



2015

Paradise Band Newsletter



Issue 4—Spring 2015

www.paradiseband.com.au

Springing into Spring!

Well we've made it through the worst of winter and we're hoping you all kept safe and warm.

We're springing into spring and looking forward to all the fun stuff we're going to be doing. Spring is a time of renewal and we've been busy working on new songs and shows. In collaboration with our talented friends Irene and Steve we have several projects in the works, lots of live performances and working on some songs in the studio.



Canterbury

Canterbury Leagues Club Greek Nights are on the second Friday of every month, everyone is welcome. Come on in and join the celebration and dancing.

Let's go CREEK
WITH THE PARADISE BAND
FEATURING
IRENE AND STEVE



@ St George Sailing Club
2 Riverside Drive Sans Souci
Friday 23rd October 2015
7.30pm to 11.30pm
Tickets \$40.00 per person for show & mezedes
Bookings essential 9529 2008

We're all set to have a great night at the St George Sailing Club. Come on down and join in the fun and sample the great mezedes and dance the night away!



Player Profile: Irene Vacondios



2015

Irene Vacondios is a talented performer that the Paradise Band has had the honour of working with for several years. Irene is an adaptable and seasoned vocalist who has a great passion for singing and music in many genres. We caught up with Irene to ask her a few questions.



Q: *How long have you been performing?*

A: I have been performing since age 7.

Q: *What inspired you to start singing professionally?*

A: 80's Rock Bands Bon Jovi and Van Halen inspired me to start professionally- loved John Bon Jovi's and David Lee Roth's on stage glam antics, but wanted to sing like Bruce Dickinson (Iron Maiden) 'Vocal gymnastics' I was terrified of performing on stage (I couldn't even recite my Greek School Poem at age 6), but thanks to primary school teachers (St Mel's Catholic School) for plucking me out of Church Choir, singing at Friday morning mass made me very competitive. I wanted to start my own Rock Band, but singing Greek became a more viable and feasible option.

Q: What do you think of the live music scene in Australia?

A: The Greek music scene in Australia is more than just singing Greek mainstream songs at folk dances and Greek community clubs. I initially started singing Greek retro, boite style, alternative and elafrolaika in 1995 with two brothers from high school. I still like to mix it up by including CLASSICS in my repertoire and I am thankful that there is still an audience out there that will appreciate it.

Q: *Describe your most memorable moment on stage?*

A: Most memorable moment on stage; singing Xatzidakis' "Odos Oneiron" at Enmore Theatre in 2010. The song was never rehearsed with the band and I was terrified of stuffing it up. It was my last solo for the evening and in the end I had no other choice but to close my eyes and live the moment. It was my most RAW performance ever-not a show, just emotion. (My husband get's teary eyed every time he watches the clip-he too sensed the pressure I was under having not rehearsed it with the musos.) It was from that performance that I learnt how to make a song mine without emulating the original artist- and there was no way I was going to emulate Nana Mouskouri. Respect!

Continues below

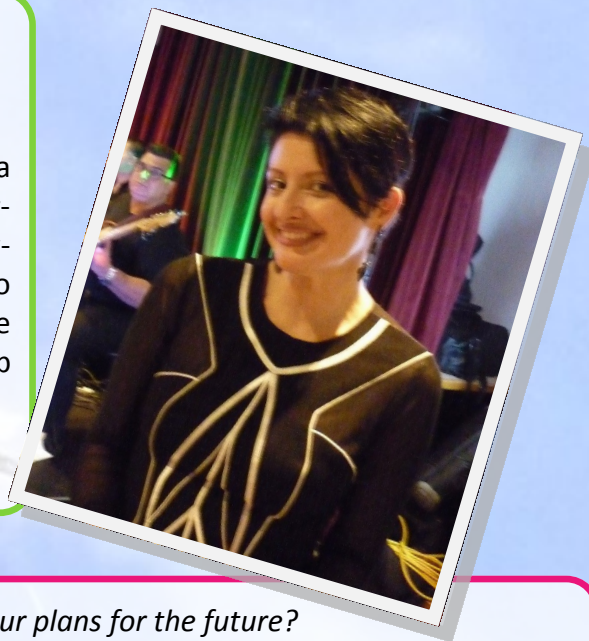
2015



Player Profile: Irene Vacondios cont.

Q: *What do you enjoy most about performing live?*

A: Performing live is all about 'team work' whether you are a member of the band that is backing you, or a guest artist. Performances can never be planned, sure there is a set list, but there's never a guarantee that the show will always go as planned. You have to be ready for anything- and I don't mind surprises, but above all I love the teamwork and collaborating momentarily. Pre-recorded backup music was never an option or fun for me.



Q: *What are your plans for the future?*

A: Plans for the future.....to keep performing for as long as I can, to keep adding to my repertoire and to keep the Greek classics alive and pass this legacy on to my children so that their generation can keep it going. My son already seems musically inclined, and I want to offer him the world as far as music, that is if he wants mummy's knowledge. I'm all for him experimenting musically and if Cretan Folk is where he wants to begin that would make his father and I very proud!

We would like to thank Irene for taking the time out to do the interview.

What's a studio session?

Unlike live performances in the studio the performance parameters are quite different. At a live show the focus is on energy and fun, the songs are played one after the other in accordance to preset song lists. In the studio the instruments may be played at separate times, in other words not everyone needs to be in the studio at the same time. Basic tracks are recorded and then each instrument may be added separately with a lot of work done on the song arrangements. Once the players are happy with their individual performance the songs are mixed and the CD mastered to make it sound consistent in volume and sound. Cover and CD artwork is then added to produce the finished product.



2015

Let's Go GREEK ENDAXI

Some highlights through winter were the fantastic show we had at the Juniors where Irene, Maria, Mario, Steve and Vasilis backed by the band put on a truly stellar performance as did the Six Pak Dancers. The show was enjoyed by everyone, we're looking forward to the next one.



We had the pleasure of **Meraki TV** coming in to film one of our Canterbury Leagues Club Greek Night shows and interview Irene and Steve our featured artists as well as Lucky who is the founder of the Paradise Band. A great night ensued and the guys and girls from Meraki TV joined the party, Ana Sevo even sang a couple of songs with the band, way to go Ana! The show airs on Monday nights at 7pm on Foxtel channel 183.



Next issue— Summer Holiday Special

Catch up on all the stuff happening during Summer. Our second player profile featuring Lucky, bouzouki player and founding father of the Paradise Band and lots more info on gigs and gear.