

THE
KYTHERIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND
Strong Bonds & Shared Heritage



NEWSLETTER – MAY 2026



Monastery of Agios Theodoros
Photo Credit – Stephen Trifyllis

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CAN'T WAIT!

50 YEARS OF PANIYIRI IS NEARLY UPON US!

Come visit the Kytherian Association of Queensland's Paniyiri stall this year.

We will be conveniently located in the "market area" at the entrance of The Greek Club.

Enjoy locally made sweets from the best Kytherian bakers in our community. And of course... there will be DIPLES!

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

May 12 – Feast Day of Agios Theodoros

May 16 – Church Service of Agios Theodoros held at Dormition of our Lady, Mt Gravatt (followed by coffee/sweets)

May 23/24 – Paniyiri!

June – Seniors Event

"The Odyssey" – Film event

Seniors Event – Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers

24 October – Gods & Goddesses Gala Ball – TICKETS ON SALE SOON

REMINDER – CALL TO ACTION – PANIYIRI 2026!

We all know there are some seriously talented sweet-makers in this group — the kind of people whose creations disappear first at every gathering and get talked about long after the plates are cleared.

This is your moment to shine!

For our Paniyiri festival stall to truly stand out, we need those signature sweets that only *you* can create —the ones that make people stop, come back for seconds, and ask, “Who made this?”

If you’ve ever secretly (or not-so-secretly!) believed your sweets are the best around, now’s your chance to prove it and be part of something special. Let the whole festival experience just how incredible your sweets really are!

Our stall will showcase the very best of Kythera, selling **traditional Kytherian sweets and Kytherian olive oil** to thousands of people across South East Queensland.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share our heritage, flavours, and traditions.

Please contact **Elena Collivas on 0417 707 632** to register your commitment to support our Paniyiri 2026 stall.

Together, let’s proudly showcase Kythera to Queensland!

FOCUS ON POTAMOS!

In this issue – we turn our attention to one of the hubs in Kythera – Potamos!

Nestled in the heart of Kythera, the charming town of Potamos is a vibrant hub of culture, history, and tradition that captures the true spirit of the island. Known as one of Kythera’s liveliest villages, Potamos is especially famous for its bustling Sunday market, where locals and visitors gather to enjoy fresh produce, traditional sweets, and the warm, social atmosphere that defines Greek island life.

Historically, Potamos played an important role as a commercial and social centre, particularly during periods of Venetian rule of Kythera and later under British administration. Its central location made it a key meeting point for trade and communication across the island. The village’s amphitheatre-style layout, built into the hillside, offers stunning views and reflects its long-standing importance.

Today, Potamos blends its rich past with a lively present. Traditional cafés line the square, where stories are shared and time seems to slow down. Whether you’re drawn by its history, its famous market, or its welcoming atmosphere, Potamos remains a place where the heart of Kythera truly comes alive.



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.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,

We've held two very successful social events- our Welcome Drinks Night in Feb and a Next Gen Coffee Morning in March, with both being well attended. The feedback was that it was lovely to have events purely for people to socialise, catch up with old friends, and make some new ones too. We are planning more social events soon and hoping to have a Seniors Morning Tea in June as well as a Family Picnic in July, so please stay tuned for more details, and please make sure your membership is up to date so you receive all the notifications and information. New membership forms and renewal links are all online at www.kytherqld.org.au

We are getting ready to showcase Kythera and our Association when we return to take part at this year's very special 50th Anniversary of Paniyiri on 23rd & 24th May with a stall up on Edmondstone St with wonderful Kytherian Sweets made especially by our lovely volunteers, and other Kytherian products too.

Please make sure you pop past, say hello, and of course pick up some specialties from our wonderful island such as Diples, Rozethes, Amygdalota, Melomakarona, etc before they run out! Our stall often ends up as a meeting place for our members to catch up, so please gather around while you're at Paniyiri as we'd love to see as many of you as possible.

The Patron Saint & Protector of Kythera, Agios Theodoros, is celebrated on 12th May and there will be an English Liturgy service at the Church of the Dormition of Our Lady (Southside Parish) Mt Gravatt from 8am on Saturday 16th May in his honour, which we encourage our members to attend. This will be followed by coffee & sweets in the hall.

Our Flagship Event of 2026 will be our Gods & Goddesses Black Tie Gala Ball on Saturday 24th October, so we ask you to circle that in your calendars and start getting your table groups of 10 ready. Keep an eye out for the main launch of the bookings & ticket sales as places will sell out very quickly.

Sadly, the events in the Middle East will impact a lot of travel plans for everyone hoping to get to Kythera or other parts of Greece for the European summer.

We hope the situation eases soon, so that you can head over safely and have a great time on our beautiful island, but if you can't get there, we'll aim to bring a bit of Kytherian spirit to you over here.

Thanks & Kind Regards,

Elena Collivas

For any enquiries/correspondence, please contact the Secretary, John Stavrou
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PO Box 5219, West End Qld 4101
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FEAST DAY – AGIOS THEODOROS OF KYTHERA COMMEMORATED – 12TH MAY

Saint Theodore (Osios Theodoros) is the patron saint of Kythera. He was a married man who became an ascetic monk living in the 10th century hoping to find spiritual fulfillment.

Kythera had been deserted after pirate raids. Bravely, Theodore settled on the deserted island of Kythera around 921 AD where he lived a life of solitude and inspired the island's re-settlement. He became Kythera's first settler, bringing life while becoming its protector and healer.

He died on May 12, 922 AD, his body was found intact several years later leading to his veneration. May 12th is a large local festival day celebrating his life and miracles.

Saint Theodore is known as the Protector and Healer of Kythera. The Monastery of Agios Theodoros was built in his honour at the place of his burial.

For more information on the Monastery, please click on the link below

<https://youtu.be/aPE5UeVwITl>



UPCOMING EVENTS!

CALLING ALL CHEFS TO ASSIST FOR THE PANIYIRI STALL

We would like to call on our members to volunteer to help make the following traditional sweets:

- DIPLES
- KOURABIEDES
- BAKLAVA
- AMYGDALOTA
- ROZEDES
- MELOMAKARONA



PLEASE CONTACT ELENA COLLIVAS ON
0417 707 632 TO REGISTER

TICKETS ON SALE SOON!

It's all been locked in! And tickets are on sale SOON!

Join us on 24th October 2026 for our dazzling Gods & Goddesses Gala Ball - an incredible evening of glamour, elegance, and celebration.

Start organising your tables everyone (limited to 10 people per table) – this is our biggest Ball yet!

Featuring the electrifying **Filoxenia** band from Sydney, the night promises flowing wine, vibrant energy, and an atmosphere overflowing with unforgettable kefi.



KYTHERIAN SUMMER SOCIAL – 27th FEBRUARY 2026

In February, our first event for 2026 was a tremendous success!

Bookings quickly reached capacity with 160 guests in attendance.

We received wonderful feedback – many people of all generations reconnected with fellow Kytherians they hadn't seen in years. The room was alive with conversation and laughter throughout the night.

A heartfelt thank you to our generous prize donors. Peter Aloizos will certainly never forget his first ride in a Ferrari! We're already looking forward to the next time we meet.



ANZAC DAY – 25th APRIL 2026

On 25th April, The Kytherian Association of Queensland honoured the courage, sacrifice and enduring spirit of those who have served.

Through solemn services at the Greek Orthodox Church of St George, the Hector Vasyli Memorial and the Shrine of Remembrance at Anzac Square, we gathered in unity and remembrance.

Lest We Forget - We pay tribute to their legacy and uphold the values of courage, mateship and sacrifice.

