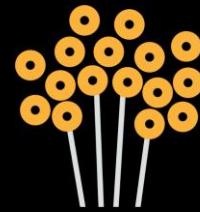


THE
**KYTHERIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND**
Strong Bonds & Shared Heritage



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025



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LOCK IT IN!

KAQ WELCOME DRINKS

We are planning a celebration in February which brings all generations together for a festive night at an adults only welcome drinks/dinner/cocktail event (Date & Venue to be advised)

It also provides a great opportunity to meet the new committee and see what's ahead for our events! And there's lots coming up for all generations!

KEY MOMENTS

DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 25 – Christmas
- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 6 – Epiphany
- February 1 to 22 – Apokries
- February 12 – Tsiknopempti
- February – Cocktail/Dinner Event (Date & Venue TBA)
- February 23 – Lent Begins
- March 2026 – “Next Gen” Event
- April 5 to 12 – Holy Week (Easter)
- April 25 – Afternoon ANZAC picnic



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a healthy prosperous New Year. In the midst of the celebrations, may we remember the true meaning of this holy season: rejoicing in the birth of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, the greatest gift of all.

Θερμές ευχές για Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

We are delighted to extend a heartfelt welcome to Elena Collivas, the newly elected President of the Kytherian Association of Queensland. As the first woman to hold this esteemed role in our Association's history, Elena brings with her a deep commitment to community, a passion for preserving our Kytherian heritage, and a forward-looking vision for our future. We look forward to her leadership, her dedication, and the fresh perspective she brings as we continue to grow and strengthen our vibrant community together.

Standing together with her are committee members: Marie-Christine Sourris (Vice President), John Black (Treasurer), John Stavrou (Secretary), Katina Black, James Calos, Tony Cassimatis, Spiro Comino, Stellios Falieros, Joanna Gianniotis and Maria Sklavos.



LOOKING AHEAD.....

NEW COMMITTEE – EXCITING EVENTS

Wow! You hold in your hands a newsletter – so exciting! As the new committee members we've already started planning a range of **social and cultural activities** for all generations. There's lots to look forward to, and we're confident it will be a great year ahead. If you have any ideas for events, we'd love to hear from you at admin@kytheraql.qld.org.au.

WHAT IS APOKRIES?

Gosh – we're already talking about Easter and Christmas hasn't even arrived! We may as well start selling hot cross buns! But seriously – a lot of people aren't aware of Apokries - so what is it? Every year, on the weekend prior to Orthodox Lent, a carnival season called 'Apokries' takes place. It is celebrated throughout most Orthodox countries around the world and marks the last celebration before 40 days of fasting. The word itself, Apokries, comes from the Greek words 'apo' and 'kreas' which translates to 'from meat,' meaning abstaining from meat. It symbolises the commencement of the Lent fast which includes having no meat for 40 days.

So there you have it – another beautiful cultural celebration of our faith. And we already have something in mind to celebrate for this – during our Welcome Dinner/Cocktail Event in February 2026!



Christmas in Potamos – courtesy of Destinationkythira.gr

Got a photo you'd like to share for our newsletters? Feel free to email to us at admin@kytheraql.qld.org.au and we will acknowledge your wonderful contribution! We can't wait to share these with our community!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends of the Kytherian Association of Queensland.

It is an honour and a privilege to address you for the first time as the new President of our Association. As the first woman to hold this role, I am humbled by the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I step into this position with gratitude, pride and a strong sense of commitment to serving the Kytherian community and strengthening the legacy that so many before us have built.

On behalf of the whole community, I wish to sincerely thank the outgoing committee members, especially President Peter Coroneo and Secretary Harry Poulos, who have each served for 10 years and been responsible for building a strong platform, upon which we can continue to build in the future. Thanks also to Lauren Poulos, Ellen Castrisos and Tony Calligeros who have served as general committee members for several years.

I am also delighted to introduce you to the new KAQ Committee....

Vice President: Marie-Christine Sourris
Secretary: John Stavrou
Treasurer: John Black
Dr Katina Black
James Calos

Tony Cassimatis
Spiro Comino
Stellios Falieros
Joanna Gianniotis
Dr Maria Sklavos

Each brings valuable experience, passion for all things Kytherian, energy and dedication to fulfil their duties on the committee. Together we form a team united in purpose and enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Many of you have already given us valuable feedback on what you want to see more of and have kindly offered to help on sub-committees to achieve these goals, so we thank you in advance. Our focus will be on working hard to serve the Kytherian Community and to bring members together more often for events that honour our shared heritage and culture. We aim not only to preserve our traditions for future generations, but to inspire new participation and strengthen the bonds that connect us as a community.

We look forward to working closely with all of you as we continue to honour our past, embrace the present, and build a vibrant future for the KAQ. Thank you for your support, encouragement and commitment to our Association.

The committee and I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, sharing special times with your families and loved ones.

May 2026 bring you all good health, success and happiness.

With Thanks & Kind Regards

Elena Collivas – President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RENEW TODAY, SUPPORT TOMORROW

The Kytherian Association of Queensland is excited to move forward with a new committee that's focused on bringing our community closer together and creating meaningful connections for all generations.

Whether you've been involved for years or are just starting to reconnect with your Kytherian roots, our aim is to make the Association a place where everyone feels welcome and proud to belong.

By strengthening relationships **within generations** and **across generations**, we hope to keep our culture, traditions, and sense of community thriving well into the future. As members, we all have the belief of:

Strong Bonds & Shared Heritage

Becoming a financial member is a great way to inspire this, support the Association and have your voice heard.

Financial members can take part in important decisions, vote at meetings, and help shape the direction of our community. Most importantly, membership helps us continue to run events, support cultural initiatives, and create opportunities for people to connect and stay engaged.

We encourage all members of the Kytherian community to get involved and be part of what's ahead.

Together, we can build a strong, connected community that supports one another and celebrates our love of Kythera and our shared heritage. To join or renew your membership, please complete the application form on our website: www.kytheraqld.org.au

If you are looking to become a NEW MEMBER, please email admin@kytheraqld.org.au and we will forward you a new member application form for your completion or simply download from the cover email you received this newsletter from.



For any enquiries/correspondence, please contact the Secretary, John Stavrou
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