



# Australian Hellenic Council NSW Inc.

*A coordinating body for the Australian Hellenic community*

Αυστραλιανό Ελληνικό Συμβούλιο NNO  
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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Honouring the community's founders

Sydney, 20 December 2010: The Australian Hellenic Educators' Association NSW-ACT-QLD honoured the memory of some of the community's founders at Waverley Cemetery in Sydney's coastal eastern suburbs on Sunday 19 December. Father Gerasimos from St George's Parish Rose Bay read memorial prayers over the family tombs of Aikaterine Plessa (Katherine Crummer), Father Seraphim Phocas and Ioannis Demetriou Comino.

Born in Ioannina in north-west Hellas, Katherine Crummer arrived in Sydney in 1835 with her Irish husband and three children. By the time Major Henry Crummer passed away, they had another eight children. Katherine passed away in 1907, living for eighteen years in her homeland, six in England and Ireland and 72 in Australia.

Father Seraphim Phocas was born in the town of Maidos (modern Eceabat) on the Gallipoli Peninsula in eastern Thrace. Orphaned at age five, he found himself in Jerusalem. There he studied, married and was ordained. In 1898 he was appointed to Holy Trinity parish in inner Sydney's Surrey Hills. The first resident Orthodox priest in Australia, Father Seraphim had six daughters, passing away in 1917, aged 78.

One of Father Seraphim's daughters married a local merchant named Ioannis Comino, one of the founders of Holy Trinity parish and the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW. A migrant from Kythera, Comino found his fortune in Sydney and dedicated much of his life to the development of the community. He passed away in 1919, aged 63.

"It was a great honour for my family that the AHEA organised these memorial prayers," said the younger John Comino, grandson of his namesake and great-grandson of Father Seraphim. Along with his 87-year-old mother and his wife, they represented the Comino family.

The solemn ceremony was also attended by the Consul-General of the Hellenic Republic in Sydney, H.E. Vasilios Tolios, Con Krystallis of the Hellenic Club of Sydney, the President of the Friends of the AHC (NSW), Lambros Papadopoulos and AHEA President Dr Panayiotis Diamadis.

The AHEA – a member of the AHC (NSW) – considers cultivation of understanding of Australian Hellenic history to be a great part of its purpose. Dr Diamadis thanked the Archdiocese through Father Gerasimos, the Comino family and all those who participated.

PHOTO 1 – Father Gerasimos recites the prayers over the family tomb of Aikaterine Plessa (Katherine Crummer)

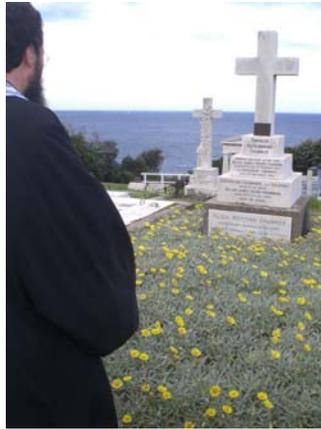


PHOTO 2 – Honouring the memory of the first Hellene woman to migrate to the Antipodes.



PHOTO 3 – Mr Tolios and Mr Comino behind the Phocas family tomb.



PHOTO 4 – Memorial prayers over the Comino family tomb.

