MEDIA RELEASE
MAJOR BOOK LAUNCH

Greek Cafés & Milk Bars of Australia
By Effy Alexakis and Leonard Janiszewski

CANBERRA HELLENIC CLUB

On Monday 16th May at 7.30pm, the Hellenic Club at Woden, ACT, will host the official Canberra launch of Greek Cafés and Milk Bars of Australia by documentary photographer Effy Alexakis and historian Leonard Janiszewski.

The launch will be accompanied by a lecture on the research for the book and an insight into the history of Australia’s Greek cafes and milk bars (some of Canberra’s Greek-run food-catering enterprises will feature). The authors will be available for book signings at the conclusion of the event.

This long-awaited and beautifully designed book presents Australia’s Greek cafés and milk bars as a global phenomenon in the modern era. Food-catering enterprises run by Greek migrant/settlers successfully married Hellenic and cross-cultural influences with local needs. Greek-run cafés and milk bars populated Australian country towns and cities, merging local fare with new American food-catering ideas.

Prior to the explosion of American fast-food franchises, Greek cafés contributed to a major change in Australian eating habits. While a traditional mixed grill remained a favourite, Greek cafés were known for their introduction of American sodas, ice-cream sundaes, milkshakes, hamburgers, milk chocolate and hard sugar candies, into communities right across Australia.

Alexakis’ stunning photographs capture the decor of the cafés, their customers and the owners who worked hard to make their businesses successful. In harmony with Janiszewski’s text and oral history interviews, the era of Australia’s Greek cafés and milk bars is vividly brought to life.

Research undertaken throughout Australia and internationally highlights these catering enterprises as vehicles introducing significant elements of American culture to Australia – not only affecting public eating habits, commercial food-catering ideas and technology, but also cinema, music and architecture. Throughout most of the twentieth century, Australia’s Greek cafés and milk bars were powerhouses generating unprecedented social and cultural change.

This definitive national publication brings together over 30 years of research culled from travels within four continents, selected from over 1,800 interviews and innumerable contemporary and historical photographs. Hundreds of Australia’s Greek cafés and milk bars are referenced within the book’s 256 pages.

Those wishing to attend the launch in The Hellenic Club’s Apollo Room are asked to contact Lisa Andonaros, Events Manager, to book their seats:
(02) 6162 6624; lisa@hellenicclub.com.au

Those unable to attend but who wish to acquire a copy of the book, orders can be made on the following website:
www.cafesandmilkbars.com.au

Event Address
HELLENIC CLUB
Matilda Street WODEN ACT 2606