



The Young Greek Australian HERMES



Volume I Issue 23 25/07/2010



True to the words of our former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Australia is a rich multicultural tapestry. All the ethnicities of our country have swirled together and created a wonderful mix of culture and friendships. And sharing our culture with friends is what I love most about our country.

It's fair to say, I've had a very colourful upbringing. I'm a true by-product of Sydney's multicultural melting pot, with Greek, Italian & Assyrian heritage. And to add to the vibrancy I now reside in sunny Darwin. After being raised by my wonderful "Papou", I am proud to say that my Greek heritage is what I treasure dearly. I've found that the Greek culture of Australia is something that has enveloped me since childhood and has taught me a lot about life.

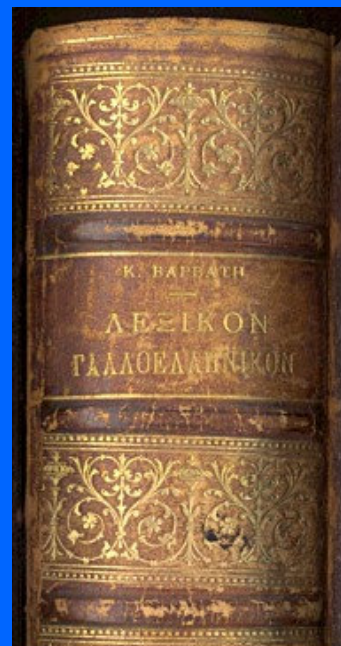
As I was pondering on what to write for this article, I reminisced on the many Greek sayings I would hear growing up. Some are easily translated but some from my



experience sound absolutely ridiculous when translated into English.

Here's my small list of phrases that never sound quite the same:

- **"Mou spas ta nevra!"**- "You break my nerves!"
- **"Tha fas xilo!"**- "You will eat wood!" (I was threatened with this a lot!)
- **Yeia stin xari-** "Health to the joy"
- **"Sta thi kasou"**- "To yours" when they really mean "To your future of marriage" (And they say this to a 9 year old kid!)
- **"Kai ston paidion"**- "And to your off-spring!"
- **"Na to ekatostiseis"**- "May you hundredth it!"
- **"Tha se matiasei"**- "She will eye you".
- **"Den eixa kefi"**- "I had no mojo!" (I love this one!)
- **Xenixtisa-** "I de-nighted"
- **Ximerothika-** "I day-broke" (The excuse for partying till 5am)



Hopefully these little phrases have made you laugh and remember your own upbringing. The Greek language is so full of emotion and colour, and I've found that translating this expression can be both challenging and fun.

Lianna Georges

Did this article get you thinking? Hermes@nugas.org.au

Want to write in the next HERMES?

The HERMES is open to any and every young Greek Australian who believes he or she has something to share!

Send your submission to hermes@nugas.org.au

or call Harry on 0401 937 870

26 Jul	27 Jul AGUA BBQ	28 Jul	29 Jul HELLSOC BBQ	30 Jul CUGA Reunion	31 Jul	1 Aug
2 Aug MUGA O week	3 Aug MUGA O week	4 Aug MUGA O week	5 Aug MUGA O week RUSH Ski Day	6 Aug	7 Aug	8 Aug
9 Aug	10 Aug LUGS Movie Night	11 Aug	12 Aug	13 Aug	14 Aug	15 Aug
16 Aug	17 Aug	18 Aug	19 Aug	20 Aug NATIONAL NUGAS SYDNEY WEEKEND	21 Aug NATIONAL NUGAS SYDNEY WEEKEND	22 Aug NATIONAL NUGAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
23 Aug	24 Aug	25 Aug SUGS Poetry Night	26 Aug	27 Aug	28 Aug	29 Aug

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