that led to migration, it details the role of the Greek people in Australian settlement, the two large waves of Greek migration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the ways in which the Greeks have maintained a solid sense of Greek cultural expression. Numbering approximately half a million, the Greek community in Australia comprises the second-largest ethnic minority after the Italians. The contribution of Greek settlers to the large industrial cities and other major urban centres modernised them by injecting new ideas into the economic, social and political life of their new environment. The role of Greek settlers has been vital in building the nation we have today.

**Professor Anastasios Myrodis Tamis** is Director of the National Centre for Hellenic Studies at La Trobe University.



# THE GREEKS IN AUSTRALIA

ANASTASIOS MYRODIS TAMIS





CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521547437

© Anastasios Myrodis Tamis 2005

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published by Cambridge University Press 2005

Printed in Australia by BPA Print Group

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

National Library of Australia Cataloguing in Publication data

Tamis, Anastasios M.

The Greeks in Australia.

Bibliography.

Includes index.

ISBN 0 521 54743 1.

ISBN-13 978-0-521-54743-7 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-54743-1 paperback

- 1. Greeks Australia Social life and customs. 2. Greeks Australia History.
- 3. Immigrants Australia History. 4. National characteristics, Australian.
- 5. Australia Emigration and immigration Social aspects. 6. Greece Emigration and immigration Social aspects. 7. Australia Ethnic relations.

I. Title.

305.889094

ISBN-13 978-0-521-54743-7 paperback ISBN-10 0-521-54743-1 paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this book, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



## CONTENTS

Ill	Illustrations	
A	bbreviations	X
1	Hellas of Diaspora	1
2	The Greeks Discover Australia	31
3	Demographic Characteristics	59
4	Social and Community Life	67
5	The Years of Respectability	117
6	The Culture and Civilisation	133
7	From Migrants to Citizens	165
Further Reading		197
Index		200



### ILLUSTRATIONS

I	Constantinos Stefanopoulos to Australia (2002).	pages 25
2	Greek timber cutters and loggers in Bridgetown, Western Australia (1907) preparing sleepers for the construction of the Australian National Railways. Pictured here are M. Kalafatas, A. Palassis, I. and J. Barboutis.	34
3	Improvised homes in the bush belonging to Greek immigrants in 1890. Kastellorizian settlers at their 'mansion' in Western Australia.	35
4	The Greek businessman of Perth, Petros Michelidis, in the 1900s.	37
5	The Greeks of Sydney gather to celebrate at Paddington Town Hall (1929).	42
6	A Greek wedding in Melbourne circa 1925. In the middle, next to the newlyweds, is Metropolitan Christophoros Knitis. Behind him stands Rev. Dimopoulos, a close friend of the Metropolitan.	45
7	Kostas Kalaitzidis and his family being farewelled in 1957 bound for a new life in Australia. Thousands of migrants experienced such moments of parting at the Port of Piraeus.	48
8	The arrival of the liner <i>Kyreneia</i> in June 1953. Thousands of new settlers greet the crowd waiting for them on the	40
	historic pier of Port Melbourne.	49



	ILLUSTRATIONS	VII
9	Playful Greek women of Adelaide during a picnic (1957), arriving as the 'brides'.	50
10	The President of Athens 2000, Gianna Aggelopoulou-Daskalakis with students of St Spyridon College moments before accepting the Olympic Torch.	57
11	Port Melbourne, 1953. Arrival of the ocean liner <i>Kyreneia</i> full of young male migrants. A new life of hope begins.	61
12	Kastorian P. Lekopoulos celebrates Christmas with compatriots and other Australians at Coff's Harbour, NSW (1929).	65
13	The first Greek Consul General in Australia (1926–32), Leonidas Chrysanthopoulos (right) in Sydney with a friend (1926).	70
14	From the first visit of the second Metropolitan of Australia, Timotheos Evangellinidis, to Perth (1931) in a room where four Orthodox baptisms were performed.	71
15	Young <i>evzones</i> smile while awaiting the President of the Hellenic Republic Constantinos Karamanlis (March 1982).	76
16	Young Australians retrieve the Holy Cross from the waters of Port Melbourne (1999).	96
17	Leaders of the Greek Community of Sydney celebrate Greek National Day in St Sofia Cathedral (28 March 1948).	100
18	Ithacans at a picnic in Newcastle, NSW during the 1940s.	101
19	The Hellenic soccer club a year before its merger with the Greek club of Yarra Park. As a result of this merger the popular Melbourne Hellas was established (c. early	
	1950s).	103
20	Greeks of Melbourne during a picnic with their priest in the early 1920s.	106
21	The first Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Australia, Christoforos Knitis (1924–8), accompanied by the newly married Theodore Politis and his wife, overlooks the city of Adelaide from the surrounding hills (July 1926).	108
22	Archbishop Ezekiel visiting a Greek child-care centre in Fitzroy, Melbourne (1967).	112



VIII ILLUSTRATIONS

23	Pope Paul visited Australia on 30 November 1970. Archbishop Ezekiel welcomed him at the Sydney airport on behalf of Orthodox Patriarch, Athenagoras.	114
24	Nakis Raftopoulos was operating his fruit shop 'Mildura' from 250 Johnston Street, Abbotsford. The meticulous order is apparent (1931).	118
25	Fish shop in Collingwood, Melbourne, at the beginning of the 1930s. In 1934 the shop was sold to Constantinos Xanthos. Pictured here, Stamatis and Constantinos Xanthos.	118
26	Sarantos G. Zantiotis (second from left) with the	110
	personnel of his café in Grafton, NSW (1913).	121
27	Staff of the 'Capitol Café' in Canberra (1927). From left: Ioannis Notaras, Ioannis Kassimatis, Manolis Notaras and the owner of the café, Theo Notaras.	122
30		
	Nikos Constantinidis' Fruit Market at Kingston (1948).	123
29	Karpathian settlers Constantinos Mantinaos, Ioannis Economidis and Minas Economidis take pride in the Greek flag at Parliament House (1950).	131
30	The only Greek afternoon school in Melbourne in 1947. Teachers Alexandra Vrachna (first from left), Nina Mavrokefalos (back) and Stathis Raftopoulos are seen here with their students celebrating Greek National Day.	135
31	Students of the Aristoteleion High School in Brunswick parade as part of the celebrations marking the visit of the President of the Hellenic Republic Constantinos Karamanlis(1982).	137
32	Teacher Anna Kovaiou with her students at a Greek School in Melbourne (1971).	138
33	Florinian girls of Melbourne in their traditional costumes during a dancing exhibition (1969).	151
34	The Norwegian steamship <i>Skaugum</i> anchored at Fremantle outside Perth. Greek migrants photographed at the pier.	166
35	It is estimated that approximately 3000 Greek Australians took part in World War II with the Australian Imperial Army, I. Valtazanos served in the Australian Army as an	100



	ILLUSTRATIONS	ΙX
	officer and later on was appointed Harbour Master during the war (1944).	169
36	The President being welcomed enthusiastically (March 1982).	181
37	The President of the Hellenic Republic Constantinos Karamanlis accompanied by the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser (on his right), and the Premier of Victoria, Lindsay Thompson (1982).	182
38	Prime Minister Gough Whitlam visits the Melbourne Town Hall where the Greek community organised a rally in his favour in 1975.	191
M	aps	
1 (	Greece	30

Illustrations are from the Dardalis Archives of the Hellenic Diaspora, National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research, La Trobe University.



#### ABBREVIATIONS

Australian and New Zealand Army Corps **ANZAC** 

European Union EU

Gross Domestic Product **GDP** 

Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne **GOCM** 

Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales, **GOCNSW** 

also GOCS

**GOCS** Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales,

also GOCNSW

Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and HACCI

Industry

KAM Kentro Apodemon Makedonon (Centre of

Macedonians Abroad)

La Trobe University LTU

National Centre for Hellenic Studies and Research NCHSR PASOK Panellenion Sosialistiko Kinema (Panhellenic

Socialist Movement)

SAE Symvoulio Apodemou Hellenismou (World Council

of Greeks Abroad)