

THEKLA SCARCELLA



Thekla Karagiorgou - Scarcella was born in Greece- Athens in 1944 and grew up in Agia Paasikivi located in the region called Attica. She is the first of nine children born to Aristides Karagiorgou and Helen Bakou. Her father was a baker. During her school years she was involved with the Girl Guides, but soon left them preferring to attend Sunday school. Her desire is to write true stories and comedy works. She was very athletic. Play voley ball and German ball for her school and was good runner.

In 1965 she migrated to Australia with the belief that she would learn the language and return home to continue her studies. However, the declaration of the Dictatorship by the Junta, on 21st April 1967, forced her to remain in Australia and to subsequently be married after five months.

For over 24 years, she has been busy raising two daughters and a son, in the town of Kyabram in Victoria where the family ran their own farm. At the same time she become a volunteer driver with the Shire of Kyabram's aged care and disability programs. Then in 1986 in the town of Echuca and surrounds with the help of the Victorian State Government, the Greek Consulate's former education coordinator Mrs Panagiota Ghika, she was able to establish a Saturday Greek Language School for children of Greek heritage who lived or worked on the local farms in the area. Her classes also included other non-Greek speakers.

In this same year in conjunction with representatives of other ethnic communities and the President Mr Tony Jerome, of the Shepparton Ethnic Communities Council, they established the Goulburn Valley Community Radio Incorporated.

Initially to personally financially support the station, she becomes a busker, taking a keyboard and her little son to the local parks and playing for hours.

After undertaking specific training in radio presenting she obtained her certificate as a radio presenter.

When the Goulburn Valley Community Radio station was given a license to broadcast, Mrs Thekla Karagiorgou- Scarcella undertook and presented the Greek program titled 'THE VOICE OF GREECE'

In 1987, on her own initiative she participated at the World Prayer for Peace and Unity of Peoples' event held at the International Village in Shepparton. It involved the students of the Greek school as well as her children all dressed in traditional national Greek costumes, the Greek Orthodox Priest of Shepparton, together with other priests of other denominations.

It was during this time that her son's teacher from 'St 'Augustine's College', Kyabram encouraged her to enrol in the correspondence courses on Greek and Italian Literature from the University of New England, New South Wales.

She relocated to Melbourne in 1990 and in that year receives a literary award recognition from the Association of Greek Teachers for her short story titled 'A LITTLE BIT OF LOVE'. Her first success allowed her to take part in various other literary competitions and many of her literary works have received awards from – Australasian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) , Council of Greeks Abroad (SAE), the Greek - Australian Cultural League of Melbourne and Dandenong Short Stories.

In the period 1991 – 1993 she is a voluntary presenter on Mr Nick Antoniadis, National Radio Station- Melbourne, promoting the literary works of Greek-Australian writers, the significance of Greek national days, the Greek culture, traditions and customs.

In addition at the "ECHO" radio station at which Mr Spyros Xypolytos was the station director, she presented literary and listeners talk back programs. Her voluntary radio presenting is completed with a short stint on radio 3XY Melbourne.

In 1994, she enrolls at the Broadford Secondary College and completes the VCE with credits and receives a high distinction for the Modern Greek subject.

From N. M. I. T she gained her Certificate III in Aged Care and calisthenics for seniors.

From T. A. F. E. she has also been awarded with Diploma II for Business and computer technology.

In 1996, as a member of the Board of Fawkner Progress Group, she participated in the campaign to save the 'Upfield' train line and wrote a piece in English titled 'Why do we need the train line' and also a nice poem titled 'The Upfield train'.

In addition she has presented her own works as a writer, producer, director and actor.

In 1997 students from Broadford Secondary College, took part in the children's play she had written for (Communication Project). *'The Beautiful Tablecloth'*..



2015 –WHEN I WROTE THE STORY OF “MARINA”

In the year 2000, under the name "Apollo Theatre" she organized a dance night incorporating theatre, top ballet dances and music from different bands.

In the same year students of Greek College 'St John', performed her play 'The Beautiful Tablecloth'

In 2002, students of the afternoon Greek school of the Greek Orthodox Melbourne Community in Doncaster, under the direction of teacher/writer, Toula Filokosta performed successfully her play «*The Beautiful Tablecloth*»

In May 2004, at the Darebin Arts Entertainment Centre, her children's play '*The beautiful Tablecloth*' was performed in English.

In October 2004, at the Epping Memorial Hall, '*The beautiful Tablecloth*' is performed in Greek by students of Greek Language Program, of the North Preston Primary School.

Since then her children's play has been performed by the 'Preston Primary School', students from the 'Arts Department of Monash University' and the Broadmeadows the 'Filipino children's dance group'.

In 2005, at the 'Preston Town Hall' she stages her satirical comedy play the '*The Second marriage Agathocles*'

The proceeds of the performance were donated to the children with special needs.

She has served as treasurer of the School Council that her children attended and of the church in Kilmore. In various Greek organizations she has served in the capacity as president, secretary and treasurer.

Since 2003 she has been the President of the Greek - Australian Recreational & Instructive League of Victoria Incorporated and on her initiative in conjunction with the Association has organised fund raising events for the National Organization of Breast Cancer. With the Association's support she has organized seminars on 'Diabetes', Chiropractic issues, 'Skeletal Spine issues for the Aged' and dances at major celebration and feast days.

Her other involvements relate to being Secretary and later President of the Australian Labour Party (ALP) - Broadmeadows East -Greek branch,

Vice president 'and current treasurer of the Northern Suburbs Federation for the Aged.

She is a member of the Council of the Hellenic Association of Literary Writers of Australia, the Greek-Australian Cultural League of Melbourne, the Federation of Greek Elderly, the Greek Community Broadmeadows, the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and the Ethnic Community Radio **3ZZZ** - Melbourne

Her various works have been published in the such magazines' as '**THE WORD**', '**ANTIPODES**' of '**TAFE**' and the e-magazine '**The READER**'.

She has written various social articles published in the Greek Australian newspapers, '**NEOS KOSMOS-THE NEW WORLD**' and '**TA NEA -THE NEWS**'

She also has several unpublished works that she hopes to publish in the future.

In 2005 and 2009, she was awarded the **Meritorious Services in Community Award** by the State of Victoria.

In 2010 she was nominated for the Australian **of the Year Awards 2010**.

In 2012 As a President, Public Officer, Author and Editor for the Greek-Australian Recreational & Instructive League Of Victoria Incorporated launch the book" A POTPOURRI OF CULTURAL DISHES" in Greek-Australian Recreational & Instructive League of Victoria Incorporated.

In this book written in English, Eighteen (18) ladies from different parts of the world most Greeks in Broadmeadows share delights of traditional recipes.

In 2012 she was awarded The **National Volunteer Award** by the Federal Government of Australia.

In 2013 The Hume City Council, she received the "literature and theatre award".

In February 2014 she was declared as '**The Resident of the Month**'. By Hume City Council.

In 2015 she releases in Greek and English her new book '**The Odyssey of women.**' In Greek ND English Language.

In 2016 she releases in Greek language "The Australians in Gallipoli" ANZACS WWI.

In 2017 "The Australians in Gallipoli" translated into English.



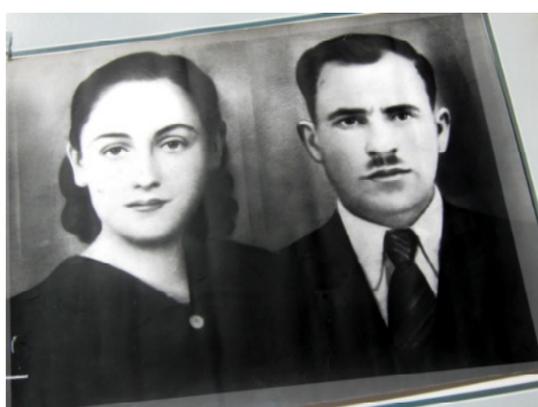
**Thekla Karagiorgou--Scarcella
1965**



**Thekla and Husband , Filippo
Scarcella 1967**



DEME GROUP ---1965 ATHENS



**THEKLA'S KARAGIORGOU –
SCARCELLA'S PARENTS
ELENI BAKOU-**



**THE LAUNCH OF THE BOOK
"THE ODYSSEY OF THE WOMEN"
2015**

Left: Mrs Maria Vamvakinou MP for Calwell, Maria Stefanou, the Secretary, Thekla Karagiorgou—Scarcella, the President, the editor, author, both of the ladies of the Greek- Australia Recreational & Instructive League of Victoria Inc., Marianthi Kypouros, "the chief of staff" at the office of Mrs Maria Vamvakinou MP for Calwell.