

ST GREGORY'S SCHOOL

The school year started with a crunch. But this crunch was softened with the beautiful smiles of the children who were delighted to be back, happy to be together. These were eager smiles that spoke of trust, of innocence, of beauty, smiles of a generation that will constitute our future.

This year promises to be an exciting one, the healthy number of students with which we started this year will ensure this, what will add to the excitement will be the fact that we hope to move to our permanent location early in the year.

Our school staff has changed extensively.

We are very happy to have with us

Mrs. Azadouhi Opoyan (Armenian K & Year 1)

Miss Michelle Vicelich (English Year 3)

Miss Silvia Guvlekjian (Pre-School)

For a moment I was worried that we might lose Mrs Opoyan to a Cyprus school, but thanks to God she is back with us. . .

We also would like to extend a warm welcome to

Miss Monica Holmes (English Year 2)

Miss Stephanie Roch (English K & Year 1)

Mrs. Alice Tachdjian (Armenian 2 & 3)

Miss Zarmine Atachian (Pre-School)

Miss Stephanie graduated from Macquarie University last year, and Miss Monica from Catholic Teachers' College, Oakhill.

Miss Zarmine brings with her 27 years of experience of caring for pre-school and Kindergarten in Beirut. She is also a qualified music teacher. She will be willing to give private lessons to your children.

Mrs. Alice Tachdjian was expected to start with us last year, but the Hamazkaine school's management asked us, if we could let her go and teach in their school. . .

We are happy that she returned to our school

School Buses:-

St. Gregory's is now the proud owner of 8 buses. But this means a lot of expenses. Huge sums had to be borrowed for their purchase, and the running expenses are very high. Although we cannot charge you for transport, we would appreciate any donations towards their cost.

Contrary to public opinion, the Government does not contribute in any way towards the purchase or the running of the school buses.

Canteen Facility:-

This year on Mondays, we will be able to provide lunch for students who would like to buy from the canteen.

Initial variety:

* SEVAG Armenian Pizza

* Keubbeh

* Cheese & Salad Roll

* Ham & Salad Roll

Children can eat as much as they want from the above and a piece of fruit. The price will be \$1.00

26/2/87

VARDANANK

26/2/87

On 26th of February, the last Thursday before lent, we commemorate the feast of those Valiant men who in 451 A.D. gave their lives for their Country and for their God.

We celebrate the 1037 soldiers who with Vardan Mamigonian by their death made sure that their nation would live.

At 11.00 a.m. we celebrate Holy Mass in their honour in our church, parents and friends are cordially invited.

5 JOHN ST., LIDCOMBE.

This is the address of our Church. But it is also a centre of great activities. It is the registered office of

- St. Gregory's Armenian School Incorporated.
- Nareg Ltd.
- Sevag Catering Pty. Ltd.

In this article I would like to give explanations about each activity and about their management.

THE CHURCH

Just over 4 years ago I was nominated Parish Priest of the Armenian Catholic Community of Sydney.

As such, I am accountable to my Church leaders for the financial and spiritual activities of the Church.

At the beginning, Church Councillors helped me in the different activities, but since the beginning of the school (Jan 85) most of my time and energy has been devoted to this school project.

Now is the right time to revive the activities of the Church Council. To this end, I would like to invite you all to a meeting on Sunday March 15, at 3.00 p.m. in the Church Hall.

At that meeting I will endeavour to give you detailed accounts of the financial and spiritual state of affairs of the Church.

Also I would like to form a new Church Council. Those who are interested are asked to contact me beforehand.

ST GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL INCORPORATED.

When we started planning our school, we were hoping to be part of the Catholic Schools' System. But as this was not possible, we were obliged to nominate 4 trustees: Mr Sarkis Majarian, Mr George Kalenderian, Mr Elie Aslanian and Father Anton.

Part of the task of these trustees was the formation of a corporation that would run the school.

On the 17th of January 1986 St. Gtegrory's Armenian School Incorporated was formed. Now all the assets of the school are in the name of this corporation.

The members of this corporation are:-

- Father Anton. (Chairman)
- Mr. Gabriel Koussan. (Vice Chairman)
- Mr. Paul Menzagopian (Secretary)
- Mr. George Kalenderian (Treasurer)
- Mr. Elie Aslanian (Public Person)
- Mrs. Azadouhi Opoyan, Miss Zabel Ouzounian, Mr. Sarkis Majarian, Mr. Bedros Qasabian, Mr. Michael Ghougassian.

THE SCHOOL

The school is financed by:

- Government grants (about \$900 per student per year).
- School fees \$300 per year.
- Donations.
- Supporters Club.
- The Church.

The Church, through Armenian Catholic Benevolent Society had created a School Building Fund, and with these funds had purchased a property in Cabramatta for \$23,000. When that land was sold, the money (\$72,000) was transferred to the school.

The Church purchased the land at 5 Mary Street, Lidcombe, where presently classes are held in demountable classrooms, at no cost to the school.

Many other facilities are provided by the Church to the school free of charge.

The pre-school does not receive any government grants. The fees collected there, barely cover the expenses incurred for running the pre-school.

The Government grant together with the school fees almost cover the normal expenses of the school. The real problem is Transport and building.

The average cost of transport per child for 1986 was \$840. This year it is estimated to be \$1060.

The school should try and find

For	1987	1988	1989
Bus purchases	\$120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 80,000
Running the buses	\$110,000	\$220,000	\$220,000
For building	\$160,000 cash (330,000 to be borrowed)	\$160,000	\$200,000 cash (400,000 to be borrowed)

Starting the school was not easy, but to keep it going is even harder. Where can we find the above sums?

Surely we rely on the generosity of our people. And the Armenian people can easily pay these sums. . . Unfortunately, many think that huge sums of money are given to us by the Government for running the school, for transport expenses. Others think that the Pope is sending us the necessary fund. . . The Pope has not and will not help our schools in Australia.

We rely on ourselves only.

So, to assure the continuity of the school, some friends of the school have decided to form a Trust, which is now registered and operating as

NAREG CHARITABLE TRUST.

It's main objective is to help St. Gregory's Armenian School, and if possible other Armenian institutions. This Trust money will be generated by business activities run by NAREG LTD.

The Trustees are:—

Father Anton, Chairman. Mr. Michael Ghougassian. Mr. Jirair Papikian. Mr. Gaby Koussan. Mr. Elie Aslanian.

NAREG LTD

Persons outside the Trust have lent money to NAREG LTD (at no interest) to enable Nareg to carry on different businesses. These persons are taking a risk: that of losing their money.

Nareg Ltd., has already assets worth more than \$500,000, but has not as yet generated any income that can be used for the school. It is providing 30 computer terminals for years 2 and 3 of the school, at no cost.

Sevag Catering Pty. Ltd. is a subsidiary of Nareg Ltd. which will soon form other subsidiaries that will be involved in:

- computer sales.
- electronic equipment manufacturing and sales.
- security systems (alarms).
- printing company.
- and many more.

On Park Road, Lidcombe, we purchased 3 blocks of Land. 2 blocks are huge Catering premises. Lamaro Catering Services, was in liquidation and Nareg Ltd. was able to buy these premises at very reasonable cost. Settlement on the property took place on Friday 6th of February.

The Directors of Sevag Catering are:
Father Anton, Chairman. Mr. Elie Aslanian, Secretary.

Managers have been appointed to run Sevag Catering Pty. Ltd.,

Sevag will carry out all types of catering functions (parties, wedding, birthdays, boardroom lunches . . .) Also, it has started manufacturing Armenian Pizzas.

WHAT DOES ALL THE ABOVE MEAN.

- I The financial future of St. Gregory's School appears very bright.
- II There are 3 completely separate bodies functioning from 5 John St., Lidcombe.
 - a) the Church: The Church properties are separate and there is no mortgage on them, and there will be no mortgages ever.
 - b) St. Gregory's Armenian School Incorporated. This is a separate body from the Church. We have a mortgage of \$100,000 on the Rouse Hill property. (We haven't as yet paid fully for the land). If we are unable to pay our school debts, only the school property will be endangered.
 - c) NAREG & SEVAG. Their assets and liabilities are separate from the school and the church.

If anything goes wrong with Nareg or Sevag, only those who lent us money will be hurt.

Nareg & Sevag cannot in any way hurt the interests of the School or the Church.

None of the Directors of St. Gregory's School, Nareg Ltd., Sevag Catering Pty. Ltd. is remunerated or can be remunerated for his services. Their services are entirely voluntary.

If you need any explanations, if you have any queries, if you want to see the accounts, please feel free to come and check on Sunday March 15, 1987 at 3.00 p.m.

F. Anton