

**LILY . NAP . CARAHALIOU**

**GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SYDNEY AND NSW  
SCHOOLS HISTORY (1928-2010)**



**Sydney 2010**

## **Dedicated to the G.O.C Teachers**

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LAKEMBA, N.S.W., 2195, AUSTRALIA

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**A BRIEF RETROSPECTION IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF N.S.W  
AFTERNOON & SATURDAY SCHOOLS**



Preface

The Greeks who arrived in Australia, during the mid of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were only a few individuals scattered in the vast continent.

As the members of the new comers were increased by the end of the century having within their soul the political spirit of the Hellenes and the notion of the communal decree; thus, in 1898, they agreed to establish the Greek Orthodox Community in Sydney of N.S.W..

Their aims were to cover all those social, national and cultural needs which were considered as prime priorities in their first country, Greece.

Undoubtedly, the existence of the Greek Community played a significant role, improving the conditions of life and mainly it gave them the place where they could meet one another, exchange of experience, reference of personal recollections, a friendly place for activities and services to the vast community and a refuge from the then racist society of the new country.

With the increasing of the Greeks in Sydney and the establishment of families and births, it was developed the need of the promotion of the Greek language, as well the Orthodox faith, knowledge of the History of Greece and the culture of Hellenism. Those were all the elements which consists the identity of a Greek and which are the necessary links of the past and the future, the hope of the repatriation to the motherland.

Taking in consideration that the presence of the Greek element in Australia was noted in the mid of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was only in the beginning of the 1928 that the idea for the establishment of a Greek school was decided. Since then it was up to the parents to teach their children the Greek language speaking it at home, or with a private tutor.

Thus, a committee was formed in order to create afternoon classes for the teaching of the language, under the aegis of the Greek Orthodox Community. Members of that committee were originally members of the older Greek

Organizations and Brotherhoods, such as Castelorizian, Kytherian and Lesvos Island Brotherhood.

The persons who initiated the idea of that committee were members of the then small Greek colony, such as Lalas' family, Stamelatos, Cominos, Mporopoulos, Kavalines, and Alex Grivas, who took the initiative, also, to erect the first Greek Orthodox Church of Holy Trinity in Bourke St., Sydney.

In the following minutes is written the resolution of the formation of the Education Committee of the Greek Orthodox Community and the names of the participated Brotherhoods.

«Minutes 27<sup>th</sup>

Sydney, February 15-1928

After the resolution of the last meeting of the G.O.C. the following persons were invited to a meeting by the committee of the G.O.C. at the Church of Holy Trinity at 8.00pm.

M.Stamelatos, S.Grivas, P. Soteropoulos, K.Kasimatis, N.Bailos,[Cominos, Th.Alefieris,G.Mporopoulos, G.Kalligeros],  
D.Lalas.Chr.Saflekis,K.Kavalines,George Lianos, Ev.Stavrianos, Sot.Drouzas, Menas Mpenardos, Yiannis Mavrokefalos, Vasil.Zavoyiannis, Mrs.Dim.Lalas and Miss Evanthea Vergou.

In the opening of the meeting, Mr.V.Zavoyiannis suggested the following:

The formation and the establishment of a Greek Educational Association under the guardianship and supervision of the Greek Orthodox Community, according to the second article, second paragraph of the constitution of the G.O.C. and that the Association shall be governed by a special constitution.

I was, also, resolved that the governing of the Association shall undertake a twelve member committee and be elected as following:

Three members of the Greek Orthodox Community of N.S.W., one member from Kytherian Association, one from the Castelorizian and one from the Lesvos Island Brotherhood. The rest six members shall be elected from the members of the Association.

The provisional committee for the preliminary work for the formation and establishment of the Educational Association was consisted by C.Karvelis, Em.Mavromatis, Vas.Zavoyiannis, G.Lianos, Ev.Stavrianos, S.Kyriazis, V.Charalambatos, K.Kasimatis and AL.Grivas.

It was, also, resolved that the General Meeting to be called for Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> of March 1928 for the purpose of the establishment of the Educational Association, calling all those interest and willing to assist to the formation of the Association.

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

The  
General Secretary

President

M.Stamelatos  
A.Grivas

Vice President  
Treasurer

G.Mporopoulos  
P.K.Sotiropoulos

Members

Th.Alifieris

G.Kalligeros

V.Georgopoulos

K.Kasimatis»

## **THE G.O.C. GREEK AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY SCHOOLS**

### **UP TO 1970**

The first teacher in the G.O.C. school was Miss Evanthea Vergou. For the period after the Second World War derived some information by the minutes of the G.O.C and by some publications of the « Hellenic Herald», newspaper, referring to various activities of the schools, since at the time the Archdiocese was not operating independently and each archbishop was salaried employee of the Greek Orthodox Community, according to its constitution.

In the meanwhile the G.O.C. has established one more church, the Cathedral Church of the Divine Wisdom (Hagia Sophia), which has a hall next to the church, for social and educational functions.

Reading the minutes of 1945 in the afternoon schools there were 215 students, more specific 140 at St. Sophia, 60 students at Kensington and 15 at Parramatta.

In the newspaper « Hellenic Herald», issue 16.12.1948 there is a message of the archbishop, Theophylactos for the oncoming Christmas and also reference of a Christmas fete organized by the teachers Anargyros Fatseas, Kateris Nicholas and Evanthea Vergou, in the presence of the Greek Consul in Sydney.

In 1950 the G.O.C. opens a new school at Bellevue Hills and there was, also, a resolution for a night opened school.

The newspaper « Hellenic Herald», in its issue 21.12.1950 praises the teachers of G.O.C. for their devoted teaching of Greek language to the young Greek generation in Australia. Those teachers were A.Fatseas, V.Livissianis, Miss E.Vergou, F.Christodoulou and Mrs.Vasiliadou.

In a Greek publication in London, under the name "KRIKOS": Greek Review, on page 35 there is a reference to the Hellenist in Australia and does a mention of the teacher, Mr. Anargyros Fatsea, from Potamos of Kythera, who came to Australia in 1924 and for eleven years(1944-1955) was coordinator in the schools of the G.O.C. of Sydney and he, also, published a book with the title "Grammar of the Modern Greek Language" with a Greek-English vocabulary.

In 1955 Mr. Fatseas participated in a companied meeting of the Educational Committee with the teachers, just before the commencing of the new academic year. At that time the members of the Schools Committee were:

President: Dionysis Koutsakos,

Secretary: D.Pelelis

Treasurer: N.Aronis Member: P.Gerontakos

According to the Constitution of the Greek Orthodox Community the Schools Committee must always consists of five members, who are, also, members of the Executive Committee; however it was considered that the members of the Schools Committee must be increased to five. For that purpose, it was proposed to invite the highly esteemed Mrs. M.Papatzanatea to fill the position.

The meetings usually took place at the classroom at St. Sophia, but the meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1955 was to be held at the office of Castelorizaian Brotherhood, at 1.00-3.00pm, so she would be able to attend it.

At the above meeting, Mrs. Papatzanatea motioned for three meetings to be held: one meeting with the educational personnel, one with his eminent archbishop Mr. Theophylackos and a third one with the Consul General of

Greece. She, also, motioned for the establishment of Sunday Schools (Catechetic). All her motions were granted.

In the meeting of the 12.07.1955, the teachers expressed the need of school books to meet the needs of our children in Australia and the lack of maps and other teaching material. It was, also, pointed out the need of a common school curriculum for all the G.O.C. schools.

By the end of the school year 1955(23 November 1955) a new Educational Committee was elected. The new members were:

President: M.Vidalis

Secretary: N.Aronis

Treasurer: H.Tadtsisis

Members: Stamatiadis and Mrs. A.Vasiliadou

However, the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1955 a new committee was formed as follows:

President: H.Tadtsisis

Secretary: Mrs. A.Vasiliadou

Treasurer: N.Aronis

Members: K.Stamatiadis and K.Antoniou

At the end of each school year exams were taken place before the teachers and the Schools Committee and those students who achieved high marks, they were given presents as awards.

The new school year 1956 commenced with a meeting of the Schools Committee to evaluate the applications of the teachers. However, since there were many spelling and syntax errors on the applicants' papers, it was resolved to employ only the qualified female teachers. Those teachers were Mrs. Xynou, Mrs. Klonaris, Mrs. Evangellinidis and Mrs. Paschalidis.

It was, also, resolved to stop the summer Holidays payments to those teachers who were employed for more than five years, in advise of the lawyer consultant of G.O.C.

At the beginning of this school year there were performed three meetings in order to settle school matters. At the last meeting, 10.12.1956, was decided in many discussions the way of celebrations of the Greek Independence Day, 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821.

After the celebrations of 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821, Mrs. Evangellinidis and Xynou resigned in protesting of not receiving the previous summer holidays payments. The School Committee promised them to restore the pay, when the funds of the G.O.C. will be healthier.

There was, also, a discussion on the matter of the teachers' qualifications and the need of the teachers' appointment as permanent staff, something that the Committee could not agree with, since it was necessary to employ, always, teachers with the most qualifications.

As far as the teaching hours, it was settled to 25 hours per week, instead of the previous 30.

The two vacant positions were filled by Mrs. Irine Pavlou for the school at Kensington and Mr. Savvopoulos for the central school (St. Sophia).

The main thing that worries most governments and Associations is the lack of funds in order to operate more efficient.

The Schools Committee, in order to rise funds for the needs of the schools began to organize Saturday evening dances and annual balls. For that purpose friends and members of the Greek press began to organize seminars and lectures, for example Mr. Paschalidis, to assist the treasury of G.O.C.

The most popular places for the balls were Paddington Town Hall or the Sydney Conservatorium.

In the ball which took place at Paddington Town Hall the net profit was 137 pounds and 175 shillings. It was, also, decided for another ball to be held at Pick Wick Club, for the wealthier Greeks of Sydney, suggested by Mr. Aronis.

It was, also, discussed to approach the Castelorizian Brotherhood to maintain its financial assistance since it was the first organisation which suggest the idea for the Greek Language teaching in N.S.W and also, to approach Mr. Karavousianos for his financial assistance, as he has done in the past.

The two teachers who resigned sent a letter of complain to the Schools Committee in order to restore the truth made its answer public.

At that time the Schools Committee decided to send a memorandum to the Greek Education Department, asking the providing of a number of books: 500 for 1<sup>st</sup> year, 250 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 200 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and 100 books for each year (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>).

The same period efforts were made by Mr. Aronis and Mr. Andronikos to obtain a classroom for the teaching of Greek language at Redfern Public School.

The minister for Education, Mr. Heffron accepted the request of the G.O.C. under the terms of the teaching of the Greek language and culture, but not that of religion.

At the same time more schools began to operate at Maroubra, Pagewood and Leichardt. For teaching at the Redfern Greek school was employed Mrs. P.Sakellariou.

The ball at the Pick Wick Club was decided to take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1956 with one pound entry in the form of invitation. Five hundred invitations were printed and the only free invitations were sent to the Greek General Consul, his secretary and to the newspaper publishers, Mr. Grivas and Mr. Nikolaidis.

The Redfern Greek School began to operate and the number of students reached sixty.

For the preparation of the 28<sup>th</sup> of October celebrations it was noted to be under consideration, the following:

1. The day has been accepted by all Hellenes as a second National Day.
2. That the period of 1940 was not less important, that the similar moments of the History of Greece, because of the sacrifices of our armed forces and the Greek people in general.
3. The events which took place are recent and many of us have lived during that period.
4. At that war Australians fought side by side with our soldiers and that is very important for the relationship between Greece and Australia.

For these and many more other reasons the celebrations must be performed with the proper seriousness.

At that meeting the teacher, Mr. Savvopoulos suggested to print students reports and every three months to inform parents for the progress of their children and also at the end of the year a final certificate, charging each pupil with one shilling.

The classroom of St. Sophia was rented to the AHEPA Organisation for its meetings with a fee of three pounds for each meeting.

In order to raise more funds, as possible, for the needs of the schools, it was resolved that each church shall grant one shilling in the pound from any sacrament which was performed at the churches.

The School Committee received a letter of complain by the principal of the Kensington Public School regarding the poor behaviour of the Greek pupils in the afternoon classes.

The teachers of that school, Mrs. Pavlou and Mrs. Klonaris defended that this was happening by other nationality's students, who were using the classrooms at different days.

In reference to the incident to the behaviour of the children at Kensington Public School, Mr. Aronis had a discussion with the principal of the school and he concluded that it was a matter of misunderstanding on the part of the principal and the matter was settled.

The Schools Committee informed the teachers that every three months it will be appointed a different person responsible to look after the children's behaviour in the classrooms.

Mrs. K.Paschalidis suggested an excursion to be organized at the beginning of the next school year. The motion was passed.

The ball of the 5<sup>th</sup> August did not have good financial success due to the poor attendance.

The G.O.C. sent an appreciation letter to the Education minister, Mr. Heffron and to Mr. Andronikos for his Endeavour in reference to the grant of the classroom at Redfern Public School.

During the 1962 school year the Schools Committee was composed by the following persons:

President Mr. D.Tsigris, Secretary Mr. Bollas, Vice President Mr.T.Papachristou, Treasurer

Mr. D.Bouas and Member Mr. M.Kampouris.

In the minutes of the 9.01.1962 meeting in reference to the rules and regulations for the operation of the G.O.C. schools it states the following:

1. The register of the pupils must be completed with the best attention and care.
2. The pupils must be punctual, so the lessons can start on time.

3. The teachers must follow the schools curriculum and must be well prepared for the teaching.
4. The teachers must have special text books for teaching.
5. In case of missing a class the teachers have to inform the office of the G.O.C. not late than 13.00pm
6. The teachers must attend every meeting with the Schools Committee.
7. The teaching staff must attend and assist in all the events that the G.O.C. is organizing.
8. The pupils of every school must attend Sunday mass at least once a month.
9. When a pupil is registered must produce the previous year certificate.
10. No pupil shall be registered unless brings the past year certificate.

The qualified teachers, having more than 3 years service in the G.O.C. schools have a raise. The weekly hours for the teachers are to be 25 and in case of a transfer to another school, the teacher should not object to it.

Any person wishing to be employed as a teacher should show evidence of experience and proper qualifications and finally should have an interview with the schools committee (Taken from the minutes of 26/01/1962, where there is written, also, the employment as teachers of Mrs. Aik. Efstathopoulou, Kleopatra Patrikareas and Athanasia Tsakiris.

The celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821 should take the following steps (extract from minutes of the 26/01/1962 meeting): The celebration should be done in two stages: firstly, during the day, parade of the school pupils and placement of wreaths in the cenotaph. It is, also, noted that the entire teaching staff should be present at both events.

During the school year of 1962 it is written in the minutes that the G.O.C operates twenty schools included three schools that were opened that year. Those three schools were Mascot, Maroubra and Bourke St. It was also, suggested for financial reasons to closed down the schools at Auburn, because there were only nine pupils and also to amalgamate the schools of Gladesville and Drummoyne and that of Redfern and Kensigton. This motion did not pass.

I was decided to employ the newly ordained priest Mr. M.Antoniou, 22/07/1962 in order to preach the Greek Orthodox faith to the GOC school

pupils. His weekly salary was 12 pounds, plus 8 pounds as travelling expenses, since he had the task of controlling the operation of all schools of the G.O.C. in the vast area of Sydney.

Ever since the Greek language began to be taught at the afternoon hours it was realized that the pupils needed more help, especially at home and also, since the lessons started after the morning mainstream school, the children used to be late and also tired. Therefore it was decided to form a committee at each school with the aim to bring parents, teachers and children closer.

Below is set the dates where parents and teachers' meetings were taken place for the above purpose:

Schools: Leichardt, 7<sup>th</sup> October, Newtown-Erskville: beginning of October, Redfern, end of October, Chatswood, not set date, Crown and Bourke St. at the beginning of November, Glebe end of November. Randwick in October, St. Sophia at the end of school year, Annandale-Rozelle in November and Kensington at the end of November.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 1962 at the school of St. Sophia it was set the programme for the 28<sup>th</sup> of October celebration as following: Parade of all school children except those who live in a distance, reciting of poems, one male pupil from the school of Leichardt, one female pupil from the Randwick school and one male student from the Crown St. school. Responsible for the parade was appointed Mrs. Mpelegrinou.

At the same time it was set out the date for the end of the school year to be held on Sunday, 9 December 1962, at 2.30pm, at the Lawson cinema-theater at Redfern.

In order to have a solid proof of the knowledge of the Greek language and culture obtained by the students, they were undergone a test at the end of each school year for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

In the school year 1963 the number of the students at Newtown reached seventy nine. The G.O.C. received a signed petition of one hundred persons requesting for a new school to be open at Balmain and Ashfield.

According of any reduction of school fees the persons in concern ought to submit an application. This privilege is in force till now.

During the Easter festive pupil from various schools participated in carrying the Epitaph I every church of the G.G.O.

As far as the public holidays pay concern in a document of the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1963 it notifies that the teachers who are employed part time only, are not entitled to any holiday pay, but at the end of each school year they receive two weeks salary as holiday payment and one week extra as Christmas gift.

All the relevant information regarding the school staff has been taken from the written regulations and planning for the G.O.C. schools.

The school year of 1964 began as following: All schools twenty two in number should be stay as in the past, the twenty three staff members plus one schools inspector shall increased by three more teachers.

The meeting of all candidates for the vacant positions it will take place at the office of the G.O.C. on the 26/01/1964. Responsible for the school texts was appointed the secretary of the Schools Committee.

At a meeting of 16/01/1964 at the school room of St. Sophia, the teachers agreed and signed the work contract for the New School Year 1964, the opening of another school in Newtown and the employment of a tutor for the English-Greek School.

### **STAFF EMPLOYMENT**

The engaging of persons to teach the Greek language in the G.O.C. Schools was following a strict procedure. The Schools Committee was accessing the qualifications of each applicant and the successful ones were undertaking a person to person interview with members of the Schools Committee. Those with the most qualifications were filling the vacant position and for the reminder the Committee was keeping a list in case of a future vacancy.

Those who had travel to Chatswood or Balmain they used to get ten shillings extra as travel expenses.

At the beginning of school year 1964 were employed as teachers Mrs. Joanna Talaganis, Mrs. A.Gouverou, Dimitra Kokkaliaris and Anastasia Anastasiadis. There was, also, a strong expression of interest in learning the Greek language at so early stage of migration by persons of non Greek background that it was necessary to be employed a teacher for the English-Greek school. Mrs. Manto Anastassis filled that position.

The sanctification ceremony for the all schools of G.O.C. for the school year 1964 took place at the church of St. Sophia, on 1<sup>st</sup> of March 1964.

It was decided that the school text for this year were to be sold seven shillings for the new ones and five shillings for the second hand ones.

This school year a new classroom was opened at Newtown, where Mrs. Gouverou was appointed to teach the Greek language.

O the 8/04/1964 a new Schools Committee was elected with the following members:

President: Mr. J.Dimitrakopoulos, Vice President Mr. S.Thalassinos, Secretary S.Myriantes, Treasurer Mr. K.Christodoulou and Mr. Evangelos Mpollas as member.

Due to the large member of students it was difficult to find additional classrooms and some of the existed should be relocated. This matter brought some displeasure among the teachers who had to travel to longer distance. There was, also, a demand by parents of Chatswood area to open a new school on Saturday and the cost to be passed on parents.

The school at St. Sophia's Hall needed two extra classrooms, but that was very hard to be achieved. However it was obtained a classroom at Ashfield Public School.

The greatest problem facing the Schools Committee was that of finance. There was lack of money for the teachers' payment. In order to raise more funds the Schools Committee suggested to organise bingo nights and ball nights. At that time it was suggested to have a ball night and the takings to go to the teaching staff.

However there was an increasing of the wage by one pound to those teachers who had more than five years of teaching experience. Mrs. S.Vagia was employed this year for the St. Sophia's school and for the school at Redfern Mrs. Chrysoula Kouvela.

It was decided to supply the teachers with books in History, Geography of Greece and religion, in order to assist the teachers on their task. However, it was considered that the rules and regulations should be kept according the culture and religion duties and those teachers who did not attend church masses to have their wages cut by a percentage.

In the school year of 1964, the Schools' Annual Ball took place on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1964, at Paddington Town Hall. It was decided that the male pupil who sold the most tickets to be proclaimed "King of the G.O.C. Schools" and the female student to be proclaimed "Queen of the ceremony of the 28<sup>th</sup> of October celebrations".

Person in charge to organize the 28<sup>th</sup> of October celebrations was appointed Mrs. Mastrantonis and for the wreaths lying by the students Mrs. K.Patrikareas. The main speech was delivered by Miss Talaganis.

The schools' festivities for the end of the year were to be done in two stages:

1. One festivity at every separated school for the grant of the schools' reports to the students and
2. One festivity with the participation of all the G.O.C. Schools for the decoration of Christmas tree and the grant of awards of excellence to the students.

The next school year 1965 began with the re-employment of the following teachers:

Mr. Stefandellis(Schools coordinator), Mrs.Vasiliou, Mrs.Vagia, Miss Gouverou, Mrs. Koutis, Miss Diakodimitriou, Miss Antonellou, Mrs.Efstathopoulou, Mrs.Klonaris, Mrs.Kossyva, Mrs.Koumerta, Mrs.Mastrantonis, Mrs.Pavlou, Mrs. Valaca and father M.Antoniou.

The Schools Committee reemployed Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Mpaskouta and Mrs.Kouvela and at the same time approved the resignation of Miss Kokkinis and Miss Talaganis and the closure of the Liverpool, Bankstown and the school of the Assumption of Virgin Mary. However, the school at Bankstown reopened with the teacher Miss Katsifarakis (12/04/1965) and a weekly wage of thirteen pounds and ten shillings.

In Chatchwook school was appointed as teacher Mrs.Terzis and for the school of Belmore, Mrs. Chrysoula Kouvelas. The same school year Mr.J.Vassiliou was appointed as assistant Principal for the G.O.C. Greek Schools.

In a circular of the Principal of the schools, Mr. K.Stefandellis it shows that although the number of schools reduced to seventeen, the supervision and also the implementation of the curriculum more efficiently and there are nineteen teachers teaching nine hundred and fifty students all over the Sydney region.

The students' number is considered large for that period since the mass migration reached its peak, in 1976.

Mr. Stefandellis, also, suggested dividing the schools in groups with one teacher responsible for the better function of the schools. He, also, suggested the establishing of three school libraries, one in each church: Holy Trinity, St. Sophia and at the church of The Assumption Of Virgin Mary at Redfern.

The schools Committee at that time used to hold meetings fortnightly and every problem arising was met immediately. By the end of 1965 it was necessary to look for another classroom at Alexandria, since the number of students reached sixty.

At the same time it was decided that the choir which was recently formed to begin rehearsals, each Saturday.

It is worth noting the way that the G.O.C. was approaching the Greek parents in order to boost their moral and the notion of the G.O.C. which possessed concerning the teaching of the Greek language in Australia.

The secretary of the Schools Committee, Mr. Safaris said those remarkable words: " There is need of sending the Greek youths in the Greek schools in Australia for they are the mirror of our moral and the teaching staff ought to have a direct contact with parents in order to convey that notion to those who are not so keen to send their children to the Greek schools.

During the 1966 school year the Schools Committee was as follows: President I.Dimitrakopoulos, Vice President G.Papadimitriou, Secretary Mr. K.Safaris, Members E.Tsilikounas, V.Tsoukalas, I.Mantzouranis.

For the school year of 1966 the below twenty six teachers were employed:

Mrs. F.Alexiadou at St. Sophia's school, Darlinghurst, Mrs. Koumerta at the same school, Mrs. Mpelegrinou at Crown St. High School, also, Mrs. Patrikareas and Mr.D.Panagiotopoulos Mrs. Mastrantonis at Randwick, Mrs. Klonaris at Kensington, Mrs. Efstathopoulou at Maroubra, Mrs. S.Vagia at the Assumption, Mrs. Diakodimitriou, Antonelou at Redfern, Mrs. Livisianis at Erskineville Greek School, Mrs. Koutis, Mrs. Gouverou, Mrs. D.Papadopoulou and Miss Katsifarakis at Newtown, Mrs. Valaca at Leichardt, Mr. Balafoutis at Annadale and Balmain Greek Schools, Miss Tsimplis at Marrickville, Mrs. Tzanetis at Mascot, Mrs. Kozanitis and Mr. Mpaskoutas at Alexandria Greek Afternoon School, Mrs. Pavlou at Rozelle, Mr. Glastras at Concord, Miss P.Galelis at Ashfield, Miss Safaris three days at Chatswood and two days at Randwick and Mr. Mpaskoutas at Enmore Greek School.

During the school year of 1966 the G.O.C. Schools were divided into five groups, as Mr. K.Stefandellis was suggested. The five teachers responsible for each group were: Mrs. Klonaris, Mrs. Mpelegrinou, Mrs. Koutis, Mrs. Pavlou and Mrs. Livisianis.

The Marrickville Afternoon School reduced to three days its operation and the school of Annadale upgraded to two days operation; teacher at that school was Miss Tsimplis. At the same time the school at Ashfield reduced to three days weekly and to two days the schools at Chatswood, Concord and Balmain.

In 1966 a new school at Burwood began to operate and Miss Safaris was teaching in it and Miss P.Galelis began teaching in a new school in St. Andreas, Gledesville.

It was decided for an inspection of all schools during April, preparations for the 25<sup>th</sup> of March Ball and, also, it was suggested the display of a movie for students, parents and teachers.

During the schools' inspection the Principal noted a number of inefficiencies:

1. The teachers did not have completed the students register.
2. The supervision of each school was operating insufficiently and there was need of replacing, especially those of Erskinville and Kensington.
3. The schools of Rosselle and Arnecliffe needed classrooms, because after some accusations the Department of Education ceased to grant classrooms in those Public schools.
4. Related to the Liverpool Greek School there was the need of a larger classroom and the rent was five pounds weekly.
5. Mrs. Klonaris was returning to Greece permanently and there was a need of replacement and also it was suggested to grant her as present one weekly payment.
6. There was evidence that there is a need of opening a new school at Tempe.
7. For the school at Enmore a classroom was obtained.
8. Mrs.Klonaris was replaced by Mrs.Vasiliki Rorris.

Significant resolutions were taken in order to publish a circular promoting with the schools activities, the number of schools, the students number, and operation days of each school, students' photos, curriculum, comments and suggestions of important persons and also motions of teaching the Greek language in Public system.

During the school year 1967, Mr. K.Stefandellis demanded for a better cooperation with the teachers and an increasing of the teachers' wage. Those

who had more than five years experience received nineteen dollars raise and the rest eighteen dollars.

At that year the Newtown Greek School numbered 270 students and the Schools Committee had to employ one more teacher and also the Alexandria Greek School ceased to operate.

Mrs. Koumertas resigned her post at Crown St. School and the Schools Committee suggested to be dismissed, also, from the school at Randwick and she was replaced by Mrs.K.Patrikareas. Mrs.Antonopoulos was transferred at the Newtown Greek School (20/03/1967) and Mr. D.Panagiotopoulos had to teach in Bourke Street Greek School (29/03/1967).

The 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1967 the annual inspection of all schools took place and the teachers produced the school certificates to be signed by the Schools Committee.

The Schools Committee in a meeting (3/11/1967) passed a resolution allowing the six year old children to enroll in first grade and also the distribution to all teachers the curriculum for each grade.

The Fete for the end of the school year was to be held the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1967. Invitations were sent to all priests, to the Presidents and members of the previous years Schools Committee, the Consulate General of Greece and to members of the Press.

Searching the minutes and the archives of the G.O.C., we find applications of parents to the Schools Committee granting certificates for enrolment in schools of Greece, due to repatriation of Greek migrants.

The large number of students in the G.O.C. schools, the establishment of the degree and the love of everything, which reminded Greece developed the need for extra school year, which began its operation the following 1968. Thus we see the establishment of High Schools within the Greek Community of N.S.W.

At that time there is a change in the formation of the Schools Committee which consisted of four members: President K.Safaris, Secretary S.Skylakos, Members Kypros Iordanou and K.Tsoukatos.

At the beginning of each school year it was noted a companied meeting of the Schools Committee, the Schools Coordinator and the President of G.O.C. Executive Committee.

At the meeting for the School year 1968, on 19<sup>th</sup> January the subjects under discussion were the completion of the Schools Regulations, the school fees for the unprivileged and parents with over three children, teachers' replacement, and approval of applications for reemployment and employment of new teachers.

Also, it was approved the free distribution of school texts. However the students ought to pay five shillings for each printed work and the school fees were the same as last year.

All children attended the G.O.C. Schools at the end of each school year ought to undergo a test and the successful students obtained a certificate of graduation.

It, also, resolved the operation of St.Andreas church Greek School, at Gladesville and as a teacher was appointed the reverent father P.Mpaskoutas.

For the school of Concord it was defined that in order to be run by the G.O.C., it has to have around fifty students. Otherwise the school shall be run by a local parents committee, with the support of G.O.C.

This school year ended smoothly and the Fete for the end of the school year it was set to be held the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. There was, also, a complain on the teachers' side, regarding their pay being low for so many years, without a rise. The Schools Committee informed the teachers that the financial situation of the G.O.C. is not the best at the moment and promised to bring up the matter to the Executive Committee for a satisfactory settlement.

For the beginning of the school year 1969 it was organized a school excursion at Kurnell on 16/02/1969 with the participation of parents, teachers and students.

In July (03/07/1969) Mr.K.Safaris resigned his position as President of the Schools Committee and his post was filled by Mr.Skylakos, Secretary V.Eliadis and E.Anestis as a member.

At that period Mr.Stefandellis holds his position as Schools Coordinator and they were teaching Miss P.Galelis, Mrs. D.Papadopoulos, Mrs.Papandreou, Mr.P.Mpalafoutis, Mrs.M.Kefalos, Mr.D.Panagiotopoulos, Mrs.Th.Mpilinis, father P.Mpaskoutas, Mrs.S.Tsoukatos, Mrs.S.Vagia and Mr.D.Danias.

At that time the G.O.C. received an invitation by the Kefallenian Brotherhood to participate at its annual ball and G.O.C. Committee took the opportunity to entrust the teacher Mr.D.Panagiotopoulos with the task to establish a dance group, the first one from what it is known, since Mrs.Paroula Galelis-Thurban had not have been discovered yet.

There was a need to find an extra classroom for the Rozelle Greek School.

Students of the G.O.C. Schools this year had made a cloth appeal for the village in Greece, Krya Brysi Pellas. In response the named community expressing its gratitude to the students proclaimed those participated to the appeal as citizens of the village.

**LIST OF THE AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY SCHOOLS OF THE G.O.C.  
SINCE 1970 TILL TODAY**

Schools in operation during the School Year 1987:

**Afternoon schools**

31. Ashbury
32. Ashfield
33. Belmore North
34. Blacktown
35. Camdenville
36. Connell's Point
37. Campsie Harcourt
38. Clemton Park
39. Croydon
40. Dulwich Hill
41. Gardeners Rd.
42. Gladesville
43. Hannan's Rd.
44. Kensington
45. Hurlston Park
46. Lewisham
47. Marrickville
48. Marrickville West
49. Marrickville Wilkins

50. Paddington
51. Pendle Hill
52. Punchbowl
53. Revesby
54. Rockdale
55. Rozelle
56. Stanmore
57. Surry Hills (Bourke St.)
58. Summer Hill
59. West Ryde
60. Belmore South

**Saturday Schools**

12. Arncliffe
13. Bas Hill
14. Chipping Norton
15. Chullora
16. Leichhardt
17. Liverpool
18. Miranda
19. Padstow Park
20. St. Clairs
21. Tempe
22. Randwick

For the period of 1970 to 1987 there is no written evidence at the minutes of the Schools Committee. Some information was given verbally by some teachers and we extend our appreciation: Mrs. Dorothea Papadopoulos, Mrs. Elizabeth Mylonas, Mr. George Parras and others.

## **CLEMTON PARK GREEK AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY SCHOOL**

The Clemton Park Afternoon and Saturday School has a history of over 36 years. It is shelter at Clemton Park Public School, Bexley Road, and operates Monday to Thursday, between 3.30-5.30 pm, Friday for the High School, 4.15-6.15pm and on Saturday, between 9.30am-12.30pm.

It was established in 1975 and in the Primary classes there were 120 students and since 1978, 25 students were enrolled in High school classes, studying Greek Language, Culture, Greek History and Geography of Greece.

In the Saturday school there were more than 40 students. All these years the soul and heart of Clemton Park School is Mrs. Dora Papadopoulou. During the years a member of teachers worked with zeal and effectiveness. Those teachers were Mrs. Kassiotis for eleven consecutive years, Mrs. F.Rothintsis for two years, Mrs. Maria Aravantinos-Belerhas, Mr.George Stefanidis five years and during the 90's Mr.Yiannis Ginis. Besides the period 1990-2010 were teaching Mrs. Elizabeth Mylonas, Mrs. Mary Kazantzis, Mrs. Dina Darakis, Mr. George Parras and many more for short terms. These days in 2009-2010 are enrolled 185 students in the Afternoon School and 56 in the Saturday.

In the Afternoon School also worked: Mrs. Georgia Bavelis and Mrs. Lily Carahaliou appointed by the Education Office of the Greek Consulate in Sydney to teach in the High School, every Friday. Mrs. Chryssa Papaefthymiou and Mrs. Eve Parthenis were teaching in Clemton Park. In the present time in the Saturday school are teaching Mrs. Elizabeth Mylonas, Mrs. Mary Kazantzis, Mrs. Dina Darakis and Mrs. Vasiliki Karvelas.

After the lessons, Mrs.Paroula Thurban is teaching Greek traditional and contemporary dances, a complementary offer to all GOC students in two groups:

Primary School Age: 11.30-12.30pm, High School Age: 12.30-13.30pm.

## **BEVERLY HILLS NORTH GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

It was established by the G.O.C. in cooperation with local parents, during the school year 2004. At first there were 25 students, age 5-12 and the teachers were Mrs. Poppy Papantoniou and Mrs. Chryssa Papaefthymiou. The following year the students were in number the same and they were teaching Mrs. Xanthoula Sgouras and Mrs. Lily Carahaliou.

During the school year of 2007 an extra teacher was added, Mrs. Soula Giannarou.

During the school year of 2009 the number of students raised to 45 and the teachers are: Mrs. Mavrantonis, Mrs. Darakis and Mrs.V.Alexandropoulou from the Education Office of the Greek Consulate in Sydney.

The school operates every Monday and Wednesday 3.30 pm-5.30pm. Every Wednesday at 5.30pm-6.30pm Mrs. Paroula Therban is teaching Greek dance lessons to the pupils of the schools of the G. O. C., compliments of the G. O. C.

### **GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL HANNAN'S ROAD RIVERWOOD**

The school was established in 1970 by the G. O. C. in cooperation with parents of neighbouring suburbs, Riverwood- Punchbowl – Peakhurst.

The number of pupils was around 30.

Teachers from time to time were: Mrs.Dina Darakis, Mr George Bahas, Mrs D.Bahas, Mr. George Parras and Mrs Lily Carahaliou.

In the school year of 2006 there were 17 pupils all up, with Mrs Lily Carahaliou and Vana Alexandropoulou as teachers, each Tuesday and Thursday. In the school year of 2007 there was only one teacher Mrs Lily Carahaliou having 16 pupils. In the school year of 2009 there was a movement to amalgamate low numbered pupils schools and the pupils of Hannan's Road school were enrolled at Beverly Hills North G. O. C. Afternoon School.

In general, the pupils were shown interest in various activities such as poetry, songs, plays, dancing and less in the learning of the Greek language. At the same time young parents of Greek back ground seems to be very keen in enrolling their children in the Greek afternoon or Saturday schools of the G. O. C. of N. S. W.

### **SOUTH STRATFIELD GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

This school was established in the year of 2006 and there were 21 enrolments of pupils who lived in suburbs of Strathfield, Enfield and Belfield. There were three different levels of pupils in one classroom having two teachers, Mr G.

Stefanidis and Mrs Lily Carahaliou. The school still is in operation every Friday at 3.30pm.-5.30pm.

In the school year of 2007 things were improved having a large classroom with teachers, Mr G. Stefanidis and G. Lazaridis. During the school year of 2009 there are 18 pupils having two teachers Mrs. Mary Kalantzis and Mrs. Helen Yannakoulis.

### **Mc CALLUM'S HILL GREEK AFTERNOONSCHOOL**

The afternoon school of Mc Callum's Hill was established the decade of 1970 - 1980 at Mc Callum's Hill P/S Roselands. First teacher was Mr G. Parras which later became school coordinator for many years. At the present the school operates Monday to Thursday 3.30pm-5.30pm and on Friday 4.00pm- 7.00pm.

In the school year of 2006 there were about 95 students, 15 of them in high school level. In 2008 there were two teachers, Mrs Rita Keleskehayias and Mr.Tasos Haralampidis.

In the school year of 2009 the number of students was reduced considerably to 24 and 9 of them at high school level. There is now only one teacher Mrs Vasiliki Karvela.

Every Monday 7.00pm-8.00pm, Mrs Paroula Thurban was given Greek dancing lessons. The afternoon school of Mc Callum's Hill, many times has represent the Department of Education of the Greek Orthodox Community in many cultural functions such as, in 2004 in the Olympic Torch Relay, in school competitions, in festivals and always with great success.

### **CONNELL'S POINT GREEK AFTERNOON SHOOL**

The school was established in mid 1984 and began to operate properly in 1985 having a small number of pupils with Mrs Soula Tsilimos as teacher.

Very soon the number of pupils was increased. The school was operating Monday to Thursday for primary classes and on Fridays for high school classes. The teachers who worked there from time to time were: Mrs Elisavet Mylonas, Mrs Tasia Kostopoulos, Mrs Dina Darakis, Mr Tasos Haralambidis, Mrs Rita Keleskehayia, Mr George Parras and teachers from the Education Office of the

Greek Consulate in Sydney. The school through the years took part in many activities of the G. O. C.

At the same time there was in operation 3 groups of Greek dancing classes, (2 groups for junior classes and one for seniors), with dancing instructor Mrs Soula Tsilimos. There was also established a chorus which performed in every event of the G. O. C.

From time to time the members of chorus was staged plays and puppet shows at the premises of the G. O. C. Pupils of Connell's Point school were delivering the speech for the 25<sup>th</sup> of March (Greek National Day) at the Opera House having great success.

Pupils of the school have been awarded first prizes in various competitions and painting exhibitions, in the competition of public speech, scholarships for studies in Greece, Minister's Award, Solomos Awards et cetera.

Each year, at the school grounds, parents, teachers and pupils are organizing Greek Nights, which are including Greek delicacies, Greek music, dancing, singing and they all feel as being a big family.

During the school years of 2006-2007 the school of Connell's Point had a number of sixty six (66) pupils and the teachers involved were: Mrs Soula Tsilimos, Mrs Christina Tzouramanis, Mrs Xanthoula Sgoura-Mavrantonis, Mrs Chrysa Papaefthimiou and Mrs Helen Voulgarakis.

The school operates Monday to Thursday at 3.30pm to 5.30pm in the premises of Connell's point P/S Riverview Ave., Connell's Point.

Each Friday there are Greek dancing classes and singing classes as well. In 2004 in the ceremony of the Olympic Torch the chorus sang, the song "See you in Athens", in Greek and in English.

### **BALD FACE -BLAKERST GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

The school of Bald Face operates in the Bald Face Public School, Stewart Street at Blakehurst and it was established by Mrs Soula Tsilimos in 1994 having a small number of pupils.

For the first two years it was operating each Saturday. Later began to operate each Friday at 3.30pm to 5.30pm. The teachers who worked there from time to time were: Mr Tasos Haralampidis and his wife Rita, Mr George Parras, Mrs

Elisabeth Mylonas, Mrs Vovou and teachers from the Education Office of the Consulate General of Greece in Sydney.

In the school year of 2006 there were 50 pupils (primary level) of all grades and the teachers involved were: Mrs Soula Tsilimos, Mrs Christina Tzouramanis, Xanthoula Sgoura- Mavrantonis, Helen Liarou and George Parras.

In 2007 there were 47 pupils and teachers were :

Mrs Soula Tsilimos, Mrs Christina Tzouramanis, Mrs Xanthoula Sgoura-Mavrantonis, Mrs Mary Kalantzis, Mr Demos Christodoulidis and Mrs Katina Pavlidou, because Mrs Tzouramanis and Mrs Sgoura resigned their post, after the second semester.

In 2009 the school has 39 pupils and the teachers involved are: Mrs Soula Tsilimos, Maria Aravantinou, Helen Voulgarakis and Mr D.Christodoulidis.

A statement released by Mrs Tsilimos says: "we worked hard all together as a team and our aim was to establish a unique school for the benefit of our pupils and the Greek Language.

Our pupils have been participate in various competitions, in painting exhibitions and have been granted with Minister's Award for their achievement in the Greek Language. We also have established a dancing group and a chorus and with the collaboration with the school of Connell's Point has been participated in various events of the G. O. C. Furthermore we have staged plays and with the cooperation of the mainstream school pupils we have organized special Greek Nights with great success.

At the present it is not practical to run dancing lessons or to have chorus. However we anticipate that the next year shall be more productive on that aspect."

### **ROCKDALE GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

It was established in 1966 and the teachers were: Mrs Vasiliki Roris and after 1970 Mrs Pelegrinis, Mrs Kiki Papanicolaou and Mrs Danikas. Since 1984 till 2003 the teachers were: Mrs Elisabeth Mylonas, for approximately 5 years and Mrs Mary Mpouhoutsos and since 2003 till 2009 teacher is Mrs Mary Kazantzis.

During the period 1991 till 2002 the school was operating on Saturdays. In the present the school has 20 pupils enrolled and operates at the Rockdale P/S Lord Street Rockdale.

The pupils were participating in all G. O. C. events and in the public speech competition which took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2005 the nine year old student Julia Spyrou won the third prize in her category. The same student represented Rockdale Public school in the public speaking competition Multicultural Perspectives, Saint George District Finals, on the 08/06/ 2005.

The student Anthony Sansonios was awarded as Highly Commended in the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement, Community Languages School for Students of the year 2005.

### **KYEEMAGH GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

The Greek Afternoon School of Kyeemagh was established in 1997 by Mrs. Elisabeth Mylonas, a teacher of the Greek schools of Sydney in cooperation of the friendly parents of the Kyeemagh Infants Public School.

The school of Kyeemagh is small in number of pupils but operates as a team with teacher, parents and pupils. In the mainstream school there are pupils enrolled in the lower classes but in the Afternoon Greek School pupils are enrolled from kindergarten to year six. In 2003 there were the first graduates who started school in 1997.

At the present time there are 36 pupils learning the Greek Language and the school operates 2 days per week for each level.

Mrs. Elisabeth Mylonas is the teacher of the school with an experience of 36 years and who is equipped with love for the Greek Language, religion, culture and civilization and who is always encouraging young parents to enrol their children in a class to learn the Greek Language.

## **GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL PROMETHEUS - SEVEN HILLS WEST**

With the conversion of the Greek Community of Blacktown to a religious Parish -Community, a number of parents loyal to the Communal decree, decided to establish, another organization purely educational and cultural. Thus, in 1984 the new Greek organization of the city of Blacktown and districts established, at the same time, two schools and the teacher was Mr. Gregory Monastiriotis.

One school was operating within the grounds of Seven Hills P/S and the other one at Maryong P/S.

At the beginning, the new organization was known as "Cultural-Educational and Instructive Association of Blacktown and Districts". Later simplified the title to "PROMETHEUS".

In conjunction with the school there were a dancing group and sporting teams.

"PROMETHEUS" was an independent organization having excellent cooperation with the G. O. C. of Sydney and its members were participating in all the events of the G. O. C.

The organization was operating accordance to the rules and regulations of the N. S.W. Government Laws and by-Laws for companies.

The persons who established the organization were: Dimitris Vergis, Ian Hiotelis, Savvas Savvas, Nikolaos Papanikolaou and Stamatis Peppas.

Since 1998 "PROMETHEUS" is under the guardianship of the Greek Orthodox Community, after a resolution was past by the members in a general meeting. The school is operating on the grounds of Seven Hills P/S Lukas Road. Teacher in the school is Mrs. Kalliopi Theoharous and is operating each Tuesday and Friday 4.00pm to 7.00pm.

Mrs. Theoharous is a high school teacher in the N.S.W. Department of Education and in the school of Communities Languages. At the same school worked there from time to time , Mrs. Sophia Xenofontos, Anna Prodromidou and Lily Carahaliou.

## **GIRRAWEEEN GREEK AFTERNOON SCHOOL**

The Greek Orthodox Community of N.S.W. in its endeavour to promote and maintain the Greek Language and Culture in the State of N. S. W. used to establish Greek Afternoon and Saturday Schools, wherever was a great number of Greek migrants.

Thus, in the beginning of 1970 assisted the local school committee of Girraween to establish the Afternoon School of Girraween which was operating on the grounds of Girraween P/S, Targo Road and it was operating four days per week. At the beginning, teacher was Mr. Antonios Papadimitriou and in 1974, Mr. Gregory Monastiriotis filled his place.

At the end of the school year of 1875 the School Committee of the G. O. C., (president of the School Committee at the time was Mr. Kazouris), resolved to put a stop to the operation of the Girraween Afternoon School putting forwards financial reasons. Mr. Monastiriotis was transferred to Gladesville. The school continued its operation under the aegis of the Greek Community of Blacktown.

### **PRESIDENTS**

#### **OF SCHOOL COMMITTEES AND SCHOOL COORDINATORS**

##### **PRESIDENTS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE:**

Demitiros Anastasiou, T. Sarelas, G. Kazouris, G.Limperatos, Demitris Gotsis, Evangelos Anestis, Penny Thliveris-Kosta, Pauline Iliopoulos, Ula George and again Penny Costa.

##### **SCHOOL COORDINATORS:**

Anargyros Fatseas, G.Stefandelis, Antonis Papadimitriou, Haris Kypridimos, Dimitris Panayotopoulos, George Parras, Alexis Epsimos, Elfa Moraitakis, Reverend Theodoros Kousantas, George Parras and Lily Carahaliou

**TEACHING STAFF WHO WORKED THROUGH THE YEARS IN THE  
SCHOOLS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF N. S. W.**

**MYLONAS ELIZABETH**

(1969-1980) ROSE BAY-BONDI-WAVERLEY.

(1980-1984) RANDWICK- STANMORE- SURRY HILLS- GARDENER'S ROAD-  
ARNCLIFFE.

(1984-1990) STANMORE- ROCKDALE- CONNELL'S POINT

(1990-2003) ROCKDALE- CLEMTON PARK- CONNELL'S POINT

(2003-2005) KYEEMAGH- CLEMTON PARK.

**MRS. PAVLOU**

(1958-1960) BALMAIN

**Anthoula Diakodimitriou, Sophia Vaya, Dimitris Panayotopoulos.**

(1957-1959) REDFERN P/S

**ERSKENVILLE**

**ANNA SPANAKAKIS-DORA PAPADOPOULOU(1970-1972),**

**Mrs. Zaharis and Sia Thliveris (1970-1975)**

**Mrs Nitsa Vingas(1970-1982) CAMPSIE**

**Mrs. Vasiliki Roris (1966-1968) Kensington, the school reached 120 pupils, and  
(1966-1983) Rockdale.**

**Mrs. Irimi Valakas (1966...) LEIGHARDT.**

**Mrs . Anna Spanakakis, Mrs Mary Petropoulou (1969-1970) Marrickville Road at Masonic Hall.**

**Tasia Thodis, Efrosyni Georgiadou, Litsa Paterson, Mr. N. Zisimopoulos (1970-1985) Mascot Gardener's Road.**

**Mrs. Ifigenia Koutis, Mrs. D. Papadopoulou Mrs. Sia Thliveris, Mrs. Nitsa Gouveros, Mrs. Keopatra Patrikareas, Mrs. Karelas, Mrs. Papandreou, Mrs. Vasiliki Vasiliadou, Mrs. Toula Plessas (1966-1970) NEWTOWN. There were 360 pupils.**

**Mrs. Dora Papadopoulou (1973-1974) CAMDENVILLE ,(near Newtown) and (1974-2009) CLEMTON PARK.**

**Mrs. Paroula Thurban , Mr. Demitris Darakis, Mrs. Mary Petropoulou, (1986-1989) LEWISHAM. There was primary and high school. Mrs. Paroula Thurban was Greek dancing instructor.**

**Paroula Thurban, Mary Petropoulou (1986-1996) DULWICH HILL. The school was operating with six classes at high school level at Dulwich Hill high school, Seaview Parade.**

**Mrs. Eleni Voulgaraki, Mrs. Kiki Christodoulou, Mrs. Kalomira Palli, Mrs. Maria Nikolaou, Mr. Demitris Vythoulkas, Mrs. Veta Vasiliadou, (from the office of the Greek consulate in Sydney),Popi Papantoniou, Mrs. Lily Carahaliou, Yannis Lekkos, Miss Aglaia Tziora (from the Education Office of the Greek Consulate in Sydney), Mr. Makis Tsopanian, Chrysa Papaefthimiou.**

**Mary Kalantzis, Soula Yannarou, and Helen Yannakoulis (1996-2009) DULWICH HILL. It was operating and still operates each Tuesday and Thursday as primary school in the grounds of Dulwich Hill P/S, Kintore Street and there are enrolled 26 students.**

**Eleni Voulgarakis and Mary Mpouhoutsos (1966 - 1980) MARRICKVILLE,** Chapel Street. The school was operating as primary school each Monday and Wednesday.

As far as its history, in the beginning (1966) it was operating within the shop of Mrs. Nitsa Kozanitis, who at a later day she worked as a teacher in the schools of the G. O. C. (at the school of Arncliffe).

The G. O. C. was paying 40.00 dollars per week rent for the room in the shop and the second day of its operation were enrolled 160 pupils. At some later stage the number of pupils reached 540 which 50 of those were at high school level (1997).

When the school was established president of the G. O. C. was Mr. Peter Gerontakos and members of the executive committee, among others, were: Mrs. Dorothea Backland and Arthur Petropoulos.

When Mr. G. Whitlam became Prime Minister of Australia, the G. O. C. sent to Canberra a team of delegates with Mr. Dimitri Anastasiou, as head of the delegation, asking the Whitlam government of the possibility of sheltering the schools of the G. O. C. within the grounds of Public Schools, free of charge. The request was granted by the Federal Government and since then, on the principal of multiculturalism, all Community Language Schools begun to operate within the grounds of P/S.

Since then, the school moved to Marrickville Public School and the teachers who worked there from time to time were: **Mary Petropoulou, Kalliopi Theoharous, Mrs. Stavrelis, Geogia Hristou, Mrs. Makrangelidou, Mrs. Mpekiaris, Mr. Christos Yannpoulos, Athena Thtravelou, Paroula Thurban, and Nitsa Kozanitou.**

MARRICKVILLE WEST (1968-2000)

The school was operating on Saturdays and the teacher was **Mrs. Sophia Vayias.**

MARRICKVILLE -WILKINS ROAD (1967-1997)

This school was operating five days per week and the teacher was **Sophia Vayias** and from time to time **Mrs. Kalomira Pallis** worked there as well.

In 1990 an attempt was made to establish an Afternoon School at Gymea but it failed.

In 1988-1993 there was in operation an Afternoon School at Sutherland with **Mrs. Maria Aravantinou**, as teacher.

In the suburb of Tempe, where many Greek families used to live during the years of (1978-1990) there was in operation Afternoon School in which teachers were: **Christos Vafias and Mrs. Vasiliki Vasiliadou**.

STANMORE (1970 – 2003) **Elisabeth Mylonas, Toula Plessas, Costas Vrahnos**.

ASHBURY (1970 -1972) **Mary Petropoulou**.

GLADESVILLE (1970?-2008) **Demitris Darakis, Dina Darakis, Christina Hatzikonstantinou, Gregory Monastiriotis, Anna Konstanta and George Parras**.

ARNCLIFFE (1969 -1980) The school was operating on Saturday and the teachers were: **Elisabeth Mylonas, Nitsa Kozaniti and Mrs. Papandreou**.

It was very popular school in organizing school fetes with great success in cooperation with parents and students.

SYDENHAM (1968-1978) The school was operating in a building of the G. O. C. and the teachers were: **Eleni Mplounas, Vasiliki Vasiliadou, Mr. Vasilis Kotsis and Ilias Christofidelis**.

PENHURST WEST (1987 -1990) The school was located at the corner of Forest Road and King Georges Road and the teacher was **Mr. George Parras**.

LAKEMBA(ALICE STREET -INFANTS) -(1975-1980) At the school teachers were: **Kiki Papanikolaou, George Parras, Toula Plessas**. Later, the school was operating under the aegis of the parish of Belmore (All Saints).

WILEY PARK HIGH SCHOOL (1985-1990) It was operating as Afternoon Primary school. Teachers were there **George Parras, Maria Kametopoulos, Chrysa Kametopoulos and Mrs. Papaioannou -Koumarela.**

CLEVELAND STREET (SURRY HILLS)-(1969-1980). Teachers: **Dora Tzanetis, Panayiotis Ekonomou, Froso Koutlis and Anglaia Safaris.**

BOURKE STREET DARLINGHURST (1928-2002) The last teacher who has worked in this most historical school was **Mrs. Georgia Harikopoulou.**

SAINT SOPHIA (1960 -1990) Teachers: **Mrs.Fofi Alexiadou, Mrs.Popi Pashalidis.**

MAROUBRA (1980 -1990). Teachers: **Mrs. Fofi Alexiadou, Mrs. Katina Pavlidou.**

RANDWICK (1966...) Teachers: **Mrs.Fofi Alexiadou, Mrs.Kiki Koumertas.**

BOSLEY PARK (1982-1985). It was operating on Saturdays and the teacher was **Mrs. Despina Bahas.**

PADSTOW PARK (SAGERS AVENEW PADSTOW)-(1980-1986). Teacher in the school was **Mr. Vasilis Papadimitriou.**

PADSTOW HEIGHTS (2003- 2004). The school was operating every Monday and Wednesday having 25 pupils and the teachers were: **George Parras, Veta Vasiliadou, Panayiota Droulias, Stacey Vergis, and Popi Papantoniou.**

BANGORE(1998-2003). This school was operating each Monday and Wednesday and the teachers were: **Stacey Vergis, Andreas Georgalos, Maria Danadakis, Anna Konstanta and George Parras.**

CARLTON (2002-2003). Teacher was **Mrs. Mary Kazantzis.**

FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS (1992-2003). Teachers: **Mrs. Despina Bahas, Anthe Mpalafas and Mrs. Athanasia Hrysanthakopoulou.**

GREENACRE (1990- 2004). Teachers: **Kostas Vrahnos, Litsa Yannoukakou, Despina Mpahas and Mr. Yannis Lekkos.**

CHULLORA (1983-1998). The school was operating on Saturdays on the grounds of Chullora P/S having 20 pupils. Teaching staff: **George Parras and Mrs. Tasia Kostopoulos.**

BASS HILL (1979-1982). Teaching staff: **Mr. George Parras.**

PUNCH BOWL (1975-1995). The school was operating on Mondays and Wednesdays having 25 pupils. Teaching staff: **Mr. G.Ginis, G. Parras, Tasia Kostopoulos and Maria Kametopoulos.**

MOORE BANK(1994-2005). Teaching staff: **Despina Bahas, George Bahas and Yannis Lekkos.**

EASTWOOD(1989-1993). Teaching staff: **Marios Kiteris, Koula Frantzis.**

BELMORE NORTH (1970-1987).Teaching staff: **Eleni Mouflouzelis, Stratos Mouflouzelis.**

ANNANDALE (1990-1993). No records available.

CARRIMBAH(1998-2002). The school was operating each Wednesday and Friday.

Teaching staff: **George Parras and Mary Kalantzis.**

ASHFIELD (1986-2006). The school was operating on Saturday. Teaching staff: **Kalomira Pallis, Athanasia Chrysanthakakou-Poulou, Maria Danadakis, Evi Parthenis** and the last year of its operation the teacher was **Chrysa**

**Papaefthimiou.**

BARDWELL PARK , STANMORE, SUTHERLAND. Teaching staff: **Soula Yannarou, George Stefanidis , Maria Danakakis** respectfully.

BELMORE SOUTH (1970?-2007). Teaching staff: **Eleni Mouflouzelis, Stratos Mouflouzelis, Ntina Darakis, Nick Zissimopoulos.**

MARRICKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL-(NORTHCOTE STREET) (1980-2002).  
Teaching staff: **Mrs.Eleni Voulgarakis.**

NEWINGTON-WYVERN (2002-2004). Teaching staff: **Stacey Vergis, Maria Nikolaou, Panayiota Droulia, Veta Vasiliadou.** There were thirty pupils and they had also the opportunity to learn traditional Greek dancing.

NARWEE (1990-1994). The school was operating each Monday and Wednesday, and the teacher was **Mr. George Parras.**

LUGARNO (1993-1997). The school was operating on Mondays and Wednesdays with two teachers, **Miss Stacey Vergis and Mr. G. Tremos.**

Reading through the minutes of the school committee of the G. O. C. there are annual reports of the school coordinators for the years 2004-2009. The following report is that of the school coordinator of Reverend father Theodore Kousantas who was also the priest at the church of Holy Trinity (Burke Street).

Sydney 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004

To the President of the G. O. C. Mr. G. Angelopoulos.

Theme: Brief account of the operation of the schools of the G.O.C. of Sydney & N.S.W.

Operation of schools:

For the school year of 2004 there were in operation twenty (20) Afternoon and Saturday schools under the aegis of the G. O.C. of Sydney having a number of pupils in primary level up to 558 and 18 students at high school level bringing the total number of students to 576 which 291 of those were girls and 285 were boys.

Responsible for the coordination and the proper operation of the schools was Father Theodore Kousantas in cooperation with the president of the school committee Mrs. Penny Kostas and assisted by two educators, from the office of the Greek Consular of Education in Sydney, the philologist Mrs. Lily Carahaliou and the primary school teacher Mr. Panayiotis Maris.

There were 16 teaching staff members, twelve female and 4 male teachers.

Apart from the above teachers there are three more teachers from the office of the Greek Consular of Education who are teaching in various schools of the G. O. C. These teachers are: Mrs. Anglaia Tsioras, primary school teacher, Mrs. Maria Markou, English Language high school teacher and Mr. Demitrios Schinas primary school teacher.

#### **TEACHING MATERIAL -TEACHING STAFF**

The schools of the G. O. C. are using books issued by the Greek Ministry of Education, books issued by the University of Crete(Damanakis) written for the education for the Greeks of abroad, books printed in U. S.A. and auxiliary materials, issued by the G. O. C. Syllabus Committee, which are based on the Syllabus of the Department of Education of N. S. W.

Apart from the above, the pupils are working, through the year on a number of different themes, such as National Greek Days, Father's Day, Mother's Day et cetera.

The cooperation and participation of the teaching staff in meetings with the school committee and their effort for good results is to be satisfactory.

Progress of students: In general, the attendance and progress of students regarded as very satisfactory and proven fact is the success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> competition of public speech in which 25 students were participated from all

levels and also by the Minister's Awards For Excellence in Students Achievements where each year the committee of N.S.W. awards students rendering good results in a Community Language.

This year ten of our students were awarded.

Teaching of Greek Dances:

The students of Greek origin in order to participate in the Greek Culture, the G. O. C. offers free dancing lessons in a number of school centres under the instructions of the well known dancing instructor Mrs. Paroula Thurban.

School Events:

During the present school year, the students took part in the following events: National Independence Day (25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821).

Students parade (Opening of Greek Festival-Darling Harbour). On Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2004 the opening of the Greek Festival took place with the parade of the school students for the Greek Independence Day with great success. The students were applauded by their parents and by many visitors who over flooded the grounds of Darling Harbour.

Relay of Olympic Torch: During the relay of Olympic Torch in Sydney, parents, teachers and students from Mc Callum's Hill and Connell's Point schools were participated.

Projects and competition about the relay of Olympic Torch: In order to honour the event of the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Sydney, the school students participated in a competition with written projects aiming to the better understanding of the students towards the spirit and the ideals of the Olympic Games.

NAMING COMPETITION OF THE G. O.C. CHILD CARE CENTRE: In that competition was revealed the creative imagination of our students.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION: On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 it was conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> competition of public speech by students of our schools and the

audience enjoyed the rhetoric abilities of the participants.

Olympic Games , Athens 2004-Special Prepared Lessons –Various Activities: In all schools, teachers gave lectures relevant to the Olympic Games ((Athens 2004))and the students participated with projects in a competition sponsored by The Popular Bank.

HALDON STREET FESTIVAL: On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2004 the G. O. C. participated in the Haldon Street annual festival of the Canterbury County Council with its dancing group under the instructions of the dancing teacher, Mrs. Paroula Thurban.

THE CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL –BANKSTOWN, (PAUL KEATING PARK): On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2004 Mrs. Paroula Thurban with the G. O. C. Dancing group participated in the Children’s Festival 2004 which took place at Paul Keating Park hosted by the Bankstown Municipality.

SPELLATHON: This year instead of the traditional sale of chocolates by the students, it was resolved to conduct a Spellathon with the guidance of teachers and parents for the better understanding of the Greek Language. At the present time Zoe Yalouris from the school of Connell’s Point comes first with an amount of 130.00 dollars.

FUTURE EVENTS: A)Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004, National Day 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1940, B)Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> November 2004 Annual School Ball, C)Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2004, Commemoration Day for the Polytechnic Uprising (17<sup>th</sup> November 1973), D)The schools of Clemton Park and Mc Callum’s Hill are organising a B.B.Q.

ELECTRONIC LISTING FOR THE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOLS OF THE G. O. C. (DATA BASE): The pupils register and relevant information concerning the pupils in the schools of the G. O. C. for the first time were listed in an electronic archive by the aforementioned teachers of the office of the Greek Consulate Education Office in Sydney who assist the school coordinator of the G. O. C.

Proposals for improving the function of the schools, the teaching of the Greek Language and the classification of students in levels: Having in mind to improve the teaching of the Greek Language and culture for the students of the

Greek community at large of N. S. W., possibility which the G.O. C. offers with schools all over Sydney, some of those having a very limited number of students, we deem that is necessary the establishment of school centres where large number of Greek element lives. Therefore we propose the following:

1) Bear in mind the educational rules, it is deemed necessary the classification of students in classes -levels according to the student's ability in order to obtain the best result.

2) This way, the teachers will have better working conditions and their work will have better results.

3) Parents will have the possibility of choice in which centre will enrol their children. In case of moving to another district the pupils will not find any difficulty of adopted to the new school environment since it will be enrolled in the level which is capable of.

4) The establishment of the centres it will also improve the supervision, the intervention and the mobilization of all involved in the education and the best planning of supervisory means such as (T.V. video, tape recorder etc).

5) All students can learn modern and folk Greek dances. For all the above mentioned reasons we propose the amalgamation of the following schools:

A) Bardwell Park and Belmore South schools to be amalgamated with Clemton Park.

B) Baldface and Blakehurst schools to be amalgamated with Connell's Point.

C) Hannan's Road Riverwood, Beverly Hills North and Greenacre to be amalgamated with the central school of Beverly Hills North.

D) Rockdale school to be amalgamated with Keemagh.

E) The school of "Prometheus" and that of Dulwich Hill we propose to remain as is since the parents are supporters of the G. O. C. and we do not wish to disturb their friendly relationship.

F) The schools which operate on the grounds of the colleges, TRINITY GRAMMAR Strathfield and MLC Burwood which are operating each Friday and that of Ashfield which operates on Saturday having few pupils, those

schools can be amalgamated. However it is very difficult because for the rooms of the colleges we pay rent and each school needs to have its independence. It would have been ideal if there were a possibility to establish a new school within the grounds of a Public School at the districts of Strathfield–Ashfield.

G) Granville and Mittagong schools, although are under our guardianship, those schools are independent. We also propose to investigate the possibility of establishing a new school at the district of Cambelltown.

Next is the report for the schools of the G.O.C. of the school coordinator Mrs. Lily Carahaliou for the years 2006- 2010.

To:

The President and Members of the Executive Committee of the Greek Orthodox Community of Sydney & N. S. W.

Topic: Brief account of the operation of the Afternoon and Saturday Schools of the G. O. C. of N.S.W.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

SCHOOL YEAR 2006

BRIEF REPORT OF THE OPERATION OF THE AFTERNOON AND  
SATURDAY SCHOOLS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
N.S.W.

The operation of schools: During the first two terms of the school year of 2006 there were in operation eighteen (18) Afternoon and three (3) Saturday schools under the aegis of the G. O. C.

The number of pupils in primary level were 536 and in addition there were 20 students in high school level, a total number of 556 students, more precisely 290 girls and 266 boys.

In the above numbers are included 5 students of the school of Granville and 12 students of the Saturday school of Mittagong. These two schools are independent but they operate under the guardianship of the G. O. C. At the beginning of the third term, a new school was established at South Coogee having 21 students.

Teaching Staff:

The teaching staff of the schools consists of twelve female teachers and five male; total of 17 teachers.

Apart from the above, there are three more teachers from the Education Office of the Greek Consulate in Sydney who are teaching in various schools of the G.O.C. These teachers are: Mrs. V. Alexandropoulou high school language teacher, Mrs. V. Fanakidou primary school teacher and Mrs. Lily Carahaliou high school language teacher.

Evaluation of teaching staff-Re-education of teachers:

The participation of teaching staff in meetings and events organized by the G.O.C. regarded to be satisfactory. As far as the conscientiousness and the effectiveness of the teachers, during teaching time is regarded very satisfactory and their relations with parents and guardians is considered to be in very good terms.

The University of Crete at Rethymno-Greece, every year is organizing special seminars for the re-education of teachers of the Greek Language for the Greeks of Abroad a program which is offered by the Greek Education Department. This year 2 teachers of the G.O.C. attended these seminars, Mrs. Elisabeth Mylonas and Mrs. Mary Kazantzis with the task that upon their return to Sydney they would operate as multipliers. For this purpose the two teachers in cooperation with the Education Office and the Greek Adviser in Education. The 10<sup>th</sup> of July they presented a two hour seminar, conveying, all what they had learned in the University of Crete, to the teachers of the Greek Language in Sydney.

The 17<sup>th</sup> of July was presented to the teachers of the G.O.C. a two hour seminar by Mrs. Thalia Ioannidou from the Greek-Australian society of Welfare of Melbourne regarding a Healthy Diet programme.

Under the programme of the Teaching Development Scheme, two newly teachers, Mrs. Demetra Katsikarou and Mrs. Zena Zisis undergone a course in teaching at the University of N.S.W.

Teaching Material: In the schools of the G.O.C. we are using books of the Greek Department of Education, books of the University of Crete, written especially for the education for the Greeks Abroad, books written in U.S.A., auxiliary material- Syllabus of the G.O.C. which is based on the Syllabus of Public schools of the Department of Education of N.S.W.

Apart from the above, we teach through the year, various themes of National, Cultural and of Social interest such as (National Days, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Greek Easter, written by Mrs. Lily Carahaliou).

At the end of the second term the students take their half yearly report of progress and at the end of the school year their yearly reports and those students who did well through the year are rewarded with special awards.

Teaching of Greek dances: In order that the students of Greek origin participate farther to the Greek Culture, the G.O.C. offers to the students dancing lessons in ten school centres free of charge under the guidance of the popular Greek dancing instructor, Mrs. Paroula Thurban. The dancing groups are participating in all the events which are organized by the G.O.C.

School Events: During the first semester the students of our schools took part in the following events: Harmony Day-11<sup>th</sup> of March 2006 organized by Ryde Municipal Council.

Greek National Independence Day 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821- Students' Parade-Opening of Greek Festival, Darling Harbour.

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> of March of March took place, at Darling Harbour, the students' Parade and the festivities for the commemoration of the Greek National Independence Day with grate success, followed by the Opening of the Greek Festival organized by the G.O.C. of N.S.W.

Public Speaking Competition: On Sunday , 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 the fourth competition in Public Speaking took place at the Hall of the G.O.C. in Lakemba.

International Day for Children's Rights: The event was organized by the Women's Committee of the G.O.C. the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.

Laiki Bank Christmas Card Competition: Final date for entry was the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.

IMAX Theatre: Screen of the movie "Greece -Secrets of The Past"-28<sup>th</sup> of June 2006.

Second Semester:

Project on Alexander the Great in cooperation with Pan- mMacedonian Association, Greek Consulate (Education Office).

Participation of our students in the book of Panayotis Politis, illustrated by the painter Peter Hovakimian and our students.

National Day 28<sup>th</sup> of October 1940.

Polytechnic Day 17<sup>th</sup> November.

Annual Schools Ball.

Christmas Festivities

Each month, in the schools of the G.O.C. is in circulation a magazine with various interesting topics both in Greek and English. Students are also participating as well with their work. At the end of the school year the 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the magazine will be distributed, related to Christmas holidays and to the school summer vacations.

Responsible for the publication of the magazine, is Mrs. Lily Carahaliou, Coordinator of the schools of the G.O.C. (There were published 57 issues of the Magazine "*Greek Language and Young Greeks of the G.O.C.*")

We also have participated in the activities of the Federation of Community Languages Schools, such as the Federation's Annual Ball, which took place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2006 and in the General Meeting of the Federation which took place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2006. The night of the Annual Ball of the Federation, five (5) teachers of the G.O.C. were honoured by the Federation with special awards. The dancing group of the G.O.C. took part in the Annual Ball.

#### COMMENTS-CONCLUSION-PROPOSALS

We deem that the number of students compare to that of last year it remains unchanged due to our endeavour in the establishment of new schools in areas where are highly populated by persons of Greek origin and their wish is to send their children in the Greek Afternoon school.

Most of our students are enrolled in the three first years of primary school (main stream education). At high school level only few students are enrolling despite our efforts.

One of the factors of low enrolment it may be the annual fees where for one child the amount is 240.00 dollars, for the second child 170.00 dollars and for

the third child 130.00 dollars. However, although the G.O.C. is facing some degree of competition since the school fees of the schools of the Archdiocese are 100.00 dollars and some other organizations have no fees for those who attend their schools (e.g. Community of Mascot.). Another factor it may well be the disharmony in the way the schools are functioning regarding the lessons of the Greek Language in comparison with the fees. To be precise, in some schools the students attend the class of the Greek language twice per week and in some others once per week, although the fees remain the same. This is happening because some parents they wish their children to attend class once per week due to other commitments and other parents wish their children to attend class twice per week in order that the children will learn more this way, or if I may rephrase it, they use a Greek environment as a cheaper place for "baby sitting".

Where there is a small number of pupils in each class in proportion to more teachers, this happens mainly in schools, where are operating once per week and for this, we try to separate the children in levels according to their ability in the language and thus to obtain better results. Besides, this is a demand of the parents and on the other hand it is the ideal way, according to the methodology of teaching.

Taking in consideration the low number of students due to some factors, such as antagonism, lower fees of some organizations and due to financial hardship which parents are experiencing and also due to lack of interest regarding the learning of languages, since English is spoken in all aspects of life and there is no matter of patriotism to learn the Greek language, we ought to offer lessons with high teaching standards for languages and this coincides with the demands of the Community Languages Board, by which we are financially supported and audited.

Further more, we could use DVD, video slides in a suitable place in order to make the lessons more interesting to pupils. Such a suitable place we believe is the temple of St. Peter and Paul at Stanmore. This can be achieved by having Computers Net, internet and other audio-video means where children of our schools can visit that centre.

Another factor which can contribute to more affective teaching is to recompense appropriately the teachers. Financial satisfied teachers can produce better results.

This school year teachers received 2.00dollars increase to their pay plus 3.00 dollars in bonus for each hour of teaching under the condition to participate at the events which the G.O.C. is organizing. The bonus is payable at the end of the school year. However, being taxed on the whole earnings, the 2.00 dollars increase is being vanished.

Moreover, the G.O.C. can use its validity and its acquaintance in order to establish a Hellenic Institute similar to that of British Council, Instituto Italiano or Alliance Francaise for the promotion of the Greek Language to those who wish to learn Greek (Classical –Modern), regardless nationality, since the Greek Government issues certificates of knowledge in the Greek Language in four different levels (A,B,C,D.) In this it is essential the participation of all schools of Modern Greek Studies in the Universities all over Australia and of course, the G.O.C. must be the leading organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Education, as you all know, it is a long duration rewarding process and its benefits are mainly, moral; therefore the G.O.C. of N.S.W. must face this matter as an offer to the Greek community at large and not as a financial gain. We are certain that History will reward its efforts.

Sincere regards

Lily Carahaliou, School coordinator.

To:

The President and the Members of the Executive Committee of the G.O.C. of N.S.W.

Subject: Brief account of the operation of Afternoon and Saturday Schools of the G.O.C. of Sydney and N.S.W.

SCHOOL YEAR 2007

BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE OPERATION OF AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY SCHOOLS OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF N.S.W.

Operation of schools: For the first semester of the school year of 2007 there were in operation eighteen (18)Afternoon and two (2)Saturday schools (primary level) under the aegis of the G.O.C. of N.S.W. There were 541 students enrolled in primary level and 20 students in high school level. The total number of

students was 561 and more precise 303 girls and 258 boys. In that number are included 10 students of the Saturday school of Mittagong which cooperates with the G.O.C.

<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>BARDWELL PARK</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>BELMORE SOUTH</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>BEVERLY HILLS NORTH</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>BALD FACE - BLAKEHURST</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>CHIPPING NORTON</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CLEMTON PARK</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>CLEMTON PARK(Sat)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>CONNELL'S POINT</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>DULWICH HILL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>COOGEE SOUTH</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>HANNAN'S ROAD,</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>KYEEMAGH</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>McCALLUM'S HILL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>MITTAGONG</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PLC-CROYDON</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>SEVEN HILLS WEST</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>ROCKDALE</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>STRATHFIELD SOUTH</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>SUMMER HILL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>561</b>

#### TEACHING STAFF:

This year we are experienced some problems due to resignations of teaching staff mainly, due to illness. At the present there are thirteen (13) female teachers and five (5) male teachers. There are also three (3) teachers from the office of the Greek Advisor of Education which they work in various schools of the G.O.C. Those teachers are: Mrs. V. Alexandropoulou, a high school Language teacher, Mr. G. Mitropoulos, primary school teacher, and Mrs. L. Carahaliou, a high school Language teacher.

#### EVALUATION OF TEACHING STAFF:

The participation of the teaching staff in meetings and the events in which the G.O.C. is organizing from time to time is regarded to be satisfactory. As far as the conscientiousness and the effectiveness of their duties in teaching is regarded very satisfactory; their relations with parents and guardians is considered to be in very good terms.

#### TEACHING MATERIAL:

In our schools, we are using books of the Greek Department of Education, books issued by the University of Crete written especially for the Greeks of Abroad, books written in U.S.A. and auxiliary material from the Syllabus of the G.O.C. which is based on the Syllabus of the public schools issued by the Department of Education of the State of N.S.W. Apart from the afore said material, we supply the students through the year with various papers of themes of every day life, on National, Cultural and of social interest such as (National Days, Father's Day, Mother's Day, Easter, International Children's Day, Polytechnic Uprise, Christmas Holidays et cetera) which are organized by the coordinator of the schools.

#### PROGRESS OF STUDENTS:

In general terms, the attendance and the progress of the students is deemed to be very satisfactory. This can be proved by the large number (30) of participants in the public speaking competition and by the number of students who have been awarded with the Minister's Awards For Excellence in Students

Achievements organized by the N.S.W. Community Languages Schools Board every year. This year ten (10) of our students received such an award.

At the end of the first semester the students received their half yearly reports in a special ceremony with parents and guardians present.

**TEACHING OF GREEK DANCING:**

In order that the students of Greek origin participate farther in the Greek culture, the G.O.C. offers to all students dancing lessons in ten (10) centres free of charge under the guidance of the popular Greek Dancing instructor Mrs. Paroula Thurban. The dancing groups participate in all events organized by the G.O.C.

**GREEK DANCING CLASSES 2007**

**WEEKLY HOURS**

<b>SCHOOLS</b>	<b>WEEK DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>HOURS</b>
<b>McCALLUM'S HILL P/S</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>7.00-8.00PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ALFORDS POINT SUTHERLAND</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>7.00-8.00PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>GR.COMMUNITY CLUB</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>7.00-9.00PM</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHIPPING NORTON P/S</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>5.15-6.15PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LEMNIAN CLUB</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>6.00-7.00PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>KYEEMAGH INFANTS P/S</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>4.30-5.30PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BEVERLY HILLS NTH P/S</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>5.15-6.15PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CONNELL'S POINT P/S</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>5.30-6.30PM</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CLEMTON PARK P/S</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>11.30AM- 13.30PM</b>	<b>2</b>

SEVEN HILLS WEST P/S	FRIDAY	7.00-8.00PM	1
DULWICH HILL P/S	THURSDAY	4.30-5.30PM	1

#### SCHOOL EVENTS:

During the first semester of the current school year the students participated in the following events:

1) Greek National Independence Day 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1821.

Students Parade – Opening of Greek Festival Darling Harbour. On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2007, took place at Darling Harbour, the students parade and the festivities for the commemoration of the Greek National Independence Day with great success, followed by the opening of the Greek Festival organized by the G.O.C. of N.S.W.

2) Programme of Healthy Diet in Greek Language: The 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2006 was presented to the teachers of the G.O.C. a two hour seminar by Mrs. Thalia Ioannidou, from the Greek – Australian Society of Welfare of Melbourne regarding the Healthy Diet Programme. This year, on the 21/05/2007 and 22/05/2007 we participated in a new scheme regarding the feed back of the programme at Clenton Park and Beverly Hills North Primary schools. The event was published on Melbourne’s media and on S.B.S. radio.

3) 5<sup>th</sup> COMPETITION OF PUBLIC SPEAKING: This event took place on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 participating thirty students from all levels and the theatrical group of the Saturday Centres of Community Languages which staged the play “Antanaclases” “Reflections”.

#### PROPOSAL:

We believe that the teaching of the Greek Language, by now, has reached its peak. Therefore, the Greek Orthodox Community of N.S.W. apart from the Afternoon and Saturday schools which are in operation at the present time, must consider the establishment of a special Afternoon school for the teaching

of the Greek Language within the grounds of its establishment and to operate between the hours of 5.30pm -8.30pm employing teachers equipped with special skills in order to be able to teach the Greek Language to persons in the following categories:

- 1)To Adults.
- 2)To H.S.C. Students (Tutoring)
- 3)To students at High School Level.
- 4)To Primary school students who are really interesting in learning the Greek Language.
- 5) To students who are having, at the present, private tutors.
- 6) To persons who wish to learn classical Greek.

We believe that the above steps are necessary for the reason being that the G.O.C. is unable to establish a bilingual college at the moment, and also, because it will be very difficult to employ teachers in the future. At such special school could be employed teachers from the main stream public or private schools.

On the report for the school year of 2007 the school coordinator added the following proposals:

- 1) The exchanging of ideas regarding the Education and the promotion of the Greek Language and Culture to the future generations.
- 2) The exchanging of teaching material and teaching programmes.
- 3) The establishment of annual forum for the Greek Language in cooperation with all the Greek Communities Australia wide.
- 4) The establishment of a camping scheme for students and teachers in every state aiming to better relations among students of different states; this is also a motive for more Greek people to participate in the events of the G.O.C.

5) To organize games and various forms of competitions from time to time with a different theme.

#### CONCLUSION:

Evaluating the deed of the Greek Orthodox Community of N.S.W. regarding the teaching of the Greek Language and the promotion and preservation of the Greek Culture in Australia, apart from the afore said, we ought to add its endeavour and participation for the establishment and operation of the Modern Greek Departments in the Universities in the State of N.S.W., its participation to the Greek National Council, Greek Community Council, S.A.E. Oceania's "Council of the Hellenes of Abroad", its endeavour in assisting various Greek Organizations in teaching the Greek Language, for its endeavour to include Modern Greek to the mainstream Public Schools' programme, its participation to the Federation of Community Languages Schools Board, to the establishment and operation of the Greek Open University in Sydney and the continuous sponsorship of Greek Culture, through the past twenty eight (28) Greek Festivals of Sydney, which has had organized.

