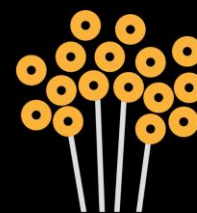


THE
KYTHERIAN
ASSOCIATION
OF QUEENSLAND
Strong Bonds & Shared Heritage



NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2026



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CAN'T WAIT!

KAQ WELCOME DRINKS

27 FEBRUARY 2026

KYTHERA SUMMER SOCIAL!

We're bringing all generations together on Friday, 27th February a festive night at an adults only cocktail event at Lord Stanley Hotel!

Please refer to the attached flyer if you haven't seen it yet. Tickets can be purchased at www.kytheraqlld.org.au.

Final tickets still available!

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1 to 22 – Apokries
February 23 – Lent Begins
February 27 – Kythera Summer Social – Lord Stanley Hotel
March 22 – "Next Gen" Coffee
April 5 to 12 – Holy Week (Easter)
May 12 – Feast Day of Agios Theodoros
May 23/24 – Paniyiri!
June – Seniors Event
October – KAQ Gala Ball
To be confirmed - Picnic

CALL TO ACTION – PANIYIRI 2026!

Paniyiri is Queensland's largest Greek festival, celebrating Greek culture, food, music, and community—and in 2026, the Kytherian Association of Queensland will once again be proudly represented.

Our KAQ stall will showcase the very best of Kythera, selling **traditional Kytherian sweets, sweet and savoury biscuits, and Kytherian olive oil and honey** to thousands of people across South East Queensland. This is a wonderful opportunity to share our heritage, flavours, and traditions.

To make this happen, we are seeking **commitments for donations and support**, particularly from those with skills in baking, sweet-making, or producing Kytherian goods. If you have the talent, and want to share Kytherian culture on a big stage—**this is your moment!** Please contact **Elena Collivas on 0417 707 632** to register your interest and commitment to support the KAQ Paniyiri 2026 stall.

Together, let's proudly showcase Kythera to Queensland!

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Let's Keep the Momentum Going!

We've had a fantastic response to recent newsletters and it's been great to see so many people engaging with our Kytherian stories and shared history.

Whether you've been involved for years or are just reconnecting with your Kytherian roots, there's a place for you here. Becoming a **financial member** is a simple way to support the Association and have your say. Members can vote at meetings, help guide our direction, and support the events and cultural initiatives that keep our community connected.

If you're not yet a financial member, we'd love you to join us. Renew or sign up at www.kytheraqlid.org.au. Any queries, please contact Tony Cassimatis at drcass59@outlook.com.

FOCUS ON CHORA!

Kythera is made up of many unique towns, each with its own story and character! We take a brief look at some of the island's main (and not so main!) settlements—where they are, how they grew, and what makes each one special.

Chora (Kythera Town)

Chora is Kythera's hilltop capital, set above the twin bay of Kapsali and known for its lanes, mansions, and big views over the sea. It became the island's administrative center in the Venetian period, when the capital was moved from the older inland settlement of Paleochora for security reasons. The town's landmark is the Venetian-era castle complex, where you can also visit the Historical Archive of Kythera, which preserves documents from the 16th century onward, reflecting Kythera's long period under Venetian (and later other) administrations.

Today, Chora feels more like a lived-in historic quarter than a resort: small churches, courtyards, and neoclassical-influenced houses sit beside cafés and local shops. The nearby harbor area of Kapsali functions as Chora's seaside "front porch," linking the capital's cultural character with swimming spots and waterfront dining.



Chora – Kythera town– courtesy of Destinationkythira.gr

Got a photo you'd like to share for our newsletters? Feel free to email to us at admin@kytheraqlid.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're already into February, so I hope your year has started off well too. The Committee has started planning some events for the first half of 2026 which we hope you'll all enjoy. Our focus is to bring the members of the Kytherian community together more often for cultural and social events that will promote our connections to our heritage and each other.

We're kicking off the year with our "Kytherian Sunset Social" Welcome Drinks evening on Friday 27th February, so hopefully you've got your tickets already, as it should be a great night to catch up with old friends and maybe meet some new ones too.

Our younger committee members have organised a "Next Gen" event on Sun 22nd March to get our Under 35's meeting for coffee at the Officers Mess staying on around New Farm to mingle.

The very special 50th Anniversary of Paniyiri... now the largest Greek festival in Australia....will be held on 23rd & 24th May, and the Kytherian Association will once again have a stall on Edmondstone Street to sell some wonderful Kytherian sweets and hopefully other specialities too. We will be asking all the fantastic cooks out there to make & donate some traditional sweets, so we thank you in advance for your kindness and help.

Last, but certainly not least, we hope to have a Seniors Morning Tea in early June to do something for our older generation who we owe so much to for keeping our Kytherian heritage alive. We haven't forgotten about a long-awaited Family Picnic, but we are trying to find the best possible weekend in the cooler months.

As well as our social events, we are planning some cultural events in the mix, especially to showcase our very special Spaletta Dancing and Costumes which are a unique part of our history and heritage, as well as honouring the special Saints Day for our island's patrons. We are also starting preparations for our Gala Ball for some time in October.... this will be our Flagship event for 2026 and is always a highlight in everyone's calendar.

So please stay tuned for more information and especially look out for emails from the Association with invitations, as well as newsletters with all the details about the events and bookings.

It's very important that everyone has their membership in place to receive correspondence and stay up to date, so we are concentrating on getting lapsed memberships renewed and implementing new technology that will improve our data base records. A strong membership base will help us with feedback and planning, so we encourage everyone to join up as financial members.

On this note, we're going to reach out to other Kytherian communities around Queensland to make sure they receive information and invitations to events, as it would be wonderful if they could join us for special events, or maybe we could try to have regional events in the future. If anyone has relatives outside of Brisbane, or even local ones who haven't joined as members, please encourage them to do so by going to the Membership section of the website and following the instructions.

The committee are looking forward to serving all of the members of the Kytherian community and especially to welcoming as many of you as possible at coming events.

Thanks & Kind Regards,

Elena Collivas

For any enquiries/correspondence, please contact the Secretary, John Stavrou
Kytherian Association of Queensland
PO Box 5219, West End Qld 4101
Email: admin@kytheraqld.org.au Ph: 0433 183 276

9TH FEBRUARY - UNESCO “WORLD GREEK LANGUAGE DAY”

November 2025 saw the declaration by UNESCO of February 9th as “World Greek Language Day” in recognition and honour of the global contribution of the Greek language for over 4000 years to the development of world culture. Ancient and Modern Greek have been an integral part of the historical development of many disciplines such as Democracy, Science, Literature, Philosophy, Arts & Theatre as well as having modern relevance in all fields of Medicine and Mathematics.

This date was chosen to coincide with the memorial of the death of Dionysios Solomos, the famous Greek Poet, who wrote the Hymn to Liberty- the poem that became the Greek National Anthem, with words that still stir emotion many generations later.

Australia co-sponsored the resolution as there are over 500 thousand people of Greek descent who call this country home, so Greek is the 6th most common language spoken and an important component of our Multicultural society.

Celebrations were held around the world by Greek community organisations and members of the Diaspora, with local events planned in Melbourne, Sydney & Perth and with representatives from other parts of Australia in attendance.

This world-wide recognition is something all Greeks can be immensely proud of, and it is a reminder to all of us here in Australia to try to keep the language alive in our families and communities as a way for us all to stay connected to our wonderful heritage and culture.




 THE KYTHERIAN ASSOCIATION OF QUEENSLAND

Enter 2026 with our first event!

Join us as the sun dips into the Ionian Sea for relaxed welcome drinks – sip and mingle as we kick off for a

Kythera Summer Social

Catch up with friends, make new ones, or perhaps meet someone who believes in island magic!

COST: \$60 PER PERSON
INCLUDING CANAPES & GREEK MUSIC
COMPLIMENTARY WELCOME COCKTAIL FOR FINANCIAL MEMBERS

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2026
 FROM 7.00PM

EVENT SUITE - THE LORD STANLEY HOTEL
 994 STANLEY STREET EAST, EAST BRISBANE
 STAIR ACCESS ONLY - PLENTY OF FREE PARKING AVAILABLE

RSVP 17TH FEBRUARY 2026
LIMIT OF 160 TICKETS - THIS WILL SELL OUT

BOOKINGS THROUGH “MAGAZI” AT WWW.KYTHERAQLD.ORG.AU/SHOP
 WHEN BOOKING, PLEASE NOTIFY US OF YOUR DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

BECOME A FINANCIAL MEMBER AND YOUR FIRST DRINK IS ON US!
NOT A FINANCIAL MEMBER YET? REGISTER [HERE](#)



**PLEASE SCAN QR CODE TO BUY
YOUR TICKETS!**



Kythera Summer Social - Prize List

TICKETS - \$10 each/3 for \$20/6 for \$40/9 for \$60/12 for \$80/15 for \$100

**\$2,000 Lamborghini chauffeur driven experience
(Donated by Halo Motors)**

**\$500 LSKD Voucher
(Donated by Macauley Ryan - LSKD)**

**\$200 iPlay Vouchers + 2 x \$130 Kingston Park Raceway Adrenaline
Pack - \$460 value (Donated by John and Angela Sophios)**

**\$390 Photography session package + 2 photography prints
(Donated by Leanne Stamatellos Photography)**

**\$300 Voucher - At Hellenika/SK Steak & Oyster or Sushi Room
(Donated by St Albans Group)**

**\$299 Voucher - Women's beauty treatment
(Donated by Bobbie Charles Skin & Cosmetic Clinic)**

**\$135 flower arrangement (Donated by Perrotts Florist) + \$100 New
Farm Seafood (Donated by Michael Hatzifotis) - \$235 Value**

**\$200 Whisky Tasting Experience at Cobbler Bar
(Donated by Cobbler Bar)**

**\$200 Women's Beauty/Wellness package
(Donated by McDonalds Pharmacy)**

**\$150 Yeerongpilly Green Prize Pack - including \$50 Mad Fish
Voucher + \$100 Jessica James Hairdressing voucher**

**\$100 Seasonal Harvest Hamper
(Donated by Big Michael's Fruit and Vegetables)**

UPCOMING EVENTS!

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

FROM 9AM

**FREE COFFEE FOR ALL
KAQ MEMBERS**

OFFICER'S MESS, NEW FARM



Next Gen Morning Coffee

Join us for a Sunday morning get-together, for coffee and pastries. Catch up with old friends or make some new ones!



Feel free to contact James on 0406 757 157 if you need any more information

UPCOMING EVENTS!

CALLING ALL CHEFS FOR...

SWEET DONATIONS FOR KAO PANIYIRI STALL

We would like to call on our members for donations of non-refrigerated sweets. While all donations are gratefully accepted, the following are preferred:

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



PLEASE CONTACT ELENA COLLIVAS ON
0417 707 632 TO REGISTER

KYTHERIAN SPALETTA DANCES AND LEGACY

On the 15th November 2025, the Kytherian Association of Queensland proudly held a very successful Spaletta Dance with over 400 guests, ranging in age from 8 months to 93 years. Several generations of family members and friends came together to enjoy a very special night.



The highlight of course, was the performance of a group of young Kytherian dancers, wearing the traditional Spaletta Costumes that were specially made for the Association in the 1980's. The dancers were taught traditional Kytherian & Greek choreography by our resident dancing teacher Aspasia Poteri (also a Life Member for her years of contributions to the Kytherian Community) and assisted by Chrisanthe Comino- Stutz. A great night was had by all the attendees, with many commenting on how wonderful it was to have a family orientated event that not only honoured the Kytherian heritage but also brought all age groups together to celebrate their ancestry.



The Spaletta Dances have always been the highlight of the calendar year for Kytherian families and their history in Queensland dates back to the early 1960's, although regular Dances were held earlier without the **traditional** costumes. We were very fortunate that 6 very special senior Kytherians from the 1961 Spaletta Dance were able to attend in October..... Irene Maras (nee Feros), Maria Masselos (nee Feros), Erene Rossetti (nee Pisanos), Phillip Feros, James Pisanos and Peter Samios. A set of mannequins displayed some of the older costumes that were proudly kept by some of the Dancers for all those years, and the Samios family also brought along a wonderful photo montage from the 1960's for everyone to enjoy.. and spot their many relatives!

These early Dances attracted families from all over Queensland and Northern New South Wales as parents were very eager for their young families to mix with other Kytherians and to learn the traditional dances and music that was so important to help maintain their Greek culture as part of the Diaspora in Australia. Many Greeks from other areas also joined the Dancing Group and came to these important events as they were some of the largest held in Brisbane Greek Community. It was said that many a fine “match” was made at these Dances under the watchful eye of the parents, so they served not only to bring the community together for cultural reasons, but also for social connections and to help young people find their partners in an era when dating was limited to say the least.



As well as performing at the Spaletta Dance last November, some of the dancers also performed at the Community Day for the University of Queensland’s Nostoi/Homecomings Exhibition and Stories of the Ionian Island Diaspora in Queensland. This Study was conducted over several years, aided by representatives from several Associations, including the lovely Marie-Christine Sourris who spoke on the opening night of the importance of honouring the bonds to homeland felt by so many of the descendants of the first set of migrants, even several generations later.



These bonds of heritage and culture are something we aim to maintain and preserve for future generations and of course are some of the main objectives of the Kytherian Association of Queensland, at the very heart of its Constitution. We are very fortunate to have a special set of Spaletta Costumes, which are the traditional historic outfits from the island of Kythera, although their roots can be traced back to Cretan influence. These costumes need care, maintenance and special storage, so it is crucial that we take every step to preserve them as part of our culture and heritage.

Therefore we hope to raise some funds this year for their preservation and hopefully offer more dance classes for the younger Kytherians to wear these beautiful costumes and learn the traditional dances from our island and other parts of Greece as well.