

A micro-study of Greek Female Immigrants to NZ in the 60s

An Oral History Project

Interview Transcript

Interviewee: *Angeliki (Kiki) Polichronaki*

Interviewers: *Athina Tsoulis, Evangelia
Papoutsaki*

Date: *15/4/2011*

Location: *Sydney, Australia*

Additional material:

*Bio details/consent forms/photos/other supporting
documentation/transcript of interview*

Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou - Hobbs

(Ath – Athina Tsoulis, Ang – Angeliki Polichronakis, Eva – Evangelia Papoutsaki)

Ok this is an interview with Angeliki Polichronakis. A n g e l i k I P o l i c h r o n a k I s. Pat name Kiki, K I k I.

The interview is for the Greek women's' project and the interviewer is Athina Tsoulis, A t h I n a T s o u l I s. The interview is being recorded at 2 Bayview road, B a y v I e w r d P e k h u r s t, P e k h u r s t H e i g h t s, H e I g h t s, Sydney, Australia, Post code 2210.

Also present is core researcher Evangelia Papoutsaki, E v a n g e l I a P a p o u t s a k i. The recording equipment is a fostex fr 2 el recorder and akg c 417 pp click on microphones.

This is file number 2. And the noise background must be mud pies

Ath – Are they mud pies?

Ang - No they are parrots, white parrots.

Ath – Wild Parrots?

Ang – White, white parrots.

Ath – White parrots. Oh collage?

Ang – No, cockies.

Ath – Oh cockies. Cockies. Ok so Angeliki can you tell me where were you born?

Ang - I was born in Crete, the village is called Dris, Sellinos district.

Ath – How do you spell that, Selinou? S e l I n o s?

Ang – o u

Ath – o u. Selinou. Which year were you born?

Ang – '39, 29th of the ninth month, '39.

Ath – 29th of the 9th '39. You've got three nines in your birthday, very good. And what's your parents names?

Angελ – Our father is Spiros Polichronakos.

Ath – Spiros

Angελ – Mother's name is Athina Xsanthoudaki.

Ath – Ξsanthoudaki . X s a n t h o u d a k I. Did you have brothers and sisters?

Angελ – Yes, we were nine all together.

Ath – Nine, big family.

Angel – Yes. My father had been married again and he had four daughters and then he got married to my mother and he had four more daughters and one son.

Ath – Ah, and his first wife?

Angel – She had died...

Ath – She had died...

Angel – Her baby was two years old when she passed away.

Ath – Did she die when she was giving birth?

Angel – No. The baby was two years old.

Ath – Ah, she was two years old, and what was her name? Do you know it?

Angel – No.

Ath – No. Was she from the same village?

Angel – No, there were other villages then.

Ath – And your mother was his second wife?

Angel – Third, another wife had passed away without any children.

Ath – A, I see, she was his last wife. And he had seven children to your mother?

Angel – Five.

Ath – Five, so, four were the children from his first wife? So, do you know how old were the children and their names?

Angel – I know all their names but I don't know how old they were.

Ath – Yes.

Angel – I don't know my own very well, So they were, Maria the first, next was Anna, Amalia and Alexia. Then, with my own mother, Areti, Oraia, Stelios and Georgia nad then me.

Ath – Were you the youngest one?

Angel – The youngest.

Ath – the youngest. O.K. how difficult!!!

Angel – Very spoiled.

Ath – Very spoiled. No you can say anything you like.

Ang – Very spoiled I was.

Ath – Were you?

Ang – *By my sister Alexia, my half sister Alexia.*

Ath – So, what was your parents occupation. What did they do?

Angel – *They had a farm, they were farmers.*

Ath – ...yes, and what did they have?

Angel – *They had everything, my father used to like having of everything, he had many olive trees which gave him a lot of olive oil, and that was his main income, chestnut trees, oranges, mandarins, such things. Wheat and what ever was essential for the house, potatoes, such things, beans.*

Ath – And did he use to sell them?

Angel – *No, he wasn't selling them. They were for the house, chestnuts were for selling and olive oil, mostly oil, chestnuts and wheat.*

Evay – Can you tell us the story of your father with America?

Angel – *Yes. My father had a brother in America and he had been there, he was married. I think one his daughters was born there, when he was still working. In America.. and his wife was in Greece, in Crete.*

Ath – So, when did your father go there?

Angel – *Ah, I do not know.*

Ath – Before the war?

Angel – *Definitelymany...many...and my father was there before the war ...*

Ath – Ah...

Angel – *Yes, many years before the war...*

Ath – Before the First World war???

Angel – *Yes, yes, and he worked there, he made enough money and returned to Crete, because he saw a great property, from the, a Turk had it...*

Evay – So, it must have been before 1920 when the Turks left from Crete.

Angel – *Yes, but many were left behind. Many Turks stayed for many years after, I do not know the date. I remember his name because it was written down in the books, Kazakouris. The Turk, from whom my father got the property. Yes. And my father was very rich, you know, he had a very big property. To go from one side to the other, you had to walk for half an hour.*

Ath – Ah, was it from the money he brought from America?

Angel –Yes.

Ath –How many years was he there?

Angel –*I do not know, I do not know, no, because my father was so, when I was born my father was 65 years old.*

Ath – Yes, yes.

Angel –*Approximately, all the dates we are mentioning are approximate because they were not keeping any details and many things were changing...*

Ath –And his brother remain in America?

Angel –*Yes, he died there.*

Ath –Where?

Angel –*New York.*

Ath – New York. And he came back, he bought the land.

Angel – Yes.

Ath – Yeah.

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath –And he got married to his first wife?

Angel –*No, he had been married to his first wife, she had passed away, he got married to his second wife and had the children, then she also passed away and afterwards he got married to my mother. When my mother was married my father, my father had a daughter of almost a similar age to hers and the baby was two years old, she took it in her arms and brought it up.*

Ath – Was your mother young?

Angel – Yes, yes.

Ath – When she got married, yes....

Angel – Yes.

Ath – So, can you tell me about your life when you were little? You mentioned you were spoiled.

Ang – *I suppose I was. I love, you know, we have very very united family. My mum protect the stepdaughters like was her own. We never knew any difference that they are from another mother or anything like that. We always united together and I had a very happy life. But always because of my uncle in America and all the photos and that on the streaming of, you know, high rise buildings and cinemas and all the lovely things. My sister say to me last time I was in Greece that I was different from little, I was looking at the*

colourful magazines from overseas or whatever I could see, I was just different to the others.

Ath – Is that because your parents talked about it?

Ang – I don't know what it was. I think because of all the things came from America that time, the parcels, all the chocolates, the lovely coco drinks. I remember, I still remember those things my uncle used to send us.

Ath – So, he used to send you parcels?

Ang – Yes. All these things, glossy books that we didn't have at our school and that he used to send us glossy books. It was something nice. After the war, you know.

Ath – And did he visit?

Ang – No, no, they never visit. And what else. I always wanted to travel from one of those timing when mum and dad you know they were reading the letters from my uncle in America I used to say I go in to America. Yes, it was an opportunity when was advertised in the paper that New Zealand Government want some Greek girls to go and work there. They had to sign for two years and we have to stay there two years then do what we like.

Ath – So, let's go back to your early life. What is the earliest memory you have as a child?

Ang – As a child. I remember my dad comes from the shops [? 10:51] having his belt in his pocket whatever, minties, little little things [? 11:02] in a silver paper and sit me on his knees and give them to me. That was and also I remember because it was 4 years difference between my sister, the latest, the youngest sister, they used to tease me, they used to go to do things on the farm and I want to go and they used to hide and let me behind. And I used to cry and try to chase them and find them.

Ath – Yes, it is not much fun being the youngest.

Ang – No. No.

Ath – So, was your mother, she was busy at home?

Ang – Yes, she was busy and my youngest half sister was my other mums. She used to love to curl my hair, brush my hair and pat me you know. All those nice things that biggest sisters do. Yes, and I still feel that she is my half mum.

Ath – So, you would have been a child during the war?

Ang – I don't remember very much. But yes, I do remember my mum say 'why do we hide mum', "so the Germans would spoil your hairdo". I don't know why I said that but they used to tell me that.

Ath – So, did you use to hide?

Ang – I suppose... I don't remember that. I remember mum saying that. And yes...

Ath – Did they talk about the war?

Ang – Yes, they did a lot because a German hit my mum.

Ath – Oh, tell me about that.

Ang – *Kick her, because always the men if they saw Germans come they used to hide, the men used to hide. Because they will take them and kill them. And then mum was at home with four of us, babies and grown up and asked where your husband, your sons, whatever, nobody is here, and they kick her at the back and she was so sore, you know with their boots, and dad with his friend came home crying got his gun and went to pay back.*

Ath – Oh, did he? Did he go and shoot a few Germans?

Ang – *One I think yes but not near the village*

Ath – Far away

Ang – *Yes, far away so that the villages wouldn't get into trouble. Yes and in Kantano they kill some Germans there and they destroy the whole town. They burnt it and they left a plaque 'Here was Kantanos, destroyed because of the killing of two Germans soldiers' or I don't how many exactly. Yes*

Ath – And so your parents talked about these stories?

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – And did they suffer in other ways. Like some people had their houses burnt.

Ang – *No, they didn't. And mum used to have, because dad was wealthy, jewelry that could buy another property. I remember mum showing me the rock that she used to hide in the property in a little leather purse, used to put all her jewelry and hide them there because the Germans used to take things but there were some good Germans as well. One Christmas Day the people on the farm didn't allow to kill pigs because they used to come and take the pigs for their own...*

Ath – Oh the Germans.

Ang – *Yeah. Yes on the farms. So my parents had killed a pig on Christmas where our traditional thing and they took it, they know to cook it and they saw from Kantanos and other villages some horses coming through the mountain coming to our farm and they came. Was two I think or three Germans on the horses and had a picnic with us on our farm and mum give them pork and everything they never said a word they had a really good time. And they left a lot of Christmas decorations when I was grown up we still have **them in our Christmas tree. You know those glass ones they break easy?***

Ath – Yeah.

Ang – *Yes. There was just children like any mothers' boys, you know. Doing their job I suppose, they were really nice people and they had a lovely time in our farm at Christmas Day.*

Ath – So, they would come and take food when they wanted to, did they take other things apart...?

Ang – *I think they did. They used to come and collect, you know, that was the [? 16:01] and take things. I don't they ever took anything from our farm*

Ath – Apart from the pigs

Ang – *No, even the pigs from our farm. But from other farms, I suppose it might have been just one there was having for our own use.*

Ath – So, why do you think that was? Why do you think they didn't come and take food from your farm?

Ang – *I don't know because it was isolated, I think. It was too far away. Our village hasn't been hassled much to the Germans. Not so much. No.*

Eva– You didn't have German soldier stationed.

Ang – *No, no. It was Kantan the main place.*

Ath – So, you didn't have New Zealand soldiers there either?

Ang – *Yes. That's why my dad has the certificate from General Alexandra. Because he had two New Zealanders I think and one Australia kept in our farm for three months.*

Ath – Ah.

Ang – *Till they were ready to go from Sfakia or Sougia, Sfakia I think it was and they shipped up to Livii, in Africa.*

Eva– Libya

Ang – *Libya. Yes.*

Ath – So, where did your father find the Germans/the New Zealanders?

Ang – *They came because it was isolated it was escaping and came and they used to come at night, sit on our fire place, getting our hot meal, getting warm and then gone, I think I used to have a photo somewhere, a little hut on our hills there and they used to sleep there and even date time they used to go down from the hut in the galley, hit in the bushes and my mum and dad rescue, you know was very dangerous, but because they only had only one son but they still give him food daytime to go through the bushes so the Germans wouldn't spot them with binoculars from up hills or somewhere and go there and take them food at lunch time and that.*

Eva– For the historical records, Sfakia, your village was close to that area?

Ang – *Not really. Not really.*

Eva– They were hiding them and then...from Sfakia to the gorge and then on a boat to Libya

Ang – *Yes. Yes. Yeah.*

Eva– Where the Allies army was

Ath – And so when the soldiers left they went off to Libya?

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – Oh, that is interesting. And so, were the only three Kiwi soldiers to come to visit?

Ang – Two Kiwis and one Australia. I don't know if others did come, or you know. For day these are the ones they used to keep for long, you know, time. And mum and dad, I think they used to have their dress but, you know, was dangerous and must have, in case Germans found it. And my sister Georgina husband, he wasn't married then, came, he had an English jacket, you know the...and the Germans thought, he was fair too and the Germans beat him a lot because they thought he was English.

Ath – Oh, was it an army jacket?

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – But he wasn't killed?

Ang – *No. No, he wasn't killed. He kept on saying Greek and not English. Yes.*

Ath – And did your parents talk about the war? I mean did they have any other stories about the war?

Ang – *Oh, I can't remember really, you know.*

Ath – So, what was your life like as a small child? How would you describe it? What would you do?

Ang – Happy and you know, because we never suffer hunger like other people and a lot of people mum and dad used to give a lot of food, you know, if they have a lot of potatoes they give to somebody they didn't have but that was going on with a lot of families round the farm area and that. No, I had, you know, we had more than other people and I feel better, you know, but, yes. And then, you know, with big family was a lot to me. I still miss my family. I still have tears when times I remember.

Ath – So, what sort of things would you do with your siblings? With your brothers and sisters?

Ang – Well they were all older ones. Was interesting because they were weaving, there was knitting; there were doing a lot of things. And we had a lot of evenings at home with friends and dancing and I remember sitting and dad always had a glass of cold water on mug used to be like that, sitting under the great vine outside our house with the moon shining and all that and all of us in and out dancing. Mum always used to teach us dancing, Cretan dances and yes.

Ath – And what, did you play records or?

Ang – Yes, we did have a gramophone, I wish I could have it now. A gramophone you wind you up and play records and was a friend's young fellow used to play the flute and he was terrific, and used to come, mum always liked company and parties and things like that and was really happy family. And another thing, two things I remember was the owls.

Ath – Owls?

Ang – *Yes I was collect them, spot it in my house so that to be owls everywhere. In the kitchen, in the bedroom in everywhere, but you can't see them and it reminds me of two things, one thing was happy times, there was, we've been outside under the vine, in the great vine happy and that and we will listen, sit to the olive tree and the other thing was when mum and dad and my sisters were not there I was very scared, I still can't sleep at night by myself. And they used to frighten me because the owls if it was late in the evening before they come home I used to go and the owls scared me because they were doing to...to.... So that is why I collect owls. And every time my children go on holidays, if it is America or Africa, Bali, they always bring me owls.*

Ath – And so what age you were when you started school?

Ang – *Could have been seven because they didn't start...you know...yes, I could have been seven and to...yes. No, it wouldn't be seven. Six I think. And then it wasn't a school in our farm area so I had to travel to another school, which was half an hour walk in the morning, summer and winter it didn't matter.*

Ath – And whereabouts was the school?

Ang – *Plamigiana*

Ath – Was it a big school?

Ang – *Yeah, it was more central and then one of, one of the teachers got killed, they killed him, Greeks again because of the parties introit how do you call it?*

Ath – civil war?

Ang – *Civil war.*

Ath – After the war?

Ang – *Yes. Yes. That was well after the war.*

Ath – Ah, so was Crete affected by that?

Ang – *Yes a lot. A lot. I walking to my friends house, I don't know if I should say this or not, and see her dead sister and her cousin lying dead on the floor with all blood everywhere.*

Ath – Oh, you walked in on that? And they were killed by one of the fibs?

Ang – *Yeah. Yeah.*

Eva–And do you remember when was that?

Angel – *No, I do not remember, I do not remember, but...*

Evay – How old were you, approximately?

Angel – *I might have been ten years old, approximately, ten years old. Yeah, I don't know, I am not too sure about that. 10 χρονών περίπου θα ήμουνα και it was my best girlfriend and we heard that night the dogs barking and then we heard bang...bang...bang...you know, but nobody would move the house that night, the next morning the news came through to*

my mum because they were our best friends. My sister was the godmother of one of the children and...yes...yes...

Ath – Were they still on the ground when you went to see them?

Ang – *Yeah. The next morning, I think they sent mum went there because mum was just like, I don't know what you call these people, if it was birth they would ask her to go, like she's a very strong woman.*

Ath – Like a midwife?

Ang – *Yes, but she was for everything. If it was somebody dead she would...you know.*

Ath – Ah, she was...

Ang – *She was very strong and very...*

Ath – I am just trying to think

Ang – *Eldest they call them here I think. Yes. She lift people, when the Germans killed them, lift them on her shoulder and bury them with other people. Because all the men was hidden away and go...yes...yes.*

Ath – So, she was seen as a leader

Ang – *She was very...yes...yes. And you know, then they sent me I think to take something, I can't remember what it was, bring mum something, and I saw the blood, I could still smell the blood in my...*

Ath – And why they were killed, do you know?

Ang – *Because there was communist and what was the other party?*

Eva- EDEM?

Angελ – *The Nationalists and the Communists, i do not know, i do not remember.*

Ath – Yeah, but they didn't normally kill women, did they?

Ang – *No, they, well, what happens, no they didn't, was only one. I think the boy was 21 and the cousin was 17, was staying with them, I can't remember the girl was older and the father must have been in his fifties. And I think they went there to kill the father and his wife was holding the baby on her, on her hand and went to try to put the gun away and I think one of them got hurt on the leg and they got angry and they killed all the...*

Ath – Ah.

Ang – *And my best friend she was hidden behind some πυθάρια πως τα λένε bairns.*

Ath – So, do you have any other memory from the civic war?

Ang – *No, not really.*

Ath – And your father was not involved in

Ang – *No, apart from*

Eva– *Can you please tell us, Mrs Kiki, just what you've said about having to go to different schools because they were not teachers.*

Ang – *Yes, they were not teachers, that's right. Like I said the area was very small and was sort of teachers on...I don't know why they didn't go so I had to walk half an hour to go to the next school. And then there was a, you know, was somebody got killed there, the teacher and I don't know why but I finish that year there or was the next year, I am not too sure. And then because my sisters was married by then and schools was near by their houses and I didn't have to travel so I went to three different schools from then on. So that's three, five schools I have gone to.*

Eva– *It was fortune that you went to school*

Ang – *It is, it was, it was.*

Ath – *And your mother had all these girls, there was all these girls in the family and just one boy.*

Ang – *Yeah. Yes.*

Ath – *What was that like?*

Ang – *Well, I think the boy spoil very spoil. He was the king of the castle. In our house. And when dad died he was, you know, but then, when the year left to go to New Zealand, '62, the year, that year he got engaged and I wasn't there for his wedding. It was very hard for me and then he got a job in radio station in Souda, Chania, up to when he was retired.*

Eva– Was he a journalist?

Ang – *Not journalist, he was...*

Ath – *A producer?*

Ang – *He was sorting out the songs and all that, I can't remember the correct name for that. And he was, because he supposed to be a teacher, but remember with Herakleion and Chania they had the thing, there wouldn't put the ones from the priests and from Herakleion to Chania and the others from...*

Eva– *Original [? 30:06]*

Ang – *Yes. That's right. So, he applied, went to do the school teacher and they reject him, so he wasn't anticipated after that...*

Eva–*As the son of a family that had such a property how come he did not stay in the village to take care of it?*

Ang – *Because he was spoil. My mum and my, you know, they did want him, always sent him to high school, you know, he was 14 and applied to a high school, because there was not any high school in our area. And he has to had always the best. And mum wouldn't let him go out picking olives or doing things, you know, so not used to.*

Ath – a jolly good fellow...

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – Are you aware of people saying anything to your mother about having all these daughters?

Ang – *No, my mum, she was very proud and everybody talk about her, how she brought up all this family, very...*

Eva- with respect

Ang – Yes. Yes, yes.

Ath – Right. Because I know my mother was given a lot of flak from having a lot of daughters.

Ang – *My mum didn't, oh so mum had two boys who died.*

Ath – Ah, did she? What did they die from?

Ang – *She never spoken to one of the doctors for many years because she took the boy to the doctor and he had wrong*

Eva- Diagnosis?

Ang – *Yes. Diagnosis, I don't know.*

Ath – What age was when he died?

Ang – *I think about 2 I don't, you know, they never used to talk much about those things, yes, she did have two boys that had died. I don't know how old was the other one but I think one was two years old.*

Ath – Was it after you or?

Ang – *Oh yes. Way way before me. I think it was her first and second or something children?*

Ath – Oh really?

Ang – Yes.

Eva- But there was a high θνησιμότητα we call it in Greek? But children used to die back then after the war and during the war?

Ang – *That's right.*

Eva- It wasn't unusual. Any infection could not be treated.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Yeah. So, your mother wanted you to be more boyish? Did she treat you more...

Ang – Not, not really. No. She didn't. She treat the girls like girls and yes, you know the boy, she want him to be a boy, to dance, to go out, to do, but you know, they protect him too much. And that's why he never used to farm work

Eva- Because she lost two other boys.

Ang – Yes, that's right.

Ath – And so what all the other girls do? Did they go to high school?

Ang – No that is why I want to do something different. Like I say I was different. They're all married, most of, you know, by match making, but they didn't have to marry the one they say to you, you know. This boy come, you know or they are going to a function and they point a girl or a boy and that. If my sister didn't want somebody they didn't have to marry him but always the parents have to say the yes as well.

Ath – So did they go to high school?

Ang – No, no, they all finish primary school, but nobody went to high school. And what else I was going to say.

Ath – When they finish high school did they...

Ang – Primary school

Ath – Primary school

Ang – Yeah. They help on the farm, and they cook, they learn to cook, they do all the waving, you know, I have done a lot of waving.

Ath – Tell us about their dowries – were they being making about their dowries?

Ang – Yes. Yeah. Well the boys knew, the men who married my sisters they knew that there was a lot of farm and that to have it later on. And my dad before he died he divide all the farm – I still have my piece there, I say to my niece and nephews you can have it that I don't want it. But, two or three, two of my brother-in-laws, got some of the farm, the rest, my brother bought it all out of my sisters. And left it to ruins now. Because, you know, he didn't want his boys, one boy is a policeman the other one is a security, I don't know what...

Ath – So why did he buy the land...

Ang – I don't know. Because he thought he might go back. He used to have workers and pick the olives and that.

Eva- Up until ten, twenty years ago, in Crete buying land was really important. Farming land.

Ang – Yeah.

Eva- You say you never lose with land – you buy and it always gives you something.

Ath – Yeah. So your sisters would be at home helping your mother.

Ang – Yeah, when they got, you know, 20, 25 from 20-25 get married and have children and be, mum was very proud, you know, she taught them to be the best cooks, and mum used to say to me ‘you will be the one who will bring me shame, not being a good cook’. And because I was not interested. Anyway my boys think I am the best cook in the world. And my husband.

Ath – And did they make things for the glory boxes?

Ang – Yes. All their even made their husbands Santa pens, they used to sew.

Ath – Before they got married?

Ang – Yeah. Yes. Before they got married. I don’t know how they get measures.

Ath – What was the contents of the glory box? It would be men’s’ under pens.

Ang – No. That was the last thing. Just joking. It was, yes, no, the main thing was all the sheets, the towel, the, yes.

Eva– Wooven blankets.

Ang – Yes. The blankets, yes. All those things.

Ath – Hand made all the blankets?

Ang – All the blankets. Yes.

Ath – How did they make them? Was it linen and wool?

Ang – Yes. I have got one that I made and it took me three months to make it. And in New Zealand I put it in the gift shop because I didn’t want it to sell it and they price it \$1,000. That was then.

Eva– Did you sell it?

Angελ – No. Now my son’s got it, you know.

Ath – And, so when you came home from school, you were just, did you do any work around the house or did you...?

Ang – Yes, I did all that waving and that, you know, I love, I used to love putting flowers in the vase, doing, you know, the nice things, but also I like, you know, I used to like watering the garden, we used to water the gardens because we grew everything from cucumbers to tomatoes, to beans, you know. All the things, and mum after my dad died she used to employ people to do the heavy work at the farm and that. But slowly the farm was going down.

Ath – How old were you when your father died?

Ang – About 13 I think.

Ath – Ah, quite young.

Ang – Yeah. Yes.

Ath – Tell me about that.

Ang – Yes, dad was old, he was, I think, 82, all the years I am telling you it's roughly because not for sure. And dad had, was, 82, the day before he got sick he just wander through the farm again, with his walking stick but very straight, very, and came home that night and had a stroke and fell off the bed. And the family doctor, we had a good friend, came from tha Kantanous and he looked, you know, gave him medicine, and say that you wouldn't survive and he told us, because he never been at a hospital on his life before. It wouldn't be a good idea to send him to Chania in the hospital, because if he still last one day he wouldn't last five minutes in there, different environment. So, we look after him, mum and us looked after him and the doctor used to come every day to visit. And the morning he died I was patting his face and start going.

Ath – So, your mother must have been left a widow quite young.

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath - She should have been forties or late thirties?

Ang – No.

Ang – No, late fifties because he was...

Ath – Late fifties.

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – Ah, ok.

Ang – Ah, I don't know you have to work out the years.

Ath – And so she had the responsibility of the farm?

Ang – Pardon?

Ath – She had the responsibility of the farm

Ang – Yes. Yes.

Ath – And how was that? Did things change?

Ang – How do you mean change?

Ath – In terms of your life, because you talked about it before

Ang – Yes

Ath – it was not ...

Ang – Yes. Everytime one of my sisters got married, that's what I was going to say before, all my sisters have their engagement parties and their wedding in our farm. Mum, will be, she used to be a terrific cook. And have held people and they kill the animals and that and have all the nice food and that for the weddings and engagements, yes.

Eva–Will you tell us what kind of food you used to eat in the weddings those days?

Angel –What food. The food was, pilaf, boiled pilaf and meat in the oven. Meat with potatoes. With several spices and such things, oregano.

Evay –Sweets, honey rolls...

Angel –Honey rolls and nuts and things like these, rusks made in the oven, all these. That was the food, and salads.

Ath –Ah, and salads...

Angel – Indeed, grilled meat goes well with salad.

Ath – Nice.

Ath – So, obviously the dowry was not a problem so your sisters got married quite?

Ang – Not my sisters because they were very well brought up. I am proud to say that and you know, every family used to talk to my family because my mum and my dad, dad was a very strong person and very, you know, straight person and that and mum was strong too and, you know, she brought up all of us in a nice way.

Ath – What did she say to you about your behavior and how you should be with men when you were a teenager?

Ang – She explained to me what's to be a virgin and you know.

Ath – Did she say why that was important?

Ang – Well that was the thing, it was not another way then. Wasn't any other way. And, you know, that was it. To be proud of yourself and make proud your family and that, that was it. We didn't know anything else. And none of my sisters divorced or anything they all had big families and happy lives, not big families; two of my sisters have four children and the others two.

Ath – So, you were becoming a teenager now, so did you notice boys or, I mean...?

Ang – Yes we did notice boys. We loved to go to 'πανηγύρι' they call it and dance and that. Nothing, you know, always somebody would be, your mum, your sisters or, never by yourselves. Hardly ever just on our own. It would be my brother or so a function here and there we go together and that was it, you know. My nephews because I was born I had niece and nephews, you know, old enough.

Ath – So, you never went anywhere by yourself?

*Ang – Not to...later I did. Later I used to go and travel from the village to Chania, you know, in the bus and that but, and my brother used to be so proud of me. He used to say 'Kiki I can trust you to be the other end of the world and I trust you be **straight and nice as it is.**'*

Ath – So, were you a bit shy around the boys, were you? You didn't get them any causes of concern?

Ang – No. Not really. No.

Ath – And did you understand anything about, you know, how babies were made or?

Ang – Oh yes because you see animals you don't have to, you don't have, when you live on the farm, you see your cat have cattens, you see the dog, you see the sheep, the cows, you know the parents always talk, we always had those animals on the farm. And you see and it is nothing to be explained. Because you take the female goat to go and meet, you know, to the male goat you see them mating and is nothing, it is natural. It's nothing.

Ath – And did your mother talk to you about when you are going to have your period or that was going to happen or it just happened?

Ang – Oh I don't know if she talk to me about it but I think you hear through it because the old ladies, the mothers and aunties and they used to talk and as a kid you think it you you know don't take notice,, but you do, you know and things come back to you know, I can't remember if she did explain to me about period and that, I knew because of my sisters.

Ath – Did they talk to you about it?

Ang – No. I don't know how...I used to hear people say oh she couldn't go because she had her period. She couldn't go to church, that time you couldn't go to church because you had your period.

Ath – That's right.

Ang – You were not allowed to. And that's how you learn, you don't have people sit you on the table and tell you that's it, that is coming, next is coming. It comes natural.

Ath – Right. You don't ask.

Ang – Everything comes natural.

Ath – What they are talking about?

Ang – Yes, that is right. Yeah, not like now the children say what part of animal come the sausages. You know, they think it is...they don't think it is made or...

Ath – Yeah, yes.

Eva–So, when you had period for the first time, did you know what it was?

Angel –I was old when I had my first period, I was rather old, I was 16 years old when I had my first period.

Ath – Yes?

Angel – Yes.

Ath – Because you are tall.

Angel –I do not know why. And after that, maybe I was a bit younger and they did not tell me. After that it was too late, how to stop it?

Ath – Yes

Angελ – I might have been like my mother, who was 50 years old, and still having children...

Ath – I mean, I finished late, when I was 56 years old....

Ath – So, when, ah yes, can you describe when you had your first period?

Ang – Yeah, well, I was shy I wouldn't tell my mum or anything. I was a bit scared. Yes, I was scared, well also I knew it should happening I didn't...yes.

Ath – So you put two together [745:21], yeah.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – So, what women did then, did they use, what did you use for your period?

Ang – Old clothes, soft clothes like knitted singlets and things like that or cotton wool and later on it is came the minotags, I think they call them.

Ath – Oh the pads?

Ang – The proper things, yes, yes.

Ang – Oh sorry

Eva- Cotton papers..

Angελ – Yes. Yes. Cotton papers and what else, you used to buy towelling things, white towelling and was special for this and you cut them, yes.

Ath – And you would have seen your sisters washing theirs? In the past?

Ang – I can't remember that.

Ath – Or done in secret?

Ang – I can't remember that. No.

Ath – Yeah. Yeah.

Ath – And so you left school when you finished, so you would have been what, 12-13?

Ang – 13. Yes.

Ath – 13, and then what did you do? Did you work at home?

Ang – Yes, we stayed at home, like I say start doing, like my sister got engaged after all my, yes. A few years after my sister got engaged and help her with her glory box, I was very good in cross stitching, I have done so much, I've got some many paint...paintings, you know for stitches.

Ath – Frames, yeah.

Ang – In storage now, I did a lot and I still love doing cross stitches. If it was the fashion I would, yes, and embroidery and things like that. But no cooking. I didn't like cooking.

Ath – You didn't like cooking?

Ang – No.

Ath – Why not?

Ang – I don't know.

Ath – I suppose there are so many other people who could cook.

Ang – Yeah.

Ath – And so, you spent your time on the farm from, when did you come to New Zealand?

Ang – Yes. '62. 1962.

Ath – And how old were you?

Ang – 23 I think.

Ath – Ah, 23, so you spent quite a long time on the farm.

Ang – Yes.

Eva– They didn't try to match make you?

Ang – Pardon?

Eva– They didn't try to match make you with a man?

Ath – Get married

Ang – Oh they did. They did but I didn't want to. I didn't. I was fussy. I didn't want to.

Ath – Ah.

Ang – I think I was 22. Yes. I didn't like, didn't like the idea. The same things my sisters, get married you know. Get married, get engaged, married, engaged, married, house and family and that, I just want to see other parts of the world before I settle.

Ath – So what did you like about it?

Ang – I don't know. Just didn't like the same farm and I wanted the city always.

Ath – What did you think about – because you were the youngest so there were a lot of children in your family – did you find, did you think 'oh I don't want to have that many children'?

Ang – No, I didn't mind the children. No, I didn't about the children, I think two was enough always, two or three but for me, I wasn't really thinking about me about children because I came from a big happy family I just thought it was natural but then I never stopped to

think would I like the big family, no, I didn't stop to think there until time comes, you know. I didn't sort of think a lot of things like going to New Zealand, I didn't think I will marry New Zealander or I will marry one Greek boys, a lot of them was approached my mum and so, you know, to marry them, I didn't like that. I just like to know the person I married before...

Ath – Yes. So it was that you wanted to know the person you married before or was it that you didn't want to be like your sisters who got married?

Ang – *Yes, they have married but to be was sort of boring, the same thing, you know.*

Ath – Right, you wanted to be something different.

Ang – *Something different. Alright.*

Eva–Did you use to go to Chania often?

Angel – *Yes. I used to go then because my sister who was like my second mother, Alexia, had been married and was living in Chania. And I used to go and you know...*

Evay – What were you doing in Chania?

Angel –*When I wanted to cut my hair, when I wanted to by shoes, dresses, because I liked very much been in fashion when I was little. I liked been in fashion very much and...*

Ath – Were you getting fed up being on the farm?

Ang – *Yes I did because if I wanted to the pictures to see a movie there was no, summer times there's been something in the central farms being machinery whatever, and just show you a picture, that was few times on summer and that was it. Otherwise you couldn't go at night and come back at home.*

Eva– What movies did you watch in the cinema?

Angel –*I do not remember much, I do not remember, I remember only Tony Curtis who acted like a rock 'n' roll star, and then someone started twisting around, you know...*

Evay –So, American movies...

Angel –*Oh, yes, yes, indeed...*

Evay – There weren't any Greek movies at the cinema?

Angel –*I do not remember, I do not remember. Of course I used to watch them but I cannot remember them now.*

Ath – Ah...

Angel –*So many years have passed...*

Ath –And did you like them a lot?

Angel –*Of course I liked the. I liked them...*

Ath – Yea, and what did you want to . . . I mean when you saw these movies did they unsettle you?

Ang – No, they didn't unsettle me I want to know about things because movies you see different things you didn't see on the farm. And I thought if I live in the city I can see those things. I can, you know.

Ath – Why not the city in Crete?

Ang - Because was not possible. We didn't have a house in the city

Ath – So yes.

Ang – And yes.

Ath – You wouldn't be able to go and live in the city? Without being married?

Ang – That's right.

Eva– Live with the sister who was married.

Ath – Yeah, yeah.

Ath – Why didn't you?

Ang – Because I was not long enough to meet a boy in the city, you know.

Ath – I mean why you didn't, as Evangelia saying, why you didn't go and stay with your sister

Ang – I did stay, you know just for weekends or week, you know, I had too many sisters to visit, I had a great life like that. Because you know they have 'πανηγύρι' each village and I go and help, you know.

Ath – And was there a pressure for you to get married?

Ang – Not really because I think they accept you as you are. My mum did at the end it was just me and my mum. My brother was mostly, you know, in Chania, he's liked the good life too and... No, people accept you as you are I think and hey knew they couldn't press me.

Ath – So, what was that like being in a house, which was empty

Ang – Very sad, very sad. Yes, very sad. And that's why I thought if I go somewhere but I didn't even know how long I was staying in New Zealand. Was only for two years which was certainly fine and, you know, I didn't have any plans what to do, I want and find out. I **didn't plan my life to be like that. I wouldn't change it.**

Ath – So. When did you hear about New Zealand. When did the idea came to you?

Ang – It came on the paper that some New Zealand people came to Chania and had videos and that was on the paper, if you want to put your name and they will come and show you where you go and what's happening you know. And they just brain washes us actually

Ath – Did they, was a hard sell?

Ang – They tell us, you know, they often say here to people not in New Zealand because New Zealanders were very friendly and they accept us those days because wasn't any other immigrants, was novelty to have us there with our different culture cooking and γλοκά, cakes and all that. And, but here in Australia there's a lot of it. You know, I think in New Zealand might be the same now too they don't like foreign people as much, not...you know.

Ath – Is how big the group is

Ang - Yes. That's right. But I often say to them here, I say could sure your government came and brainwashes us and tell us how well we will be treated and now we have been cold walls that is not very nice. I don't hesitate telling Australians what I think. Yes.

Ath – That's right.

Ang – Yes. I am proud of my culture but like I say I don't stick oil to my culture, like to mix up with the...you know...where I am leaving with the people.

Ath – So you read about it in the paper, or did you go and listen to these people while watch it at the video?

Ang – I read it in the paper, actually my brother-in-law, he knew that I, my heart was set to go, he came and talk to my mum and my brother because my brother didn't want let me go to another country but then he say he trust me wherever I go. And...and I went and put my name down, and then the next thing I don't know where, I can't remember where I apply for that and next minute they told us to go, could be the Mayor, I don't know, the Council, I don't know.

Eva- Πήγατε στο Δημαρχείο;

Αγγελ – Ναι ασφαλώς. Και μετά μας στείλανε γράμμα να πάμε στο, στα Χανιά, σε ένα ίδρυμα και το βράδυ δείξανε τα φίλμ από το New Zealand. And told us how many sheep and all the lovely things and this country has and this area here I can't remember what area was it has so many boys and not enough girls.

Ath – Greek boys?

Ang – No, wasn't any, was two or three families in Auckland, Greek families when we went there, sort of being there for years and came from other countries not, Greeks but never used to...

Eva- Armenians

Eva- Armenians that's right.

Ath – So, did you have it in your mind that you might find a husband when you went in New Zealand?

Ang – Not really. No, not really.

Ath – No.

Ang – Just took things as they came. You know, I didn't think it was a good idea to married somebody from Greece and I used to see my friends being people they didn't know and I just

didn't...you know...like Evangelia...she didn't know her husband, Koumakis, you know, she didn't know her husband and we used to work together. I mean they have lovely life and nice that...

Ath – It is interesting, isn't it that your sisters accepted that and they married but for you, you wanted a love match. Too many Tony Curtis movies...

Ang – That was one movie, I saw it, it wasn't that loud...No it is just something that you don't know what you are and you go back like my sister's daughter-in-law asked me a few months ago and I was in Greece 'why did you go?', 'what made you leave after all your sisters?' and like my sister say I couldn't answer her straight away and my sister say 'oh she was different from when she was little'. So you don't know if you are different a little bit, you know, not much.

Ath – And I am just wondering so you had this idea that you wanted to go out of Greece

Ang – Yes

Ath – And did you ever think about going to your uncle in America?

Ang – Yes, always thought of that but wasn't possible

Ath – Why?

Ang – Well because they had to immigrant well and I think by then he was getting too old, I didn't know my cousins, they have to sponsor you and that, for job for everything. So, I don't think it was, you know.

Ath – Yes I suppose if he was...

Ang – And I was in contact with him, it was just my dad, you know, my father he was dead by the time and you know.

Ath – Was he older than your father?

Ang – I think so yes. Yes.

Ath – He would have been quite old

Eva– And back then when we immigrant you wouldn't get the same touch as now.

Ang – No. No.

Ath – No. There was a lot of that immigration families and extended families that came by sixties in America, it would probably got harder.

Ang – Yes. Yes. It was right, the government was stopping, you know, people to immigrate, they couldn't go here, they couldn't go there, was a lot of that.

Ath – So was Australia, New Zealand that was really wanted people.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – And so did you see this as your opportunity

Ang – Yes, yes. Then we apply, they send us a letter and they say we accepted and we are going to Mytilini to be train. I think they call that, what you call that school? It was more like a finish school for me.

Eva– Training isn't it for English, and then how to do bed and clean and...

Ang – Yes. It was, you know...

Ath – That's alright.

Ang – Was a lot of good manners too. I know a lot of my friends that didn't accept this sort of, you know, if you like if you crying for something you learn, you know. How to serve people plate on the table, from what side, how to put the glasses on the table, it was a lot of those things that I really love those, that part, you know. There was a lot, you know, how to, we were trying to work in a hotels and hospitals and different and if you are going to make a room in a hotel, if you see naked people if you open the door and see naked people how to approach not to go panicking or anything, just you want your room made, you know, you walk out, you don't have any expression, you know, lots of little things how not to if you going for morning teas somebody's place how to accept things if you learn to have one piece of cake, two piece of cake. Only if a person who insists having another piece you are allowed to. All those things.

Eva– Savoir-vivre

Ang – Yes.

Ath – So you have been trained to work in a hotel rather than a hospital? Do you think?

Ang – Yes I think so. Was the domestic work as well, you know, because, that school we train was one week you be in the kitchen the other week will be making rooms the other week, because we were the guest and we was the workers in that hotel.

Ath – You learnt by doing it

Ang – Yes. In the laundry how to stake laundry in the towels so that easy to pull them out and I still go that. I don't think that any of my Greek friends have it.

Eva–And there, you met Mrs Janet...

Angελ –Yeah, she was our teacher. She taught us and there was another older guy, Australian, but I cannot remember hi, I think his name is Caster, Mr. Caster, I do not know if the other girls have his photograph or if they know him.

Evaγ –And this team was responsible for girls going also to Australia?

Angελ –No, only to New Zealand.

Ath – What year was this?

Angελ – '62.

Ath – '62.

Αγγελ – And Mrs Boufeti, she was, Boufeti she was the main matron, how can we call her?

Evay – Matron

Ang – She was running the place. And her two girls, Delavi and Ako, oof them was short, short and Tassia, I do not remember her other name, we had two teachers and we also had a chef, he was cooking, he was coming from Africa, Greek, but he came from Africa.

Ath – And did they teach you English?

Ang – Yes but we laugh at English, how to tell, try to tell us ‘Thursday’, no we say ‘Thirsday’, no it is ‘Thuursday’, ‘Thuursday’ no it is ‘Thirsday’.

Eva– It was this sort of the sound e?

Ang – Yeah, we couldn’t, we laugh, we couldn’t. They teach us manners at the table, we had to peel and orange with a knife and fork without touching our fingers

Αγγελ – It sounds funny

Ath – You still do it...

Ang – Absolutely...And one of us, I don’t know one of the girls went and couldn’t do it and went ‘flit’ and the orange went to the matron’s foot and she was so serious, γεροντοκόρη

Evay –But even my mother who studied to become a nurse in Athens

Αγγελ – Yes

Evay –She studied nurse but they taught her hot to peel the orange with a knife and a fork.

Αγγελ – Yes, yes.

Ath – So what all the gems all over it.

Eva– No. It was women still despite of their job they had to do professionally and eat well and behave probably to and have these manners.

Ath – It remind me a boarding school that I taught English out in England and at lunch time we had to sit and eat lunch with the girls and you know, no elbows on the table, we had to eat all our food, that was really hard because I hated it to deliver and there were all these protocols that we had to have.

Ang – Not allowed to have your hankie at the table, if they put serviette, napkin you just use that for your mouth, you are not allowed to pull your hankie and wipe your mouth.

Ath – So you remember a lot of things

Ang – Yes I do. I came third on the exams at the end, I didn’t think much but now I think I am quite proud, I think was not much at the time when, the end of the school, they had exam and the other girls was, you know, high school and that and they came first and second and I came third.

Ath – Well done!

Ang – Yeah.

Eva – And what were the exams?

Angel – *The things I am telling you now. There were questions and you were answering. Written exams.*

This is file number 3 interview with Angeliki Polichronaki continued.

Ath – So, you did your training in Mytilini? I was just wondering why some women did it in Mytilini and some in Athens?

Ang – *I don't know was after, not the same time. Every few months I think or a year or something. Six months a year. They used to have it in different places. In Mytilini was the ξενοδοχείο Δελφίνια, the Dolphin Hotel, they hire the whole hotel and we were training.*

Ath – Is it still there?

Ang – *I've got no idea. I've got no idea, it was a beautiful spot, was just out of the town, and was so beautiful.*

Ath – So did you make friends when you were there in Mytilini?

Ang – *With the girls yes. The girls we travel and I am not too sure there was a lot of girls but few didn't come to New Zealand, they back off. But all the ones they came was, you know we all knew each the other and the ones who came to Auckland City we always together. Knew each the other well. The ones staying in Wellington we sort of lost tracks after while.*

Ath – And were they all Cretan girls?

Ang – *No, no, there was from different parts of Greece. Yes.*

Eva – How was the trip from Greece to...?

Ath – Well we haven't got there yet.

Ath – So when you finished your training there, did you go back to home?

Ang – *Yes, they let us go back, they told us we are allowed to take our trunk or lolly box whatever suitcase. Our glory box, what they call it, they told us they will come in the ship in 3 months time but pack our suitcase and yes.*

Ath – So you took quite a few things because some of the girls didn't take as much.

Ang – *Yes I took all my blankets, yes I had all the things that I never use any of them. Mum insisted I take mine wholemoven [? 32:34] serviette, I mean the napkins and table clothes and I still got them sitting in the drawers. And never use them much.*

Ath – So she was, you were the last one at home?

Ath – So did your mother remaining at home?

Ang – Yes, it was very hard for her. No, and then the same year my brother married and mum went and lived with my other sisters so the farm was just a place to go to do some work or see what is going on and then back to the cities.

Ath – So you said that your brother made the decision to let you go?

Ang – Yes, well, mum and then my brother because my brother was the hardest one to convince. Yes and when neighbors told me after ringing to me say ‘Stelios wouldn’t go in the house’, because she was good for hunting, shooting you know, rabbits and that and he will get his gun and just wander off the whole time, couldn’t stand the house because there was nobody there but he was engaged and got married in few months time so that was alright, he left the farm and live in the city.

Ath – So, tell me the story you were talking about before. About the males and the say people had about the male babies that they were born in your family.

Ang – Wasn’t only the male yes. But it was the wives, yes, they reckon it was some spirit goes to something in the house because, you know there was healthy woman, when dad married them and one died I don’t know how long after and the other one had four girls and then she died. And mum had two boys of hers that they die and they reckon that there was some spirit that was jealous of my dad. And was killing his wife and boys. So they, when my brother the survived brother born mum pretended had a lady there already and sold my brother, selling oh I don’t want this boy, it’s not mine, I don’t want it and the lady gave her some money and sell, pay for you to look after him when he is grown up. And it was just pretend thing.

Ath - That was to foul the ghost that this baby didn’t live in the house

Ang – It must did the trick anyway he is still alive.

Ath – Oh that is an interesting story. So tell me about your last day in Greece.

Ang – Was very sad. I got back you know, they give us, I can’t remember how many days to get ready and then go back to Athens to the airport to come to New Zealand. But I was excited in some ways. But very sad. Sorry.

Ath – Did you know at the time what it means? Did you know at the time, did you realize what it meant?

Ang – Oh yes, that evening, the next day I suppose to leave, mum had all the neighbors there that came

Ath – And your brothers and your sisters? So did you have a big farewell?

Ang – Yes. Sort of not big big, yes, some of my sisters came the day before or I went to visit them because they all had families and they couldn’t come but all the neighbors and friends came.

Ath – Were you the only girl going from this area?

Ang – Yes. From my village yes. You know the area, yes. But I knew a lot of the girls and in the morning when I got in the bus I meet other girls were in the school together.

Ath – So when you were leaving were you just thinking this is just for few years and then

I am coming back?

Ang – Ah I didn't have any plans. No just left things open.

Ath – Ah.

Ang – You know when you are young you don't think, you know. It's freedom in some ways that you go somewhere that, you know, you other sisters or brothers hasn't been, you know, just do something different. I think I was gutsy

Ath – Gutsy

Ath – And I can see that it must have been quite exciting. You were 23, you weren't'...

Ang – 22 I think

Ath – Yeah. A young girl, 23, 2, so...

Ang – Yeah. It was young though those days because we didn't, you know, didn't travel things like people do now. 16 and they know everything, been everywhere.

Ath – So what was your first time on a plane when you left Athens or...?

Ang – Yes, actually it was, it was and my brother escort me we got on the ferry into Athens and the airport. Yes, it was the first time ever travel, we didn't like the food in the plane.

Ath – How did you find the rest of the experience? Did you enjoy flying?

Ang – Yes and my brother gave me a little transistor radio that was something that he had close to him, he bought me a scarf that I still got it with the Greek things on and give me his transistor radio. I don't know what for, I took it and I had it on the plane. And the pilots would come every ten minutes and tell me to switch it off because didn't allow...

Eva- [26:20]

Ang – Yes, that's right. Yes. Yes we but we stop in Syria first and one guy through the...you know...spotted me and was pointing and then I said, you know, he was pointing and I couldn't understand him because he wasn't speaking my language and then he give me a piece of paper, his address.

Ath – He fancied you!

Ang – I went to New Zealand and a few years later I found it and I thought I will write, I thought I have got somebody to write in English and he say he fell in love with me my beautiful brown eyes and that was the last one he heard from me.

Eva- He lied to you

Ath – That wonderful opportunity...

Ang – Yes, we stopped in Syria and then in Bombay, the first time I written a letter to my family really laughed about it. I say I saw a priest with a skirt on. And it was one of the Islanders, you know how the Fijians and was a priest because she was wearing, you know how they are wearing it was for first...

Ath – I suppose the Greek priest wears this black robes but they wouldn't wear the colourful.

Ang – *Yeah that's right.*

Eva– Or a short one.

Ang – *A skirt that was*

Ath – Yeah, yeah.

Ang – *Yes.*

Ath – And did you stay in hotels?

Ang – *No. We just stopped for refueling and then in Karatsi the plane was breaking down, so we stay there one night, they put us in a hotel, the next night, the next day, evening we were ready to fly out but we couldn't and we stayed at the airport not in a hotel. Just sleep on the chairs sort of thing till midnight when they fix it again. You know we got in the plane was something wrong again, was a Qantas Electra I think they call these planes. And, yes, we had good time, they took us, Qantas people hired buses and took us around to see Karatsi, you know, the waterfront we see people sleep on the footpaths because it was too hot and all that. Was a lovely swimming pool there.*

Ath – So this must have been the first time you might have seen, well on the plane, non-Greeks?

Ang – *That's right. Yeah. Yes, yes it was the first time.*

Ath – And what was that like?

Ang – *Just accept things just the way they are. Nothing, you know. And one American boy there trying to tell me to go and have a swim in the swimming pool. I said I don't know you. I was prepared to say no when I didn't want things.*

Ath – Were you surf around? When you were in Karatsi?

Ang – *Well they have told us not to wonder off because they had civic war there too or something, you know, they did a bit of scary things for us they told us not to wonder off and that that's why they hired the buses and took us, you know we were allowed to have photos at the beach with camels, you know monkeys there and all sort of things. Yes, and then we came; it took us 8 days from when we left Athens to arrive in Auckland.*

Ath – WOW

Ang - *8 days and it was travelling the whole time. We left Karatsi and came to Sydney and stayed overnight, and again the next day to stay to Wellington when we first landed, approached Wellington and I saw all the hills no high-rise buildings or that I start crying my heart out. Oh it was so sad for me I just thought I left my dad's farm because I didn't want to be in the country and look where I came.*

Ath – So were you expecting New York?

Ang – I expect high-rise buildings, I expect big cities, I didn't, I thought it was just terrible. I didn't like it. And we stayed there the whole day, Greek families came and met us because they had some relatives in the plane and they stay in Wellington so we had a lovely day and next day they hired, they had one Greek woman was work for the welfare or something and she escort us on the train, put us on the train, we travel all night come to Auckland and I was the first girl to be on television but I didn't see myself because of that certificate I had

Ath – So what program was that on television?

Ang – I don't know. We didn't have, even at the hospital, we work they didn't have television until later six months or something.

Ath – Do you know the date?

Ang – I think it was the 8th of June for sure it was the 8th; yes it was the June when we arrived in Auckland and it was early in the morning. It was full of reporters and camera. They ask us why do we think the New Zealand Government sponsor us to come to New Zealand and I say because we help New Zealanders and I produce that certificate. The other girls they went to Blind Institute I think Efrosini was working, they told me they saw me on the TV but I didn't see myself.

Ath – So that was 196...

Ang – '62.

Eva- Just for the record the Commonwealth Army Commander of the Mediterranean gave a Certificate of Recognition to all the Cretans [? 15:12] especially those who helped the Commonwealth Army soldiers to hide and then eventually be sent to North Africa during the War just before the Germans were concurring Greece and Crete.

Ang – Yeah but a lot of the girls didn't have to do anything, you know, we were all support but they didn't do as much as other, you know, other people.

Eva- That was the result

Ang – I don't think any of the other girls had the certificate like me, you know.

Ath – And so you had this TV report on you and what was your feeling, then you thought this is a bit small not what I have planned.

Ang – That was, that feeling was in Wellington, was landed, yeah.

Ath – Did it last long or?

Ang – Yes, yes and then when we been putting, you know, they put in the bus from there and took us to, split us up

Ath – on the bus?

Ang – No, yes. On, I think it was when we arrive on the train. Different groups, different places.

Ath – Oh when you came on the train from Wellington...

Ang – Yes

Ath - ...to Auckland

Ang – Yes. And then they split us up and they took us to the hospital where I work, other girls they told us we are going to be in touch with each others and that.

Ath – Which hospital was that?

Ang – Was a Mental Hospital, was King seat hospital

Ath – Ah King seat and how many of you were there

Ang – Six of us.

Ath – Ah, who were they?

Ang – Was Alexia, Alexia Pentaraki, Evangelia Tsihlaki, Ioanna Tsivouraki, me, Despina Trasianaki, she passed away, she went to the Hospital, and I cannot remember who was the other one. Later came Maria xanthoudaki and Tassoula Tsihlaki.

Ath – Ah, yes!

Angελ – They came afterwards.

Ath – Ah.

Angελ – and when we went there, they took us to the nurses' home where the nurses used to sleep and eat as domestic so to work as domestic staff and we used to look at the nurses who were coming holding a big key, that big, hang by a tiny rope attached on their uniform, with their hats, the hospital, yes, the hospital, we did not know what hospital it was and then I asked, I used to look at the key, because they were leaving, it was the hospital, there were many institutions, it was a huge place and there were institutions called Villa 1, Villa 2, Villa 13, Villa...and there were others for males and other for females and some for children, but there were not only people with mental sickness, there were from many different...you know, spastic, they were....

Ath – yes...

Angελ – mental and there were not only mental...

Ath - Disabled

Ang – yes. And once i asked what's sort of hospital is it? Where sore? We couldn't say anything else. And they say to me, here?

Ath – Ah, in the brain.

Ang – Really scared, really scared then, we thought oh God. We didn't like it but what can you do. And then the immigration the New Zealand government really looked after us well. They sent Immigration, Mr McClean was just like father to us. Immigration they used to come they even asked us if we constipate, you know, how our periods they continue, all details, you know, they really look after us. You know, they used to come very often, we have nay complains that people in the hospital, that you know. And Mr McClean used to threaten

me because I was the toughest one, I didn't want to come to a mental hospital.

Ath – Oh so you told him that?

Ang – Yeah I speak my mind all the time.

Ath – Yeah yeah. And what did he say?

Ang – Nothing, he used to say to me I help the other girls bring the husbands and I wouldn't help you. Just joking.

Ath – Yeah yeah!

Ang – And later on he used to come to my house after I had the children because he used to collect stamps, giving stamps from his son, his son was bank manager and I used to say to him 'you see Mr McClean I didn't want your help I marry a Kiwi boy'. Ah he used to get a bit embarrassed. 'I didn't mean that I would help you.'

Ath – So Kingseat that is Carrington, that is of Carrington road, isn't it Kingseat?

Ang – No.

Ath – Where was Kingseat?

Ang – Near Patmahoe.

Ath – Papatoetoe

Ang – Was, is Papakura

Ath – Yeah

Ang – And then Skaraka, and then Kingseat and then Patmahoe.

Eva- Far out.

Ang – Yeah.

Ath – Because that closed down not that long ago, did it Kingseat? So did you have any interaction with the inmates there or [? 20:49]

Ang – No. We didn't have anything to do with them. A few months after because I love sewing I went to the sewing room. I saw a notice on the board that they used to have, you know what staff they want and I thought and I went a week there and then later on Paul's mum came and she was my supervisor. But I was there before her, you know.

Eva- Is this how you met Paul? Through his mum?

Ang – Not really, no. I met Paul, different story.

Ath – We will get that in a minute.

Ang – Are we?

Ath – Yeah! Yes we want to hear everything.

Ang – *And so were you sharing a room?*

Ang – *No we had our individual rooms, everybody had their own that was in the same, like I say, it was two storey, had, you know, two three lounge room, piano room all the things, the kitchen, the dining room, different for sisters and matrons and different for the nurses. And we used to be with the nurses.*

Ath – Did you mix with the Kiwis?

Ang – *Yes there were very friendly. I had a lot of Maori girls too; one of my best friend was a Maori girl. She even took me away up in the country Easter Day in her house and family, yes and the priest Easter Day went to church and he had been to Crete, you know...*

Eva– As a soldier?

Ang – *Yes.*

Ath – A lot of the Greeks got on well with the Maori because they have a similar type of

Ang – *Yes, friendliness*

Ath – Yeah. And family is important

Ang – *Yes, exactly. Yes.*

Ath – And how about your English back then? Did you feel, you know, frustrated sometimes?

Ang – *Well I was so like my mum proud and I wouldn't speak unless I knew the words. With the others, I tell you stories but now in here.*

Ath – Oh come on!

Eva– Please! One story...

Ang – *No, yeah! Other girls I wouldn't say mention names*

Eva– But they have told us...

Ath – We know we know about the tricks that some of the girls played on the Greek girls. We heard that story.

Ang – *Oh you have to tell me*

Eva– Mrs Tassoula and Alexia have told us...

Ath – We will only tell you if you tell us yours.

Ang – *Well one of the girls was working in the kitchen and I was working in the sewing room there and the second manager of the hospital, secretary or something was very friendly, he really liked me because I was joking and I was strong with my work, I would stand to the matron where everybody was scared of her, and I said no I don't like those*

curtains of my room, in the sewing room, and he was surprised, you know, anyway he came and laugh one day and told us about my other friend who work in the kitchen what he said. And I said what was that Mr Stevenson? And say oh, she receive a letter from her mum and start crying, there was having afternoon tea and she was reading her letter and the chef in the kitchen was there, you know, all the staff was there cooking the kitchen's, what's wrong, what's wrong why are you crying? Oh my mum is sick. Oh what is sick, what is wrong with her? Her lambs fry.

Ath – Her lambs fry

Ang - Nobody knows this. Except, because you know she must have...the chef was friends with Mr Stevenson and he told him because she was learning in the kitchen and she was see they will have liver, you know, for breakfast with bacon, and they will say to him what's this, you know, teach them lambs fry. Well this is what she thought was.

Ath – yes, that's right. That's good.

Eva–That is a real story. It happens if you do not know the language well.

Ath – Yes, yes! So did you do things with the girls out of at spare time?

Ang – Yes we always together we never ever ever go by ourselves , even later later on if we had boyfriends and that go out with boys we never just one, always two together or all together.

Ath – And what did you do? What sort of things did you do together?

Ang – Well just, if was asked us to go to a party, they used to call the party the nurses and we used to go with them and that's how I met Paul.

Ath – Aha! We will get to that one. So you went to parties, did you...

Ang – Yes sort of, party or, you know, go out, for trip, going with Alexia, can't remember and Argyroula I think was, went out one day and asked us, they were very kind to us, would you like on your day off to go, was 2 hours out, I can't remember, and was 2 nurses and a male nurse and took us out in the car, in a small car we packed up like sardines and went all day out. Well we learnt not to, at our school, not to embarrass men, get out money and pay for things, the whole day we were out, the poor male paid everything

Ath – That would be the Greek way, wouldn't it?

Ang – Yeah. Everything.

Ath – If they had the money they would pay for it

Ang – Yes. But we didn't to get away with that, ones he dropped us back at night, we say here is your, you know, the lunch, whatever we had, and I bet he would have thought all day, Gosh these girls we have to care for them all the time.

Ath – So talking about money, is this the first time you earned money?

Ang – Yes that's right.

Ath – And what was that like?

Ang – Was good. Was good. We bought what we want. We bought and then the matron was having a room next, you know, where we sleep, near our rooms, opposite had a little room and she was do a lot of sew for, she wasn't married she was an old woman, a big one too, and was doing things for charities and babies and that and she asked us if we want to sew anything to go there, this is how I started sewing, I made wedding dresses and other for a nurse friend and I made 21st dresses, and I made my own dress, you know.

Ath – WOW.

Ath – So did you earn money doing that on the side?

Ang – No, no, was just friendly things that asked, that's how I went to the other place.

Ath – Right. Right.

Ang – And we did a lot of sewing and that, we bought fabrics we thought it was so cheap and then, you know.

Ath – So, you didn't send any money back home?

Ang – Yes, I did. You know, for my brother's wedding, you know, I used to send a lot of parcels.

Eva- As gifts rather than...[? 28:24]

Ang – Yes. Money I sent to mum because I knew she wasn't working and then she didn't have anybody except my brother used to and my sisters used to look after her but just for pocket money because she was so kind so she would always she would let herself go before and buy things for us and wants us to have the best and then be last her.

Eva- Tell us the story about her teeth.

Ang – Yes, I say to her the first thing when I am going to New Zealand I am going to send you money to fix your teeth. Because she wouldn't go and have her teeth fixed.

Ath – Right.

Ang – And then I sent her money and I threaten her later if you don't send me a photo of you smiling with your new teeth, this is the last letter you receive from me.

Ath – This is a lovely photo of your mother, the new teeth.

Eva- She did it?

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Did you save money?

Ang – Yes I did save money but not much because, you know, wasn't, you know, money wasn't that great really.

Ath – Yeah.

Ang – Was 15 pounds a fortnight. That included one weekend. Because we were, you know. We had Thursday and Friday off one week and Saturday and Sunday off the next week.

Ath – The things have been, you know, for some of the other women, the sense of that money being very important for their families back in Crete

Ang – yeah

Ath – but you didn't think the same

Ang – No, I didn't really have the same, like I say for mum, most probably would like, you know, that's why I send presents because my sisters like the fashions, like wearing different things and that and I used to send them a lot of parcels. And being so many it cost me a lot because I used to buy fabrics with my sister being a dressmaker too she used to dress make for my sister and I made beautiful, you know.

Ath – Oh that's a wonderful skill to have sewing.

Ang – Yeah

Ath – And so tell then about Mr Paul.

Ang – Mr Paul.

Ath – Mr Paul

Ang – Mr Paul

Ath – How did that happened? Were you looking, were you looking consciously for a husband or...?

Ang – No. I think we used to, the nurses used to take us out at parties, was drinking parties, I don't, we didn't drink, but we had fun, you know because we stick together and watch, we laugh about them, enjoy the friendliness of them and that, and they used to protect us because they knew we was immigration was watching and all that and the matron of the hospital, that was packing a good care from us, you know, they wouldn't let us being any trouble I think. And one afternoon, there is, I think she was an Australian nurse, and they had nickname her Penny Coin because her name was Penny, Penny Coin, that was how they used to...and she say to us you girls want to come to a party, was in the afternoon, just and we didn't know what party was really, you know and we went out and was near Paul's house, was a farm house and was boys there was, Paul was friendly with the boys there as well and he was there and I can't remember if there was other nurses there as well, I can't remember what girl was, Evangelia, or what other girl was with us. Wasn't by myself, anyway, and we went there and she was start drinking this Penny Coin and she was drunk and then she went to the toilet and was sick, you know, and we stand outside near the other girl and we say how we are going to go back home. Was really scared because wasn't another woman there. Was really scared. And Paul came. And he say, you know, and was really scared we say how we are going to go if she is sick and he was really so kind, so gentle and ensure us he wasn't drunk, you know, was a couple of them would have been, and he say to us 'no, don't worry I will protect you will take you home', you know. And that's it, that's how I met and then he worked at the hospital too.

Ath – Oh did he? And what was he doing?

Ang – He was in the farming department. Because the hospital was so huge had their own farm their own butcher

Ath – Ah...

Ang - ...baker, dental clinic, had everything, it was just like a whole village.

Ath – Ah. They grew their own food

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Ah, they were at the farm

Ang – Not food, was animals

Ath – Animals

Ang – They had dairy farm.

Ath – Ah ok.

Ang – The cows and that. And he was driving a tractor, he was, you know, and that's until we got married and then he left.

Ath – Ah that's a big gap between you meeting and marrying.

Ang – We were engaged for a few years. Yes.

Ath – So what happened? Did he decide to come and see you again after that?

Ang – Yes I think so. And then he used to take us to Easter show with all the girls. Poor Paul used to carrying, you know, because he had a car and took us, Joanna and Argyroula and Alexia and will go out to Eastern Show and here and there.

Ath – So you went out as a group?

Ang – Yes. But he was my boyfriend.

Ath – Ah ok, so, how did that work? How did you know he was your boyfriend?

Ang – I don't know. He used to come and I suppose he would ring up and say, can I speak, you know, and he would say to me can we go there today and I say the girls come too, yes.

Ath – So he would ask you on a date and you did invite the whole crowd?

Ang – Yes.

Ath – To make sure that you were kept your honor.

Ang – That's what we do.

Ath – Yeah. That's right and he accepted that?

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Yeah.

This is file identification number 4, interview with Angeliki Polichronaki continuing.

Ath – So you met your future husband and you were going out on dates with all your girlfriends

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Checking him out. And then he popped the question

Ang – *That's right.*

Ath – And...did you write back to your family and tell them?

Ang – *Of course I asked them first and I received a beautiful letter from my mum and my brother, the relatives but specially my brother say 'I trust you always and I trust you've got, you know the right person and, you know, you are welcome to marry whoever you want.'*

Ath – And they didn't mind if he wasn't Greek?

Ang – *No. They love him more than me when we went back. They accept him and they still, my sister Alexia, if she says, she rings me up she's 90 and she is not well, she rings up and she says 'how is Paul?' and she starts crying.*

Ath – And so, how long afterwards did you get married?

Ang – *We was engaged 2 years I think because we were saving both of us to go on, Paul wanted, that was another thing, it was a surprise that he wanted to go and meet my family in Greece.*

Ath – Ah, ok.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – So you were saving to go back?

Ang – *Yes, and one stage I was thinking of going and get married there but then I thought Paul's parents they only had one son and it wasn't fair not to be in their son's wedding.*

Ath – And how did you get on with his family?

Ang – *Very well. They accept me like their own daughter and I just, you know, they were really good to me and I love them*

Ath – So did you stay in the hospital until you got married?

Ang – *Yes I was in the hospital till I was due to have my first son, after we got married. I went back and worked, you know, at the same hospital. And when I left there when my baby was due*

Ath – So when did you get married? What was the date?

Ang – Was 16th (like tomorrow is the anniversary) of April '66. Yes.

Ath – And how did you celebrate it? Did you get married in the...?

Ang – We had to, I pay the fares for the Greek priest from Wellington to come to Auckland, and we got to know an Anglican priest and he gave us the church because we didn't have a Greek church in Auckland and we got married there.

Ath – And did you have a party afterwards?

Ang – We had a wedding reception, wedding breakfast I think they called it, lunch time and then a friend of my mother-in-law's she was very interested in, you know, Greek things and that, and invite most of the guests in her house, and had a really good party, all the food was from her and that, I pay, you know for something she didn't want to.

Ath – Ah that was nice.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – And did you have all your girlfriends come was that a big party?

Ang – Yes it was. The ones that could come they did come, yeah. Yes, yes.

Ath – And did you go on a honeymoon or...?

Ang – Yes, the week after we left because Paul wants to travel, we went to Hong Kong first, stay a week I think there, we stop at Bombay, was just refueling and that other countries that we stopped, in Lebanon, for few days, was beautiful, before the civil war, whatever they had there. And was beautiful, enjoy that, did few trips around there and then we went to Athens and Crete.

Ath – So you went back to Crete after you got married?

Ang – Yes, yes.

Ath – Ah.

Ang – And after we stay 3 months I think or just before 3 months we went to Paris and then we went to London

Ath – Was quite a honeymoon.

Ang – And we suppose to go to New York, Honolulu and back but in England they told us if you go to New York we can't guarantee you when you are going to get out because there's a air strike.

Ath – Ah.

Ang – And we had to go back because I was due to go back to work in few weeks and we **couldn't afford to lose any time.**

Ath – So what was like going back to Crete?

Ang – Oh, was beautiful. Was just lovely. Was really nice, wasn't quite five years that I had left and I had a bit, no trouble but I had to travel with a passport with two names because I wasn't neutralized yet, I had to have, you know.

Ath – Ah right. And how did you find it? I mean, obviously you were pleased to see everybody but what was your first impression when you went back?

Ang – Yes. Just the olive trees.

Eva– You missed the olive tree?

Ang – Yes. Everything was, I don't know. I don't think I noticed a lot of difference except the little babies was born, you know, little children and things like that.

Ath – And your parents were there?

Ang – Mum, dad had died. Yes, yes. Mum and all my sisters they all gathered at my brother's place and yes, was beautiful.

Ath – And did you want to stay?

Ang – Not for good. Not for good. You make the decision, it is hard, you can't chop and change mind otherwise you ruin your life.

Ath – Yeah.

Ang – You can't do that.

Ath – But you didn't have this great pull to stay behind.

Ang – Not really, no. No, you know, it is just, was not long enough in New Zealand to...

Eva– You were newly married and people [? 30:58]

Ang – Yes, that's right.

Eva– Yeah

Ang – Yes.

Ath – And so you came back and went back to work?

Ang – Yes straight away went back to work and work for another two years before I got pregnant and had my first son.

Ath – And so was married life all cracked up as it meant to be?

Ang – Life is what you making sometimes. Yes.

Ath – You were obviously very compatible with your husband

Ang – They say opposite attracts.

Ath – Do you think you are opposite?

Ang – *In some things but not bad things, you know. Yes.*

Ath – You seem well matched.

Ang – *I suppose after 45 years.*

Ath – And so you had your child, your son, after how many years of marriage? Were you 2 years, was it?

Ang – *2 years.*

Ath – Yeah.

Ang – *2 years, 2 and a half. By the time...*

Ath – Yeah...

Ang - *...he was born, yes.*

Ath – And did you keep working or did you stop?

Ang – *No, never work full time since I had my children, never.*

Ath – Ah, really?

Ang – *Part time and casual jobs and than yes but never full time.*

Ath – And had two children?

Ang – *Yes and then they say I had between them only 19 months two boys*

Ath – They would have kept you busy then

Ang – *Yeah. Yes.*

Ath – So what did you occupy yourself part time?

Ang – *In New Zealand or here?*

Ath – In New Zealand

Ang – *In New Zealand I had two jobs, I had fabric examiner at Bonds in Otara, we used to, Twilight shifted it was, in the evening, and then, before this I think, yes, that was the last one I had before I left New Zealand, the first one was in restaurant working at nights, in the 'Landsee' restaurant, I don't think it still exists in Papatoetoe. And only for short while, you know. Because I was saving to take my children to meet my mum and that. And then after that I went to brand with car bets [? 9:03] to examine the car bets that was evening again twilight shift.*

Ath – And did you continue to be part of the Greek Community? Did you...? That would have been growing by that, wouldn't it?

Ang – Yes I was the first one to deposit for the church in Auckland because it was a bit of argument. They invited us there to go and have, to put a deposit to buy a church and was a bit of, you know...

Ath – Yeah

Ang - ...people didn't agree with something and talking and that and I just said 'I came here to give some money to the church' and I just left the money and do what you like. And my κουμπάρος who is dead now he often used to say if it wasn't for κουμπάρα Κική we wouldn't because ones, you know, and other people following to give money. I don't know if many people knows that.

Eva- People know.

Ang – Yeah.

Ath – And so did Paul participate in the Greek Community with you?

Ang – He got baptized before we got married in the Greek Orthodox Church.

Ath – Ah.

Ang – Because we thought it was better for the family and both my boys been baptized in the Orthodox Church.

Ath – And when did you make the decision to come to Australia?

Ang – That was Paul's decision because he came here on holidays first, he said I will go and check, and he likes the way, Paul doesn't like the cold weather, doesn't like the, you know, and he likes the weather plus was other reasons too with the Islanders and that, you know, schools for the children and that, that was a little bit

Ath – Where were you living at the time?

Ang – In Papatoetoe we had built a brand new house...

Ath – Right

Ang - ...when my son was 6 months old, we moved in. Yes.

Eva- And how old were the children when you moved to Australia?

Ang – I think Mark was 10 and, you know, the other one a bit younger. They both went on, they went to primary school and the teacher called me one day and I thought oh Gosh what's might be trouble and she say to me 'it is so lovely to have children to understand before you open their mouth', they were quite academic both of them. And they sent the young one, Glen to opportunity class in another school where they tick, you know, children advanced children but Mark was half through the year and he couldn't go. And they both went to a selected high school.

Eva- Did you use to speak Greek to them?

Ang – No, I made that mistake because I was still learning English and I found it hard to speak, you know, I think the children learn from both parents plus it was my in-laws. I was

a bit, you know, embarrassed, not embarrassed but shy to speak my language in front of other English spoken people? Yes.

Ath – And Paul moved, came over here to check it out?

Ang – Yes, and he likes it, you know, plus I have got at a time, because I'm left, I had about 8 first cousins here, families here

Ath – Oh did you?

Ang – Yes. And I still got plenty here, I think two or three went back to Greece. All the others are still here.

Ath – And so he came back and he said right we are moving

Ang – Yes.

Ath – And what did you say? Did you...?

Ang – Was my...you know you make the decision both you don't just say I want to go you come too. It is just...

Ath – So why did you make that decision? Because you had all this Greek Community, you had all your friends. Why did you?

Ang – Yes. Another big, made me, because my sister, when my sister came few months before our wedding with her husband, they never had any children, I was their child, and they came for my wedding, you know, and to work as well, we sponsor them, my in-laws help for all that, and they stay there for 17 years. And my sister used to say, not to me, to our friends, oh I want to go home because she was very home sick from the day she came and, you know, she wouldn't settle, she loved the country but she wouldn't settle there, you know. And she said I would love to go but I don't have the heart to leave Kiki behind. And she was...Often she used to say to me oh if I die here I don't want to be buried here and all those things sort of, you know; now she is ready to go home but she doesn't want because of me. It is time for me to have a change and so she stayed a few years after I left. And then she went back home.

Ath – And so what was like emigrating again?

Ang – Yeah, it was a bit hard. Was lovely of by relatives because we were invited to each one house at weekends we had dinners we had them, you know, I had them back in my place and all that. But was very hard to make friends because first we rent a unit and then we bought another unit, very luxurious unit but in units you don't, people just come and go. You don't see them in the gardens, you don't see them in the, you know. And I found it very hard to make friends. Except at work. I start working and...

Ath – Where did you go to work?

Ang – I work at Target

Ath – Target, right.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – And what about the Greek Community here did you tap into that, did you try and go to the functions they had here?

Ang – *Yes. I did, I did. Yes, I still do but we are getting old and tired now, you know, all the dancing and the music, and that is just too much. We used to go in New Year's Eve with friends places and restaurants, you know, Greek places and parties, so many weddings we would have been rich if we didn't have to buy all the presents.*

Ath – So you made friends here? Or not?

Ang – *Greek or?*

Ath – *Greek, yeah.*

Ang – *Yes plenty of Greek friends and relatives. Never sort of that. But I think if you ask Paul he's got Kiwi friends here, he hasn't got time because all the Greek friends see more his friends than my friends and relatives and that. Australians too.*

Ath – So when, when you said you didn't make friends, were that neighbours?

Ang – *Australian friends I am talking about.*

Ath – Ah! Australian friends

Ang – *Australian friends. Yes. It is hard to make friends if you move. I am sure even now if you move to another place, because when you are young your children you go out to pre-school and met with other mothers, you know, scouts and cubs and all that and you meet mothers you make friends. Well when **the children are big you don't sort of have that.***

Eva– How the children found?

Ang – *Easy, very easy. My children are so friendly, even when they were babies, they sit on the pram and in Papatoetoe where you live everybody knew their age, their names, when they are going to school better than me because they say 'hello hello' to everybody.*

Eva– They were brought up in a social environment.

Ang - *Yes.*

Eva– They were seeing a lot of people

Ang – *Yes. Yes. All them friendly like...*

Eva– You said that you didn't speak Greek to your children but how did you pass to them their part of the Greek heritage?

Ang – *We took them to Greece, they learnt things they still remember things even they were little. Mark had I can't remember he was 7 or 8 birthday there. Yes. They do understand quite a lot of Greek now they speak a bit too. My youngest son took his wife and went for honeymoon to Greece.*

Eva– Right.

Ang – *Yes. And he, my daughter-in-law made me to write to them all and say she wants to*

meet them all but they only had few, they went to Santorini first for their proper honeymoon and then they went down to Crete but not long enough. So made me to write to all of them and they all gather in one evening at my sister's place

Eva- And that was the first time he went back to Crete after he went as a child?

Ang - Yes. Yes.

Ath - How old was he then?

Eva- He was 7-8

Ang - *No the young one was just over 5. He was just started school and then I took him off school*

Eva- And then he went for his honeymoon?

Ang - *Yes. Yes. And his wife loves it. He went, told his wife that auntie Alexia, that is my sister who came at my wedding and uncle Bazol, he told her before they even got married I have an auntie and uncle, my Greek granddad and grandma. Because I didn't have my Greek grandparents and that is why they decided to go to meet her. And they name their daughter Alexia.*

Eva- Oh wonderful. Yeah.

Eva- And what do they do, what your sons do?

Ang - *Well, they were very bright at school and they both didn't do anything because of, you know, their friends and that. And then Mark went 4 years at art school and he was really good and then he left and got sick of it. You know how bright children get tired sometimes and stop? And then he went to, he bought a place with a girl and then they split up in a very, oh, poshy place in Sydney. And he left and went 2 years in America*

Ath - Ah what did you do?

Ang - *Wherever, he was just using the money from the house he sold.*

Ath - Having a holiday?

Ang - *He did some work, casual work. He met with some, you know, made friends and he was doing renovate old places, heritage places and that and he learnt a lot. He is very good with his hands. And Glen used to work for the bank that his friend took him off and now he is, you know very went together with different jobs, now he works for customs agency and Mark is a manager of a place where they make industrial blinds and all that, you know. They are very, you know, wherever they go, they are very good in their job and they...but I wish they had, you know...*

Ath - They have got a five-year-old

Ath I suppose

Ang - *...education I suppose. We told them if they want Uni I think it was just they thought we expect too much of them. Because we, you know, how, we didn't push them but you have the high expectations and the children get sick of that sometimes.*

Ath – Did they find it easy moving over here?

Ang – *Yes very easy. Easy to make friends and all of that.*

Ath – So, they didn't miss New Zealand?

Ang – *No. No. No.*

Eva– How about your, you know, maintaining a relationship with two countries now? With Greece and New Zealand. Right? Because when you moved to New Zealand...

Ang - *...and Australia*

Eva– You know you were sort of being in touch with your family in Greece now you are elsewhere, an extra set of...

Ang – *Yes. Paul's family is very small, he only had an uncle and two cousins in Christchurch and only one cousin still alive. [? 15:21] is very old she never had married and that, and also she, you know. Her other cousin didn't have children the one who was married all that, the uncle was not married and only one sister and she comes here every winter in, you know, in Australia, she is wealthy too and she goes to Australia and all over the world. To Australia to escape some winter from New Zealand.*

Eva– How about your friends in New Zealand? In Auckland, you know.

Ang – *They are still my friends, you know this is who I am, and a lot of Greeks are the same too. We might be in contact for years and that but the minute we see each other, we are like we never, you know, we never sort of apart.*

Eva– Yeah. So, when did you last go to New Zealand?

Ang – *That was at Mark's wedding, 3 years, three and a half years ago.*

Eva– Yeah. And had the chance to meet your old friends?

Ang – *Not much because the, we had to come back, we left our house, people to water our garden, pay people and all that and we couldn't stay long and the wedding was at Waihi beach and, you know, was far away, you know, we didn't have time plus we got Paul's sister and I can't say to her I have got so many friends I can't stay at your place, you know, because we don't go very often must admit it. The 30 years we have been here we have only been twice there.*

Eva– Really?

Ang – *Yes. Yes.*

Eva– WOW. Did you feel the need to be there more often or...?

Ang – *Well, you know, when you are going to Greece you have got your young family to, you buy a house, we lost of money coming in. We lost half of our money.*

Eva– Why was that?

Ang – Because when we sold our house, was 11 years old house we had it design and everything when we sold it, the price was very cheap and then 6 months before we came here the houses went twice as much. 6 months after we left New Zealand the houses went up. My nephew rings up and say auntie, you know, your house is twice as much now and plus the dollar value was ...

Ath – What year was that?

Ang – 1980.

Eva– There was a boom in the market then apparently.

Ang – Yes.

Ath – 1980?

Eva– Yeah.

Ang – Yes, 8 of July, the same date that I went to New Zealand, 8th of July arrived in Auckland, 8th of July left.

Ath – That was quite a mad period because we went in '82 ...

Ang – Ah right?

Ath – January '82 and the year that we had decided to come our house price was doubled

Ang – Yeah that's right.

Ath – Yeah. And they have tripled because we looked at the papers every year it have just doubled. So it went from 40,28 just 45 whatever.

Eva– So you lived in two different countries outside Greece

Ang – Yes.

Eva– And you socialized a lot with the Greeks in each of these countries. Do you think there are differences between the Greek Community in New Zealand back then and the Greek Communities here in Australia?

Ang – I think that is, some of the things I don't like to say. Yeah.

Eva– Why is that?

Ang – I think that people involve with each other lives more in Auckland, some of the things I don't like, you know, some of the people, where here its too many to, you know.

Eva– You don't as much of a private life in a smaller community?

Ang – Yes. Not, yes, the gossip and that you know.

Eva– Yeah.

Ang – I shouldn't say that.

Eva- No, that is fine because it is interesting that some people prefer the small community because they have the opportunity to get closer together

Ang – The fights, the disagreements, that’s what I mean. I suppose it is here too but I don’t notice it because I don’t, I select my friends too, and you know, my relatives and that plus I have got, you know, other lives. I have got Australians, I have lovely neighbours wherever I go I don’t sort of, you know, like I say the first two years, the first places we moved to was very hard because was units, you know, we in flats whatever they call them we lived and it was hard to see people. Once you have a house, you have a garden and you have neighbours and that it is lovely.

Eva- And you had more, you like having the choice more to...

Ang – Yes

Eva- ...to select the people

Ang – Yes. I mix up well

Eva- What were some of the disagreements the Community had in Auckland or in New Zealand?

Ang – Ah I wouldn’t know because I don’t

Eva- Back then, you know you mention about building the church for instance.

Ang – Yes, I can’t remember exactly Evangelia what it was. But I remember it was a lot of fight. You know, sometimes it is better to leave things and you know.

Eva- But all small communities experience, yeah, disagreement.

Ang – Yeah. People like to say things sometime that you don’t like, you know. Even when I was leaving because Glen had asthma when he was little, and I had one, came back to me that’s what I don’t like people, say something bad or good and comes back to say ‘Kiki is moving because her son is in the death’ this sort of thing, you know, he is very sick it wasn’t that bad at all.

Eva- Yes, they try always to imagine something

Ang – Yes

Eva- A reason

Ang – Yes.

Ath – Drama

Eva- Drama. Drama. We had a drama a few days ago when we told them that Janet Yakmis will come up and would like to meet all the ladies, some of the Community and members, and why does she want to see only these people and not the others

Ang – That is what I mean

Eva- There is no reason

Ang – Yes.

Eva- But you have worked here and in New Zealand. Were there any differences the way people work or related at work? Was it easier working in New Zealand

Ang – Yes it was much easier like I say those years there were not many immigrants and that and they treat you as a novelty you know, interest to learn about you and that, where later on, you know, after so many years, I came here, was so many here and that and people not very, you know, friendly, unless they know you well after while and that. You still notice even at work they prefer, if it's in charge somebody, they prefer the Australians, you know. You notice it without being sad to you, they think, you do notice that. You do **notice**.

Eva- You said earlier on in the morning that you don't really like it when people ask you where you are from because now you feel pumped the countries. So, yeah.

Ang – Yes. I don't mean Australians, actually it is from other country people ask me, even when was, a few months ago was in the club and was two people and say really rude words amongst themselves, I don't know if they was Italian or Greeks because there was talking both language. And they say to me where are you from? I say I am from here. I just I think it was very rude and you can tell when people are rude and that. I am not rude to anybody when I can tell nice people and all that. And I am proud to say where I am except those people who are just interest where are you from not ...

Eva- ... who you are now.

Ang – Yes.

Eva- So, who are you now?

Ang – Who am I?

Eva- Can you answer this question it is interesting when people ask that question

Ang – I am just individual I think

Eva- yeah.

Ang – Yeah, because I like good people doesn't matter if they are Greeks, if they are Australians, New Zealanders. I've got a lot of friends from different countries like Chinese and then I don't like a lot Chinese. You know.

Eva- Yeah.

Ang – Some of them are very rude but it is not rude I think they are where they just come from they don't know any better.

Ath – Well I suppose they have a very direct way of talking

Ang – No it's not that, it's just themselves first. If there is a seat on the train they rush and go. If you go to registers' to pay something they can see you with a lot of things, it's me just move and say, you know, they are very rude. You know, they go off the escalators they stop and talk there when you rush to going to work and all that. It is just, you know, and I don't

think they are, they know they do it, just they are why.

Ath – Different concept

Ang – Yes, yes it is not to all of them. It is just the majority.

Eva– So I suppose when you live in a country with one and a half billion people you have to rush to catch the seat because someone else is going to catch it

Ang – Yes. It shows when they are here. Yes.

Eva– Yeah, yeah.

Evato Ath – Do you have any other questions you want to ask?

Ath – When you look back in your life now what do you think?

Ang – I don't regret anything but what I have done, you know, when I go back in Greece I feel they really, how would I say it, they go ahead now more than we are here now. And I just thought I shouldn't go, you know. But then you think they really work hard they had hard life to get where they are – the whole country you know.

Ath – What do you mean by that? Do you think that the Greeks have advanced more than...?

Ang – Yes they have and I find out even the language because my husband is English, you know, English spoken person and we don't read the papers and all that and I don't have the channels I watch the Greek news sometimes but not very often and I found it hard to speak like the Greeks now. A lot of words I miss, you know. I don't understand what they are talking about. That sort of thing.

Ath – So you are talking about the Greek Community, it is not advanced as much as they've got in Greece.

Ang – Yes because. That's right, especially I mix with my young nephews and nieces and that and they all educate because my whole family is very old now, you know. All my sisters are very sick and very old and my brother and all of them, it is hard.

Ath – So you think your life would have been different if you stayed in Greece?

Ang – Of course would have been different but I don't know if it was for better or for worse. It is very hard to tell. But that's the life I've chosen, nobody pushes me or anything

Ath – Nothing

Ang – So you can't, you make your life then. Yes I do miss my family. I used to go, I couldn't face the airports for many years even when I came here because every time I used to go to the airport you feel emotion and you cry

Eva– Do you talk to your sisters in Greece?

Ang – Oh yes. Yes. Actually I speak more to my half-sister Alexia the one came to New Zealand we are more close and all that and, you know, I used to write a lot and but not any more. And now it is the phone but I ring her and she ring me in every couple of weeks and

that and then she passes the news and tells me all the news of the others as well

Eva- Who has the family house? Who got the family house?

Ang – It just ruins now.

Eva- Really?

Ang – Yes. Yes. From when I...yes.

Ath – The brother he bought the land but did he buy the house as well?

Ang – Well the house and a lot of land was his you know when my dad dead, left a lot of property to my mum and then in the will he say after my mum dies for the son because the girls married somebody who have properties, you know the boys would be having houses and things where my brother would have pick a girl not have much or something. But he didn't stay on the farms so where nobody stays there was no, the Turkish has built the house, was a stone house. Yeah. But we had I don't know, oil purse you know fabrica they call it while dad used to do all the oils and that and take other peoples, they pay him to...was quite

Eva- WOW

Ang – Yes.

Ath – So you spent most of your life as a migrant?

Ang – Yes, yes. And most of my life is here in Australia. Yeah! It's hard to believe you know. It is hard to understand for you people unless you marry to, I suppose you are married to a different culture you sort of accept that life and it is normal you don't...

Ath – I don't. I don't know whether I accept it or is normal. I think about it quite a lot. I think when I had children and they had mixed I just thought it was really hard for them

Ang – Do they mix married Greek people?

Ath – No. No. They are not married but they've got partners, one is Australian and the other one is...anyway I shouldn't talk about that...

This is file identification 5. Interview with Angeliki Polichronaki continued.

Ath – So your children, how did they see themselves? In terms of, do they see themselves Australians or as New Zealanders?

Ang – No they are very proud of their heritage of being Greek, they often tell me that and they proud of New Zealanders and proud of Australians. They just you know. They easy to mix like their dad.

Ath – Easy going

Ang – Yeah. Yes we never had any problems of like that. They never say to us why did you left New Zealand or why you married New Zealander or why you married Greek, we never had that. They are just happy as they are.

Ath – So have you got any parting words for us? Any words of wisdom?

Ang – Like what?

Ath – I don't know. Anything you feel you haven't said?

Ang – Oh the only thing I haven't said not really I can't think at the moment

Ath – Good, I think we covered a lot of areas so thank you very much

Transcription by Lucy Anastasiadou-Hobbs