

SYDNEY HOMENMEN BASKETBALL TEAM MINOR PREMIERS NSBA

It is with great pleasure to announce that the HOMENMEN Senior Men's Basketball team have become MINOR PREMIERS in the Northern Suburbs Basketball Association 2003 Competition.

After 21 rounds of competition in the NSBA Winter season, Sydney HOMENMEN have claimed 1st spot on the ladder in Mens Division 4.

The winter season began on 28 April 2003 and concluded on 15 September 2003.

After 22 rounds (including 2 byes), Sydney HOMENMEN had recorded: 15 wins, 5 losses, 0 draws.

Head Coach and Team Manager, Toros Boyadjian gave credit to his hard working players:

- Steve Kelechian (forward/centre)
- Vatche Ekmekjian (forward)
- Daniel Holwerda (centre)
- Sarkis Bardajian (guard)
- Armen Woskanian (guard)
- Reza Haghighi (forward/guard)
- Kevork Kahkejian (forward/guard)

"These guys are worth their weight in gold. They have demonstrated time and again that you don't need to be 7 foot tall to win the competition. These guys have won against teams twice as fit, twice as fast and much taller than they are, yet they have prevailed as victors by playing with their heads and sticking to each game plan" said Head Coach Toros Boyadjian.



"Before round 12, we had only won 5 games out of 10, and looked like being a middle-of-the-road team instead of a semi finalist, however, the boys dug deep and played some of the best basketball I have seen in ages to record 7 straight victories, amazingly they were against the better opponents as well. We beat the reigning champions North Shore Crew in round 12 (55 to 34) and followed up with record margin victories over The Aquila Boyz (70 – 27); Billy Kings (45 – 27) and High Flyers (56 – 35), reiterated coach Boyadjian. It is an honour for me to be associated with a great bunch of guys who keep the Armenian HOMENMEN sporting spirit alive in Sydney, Australia.

Congratulations guys, well done and keep up the great effort in 2005



Dear 'Hye Etch' friend,

According to the official Armenian Encyclopaedia, next year (2005) is the 1600th anniversary of the creation of the Armenian Alphabet by St Mesrop Mashdots. This is a once in a life time opportunity to celebrate such a momentous occasion.

A century after Armenia adopted Christianity as the official state religion in 301 A.D, Armenians were in a desperate need of establishing cultural unity. St Mesrop realized the need and the importance of an Armenian alphabet that will secure national survival and help the Church reach the masses. With the support of Catholicos Sahag and King Vramshabouh, he spent many years traveling and researching in order to be able to cover the various Armenian dialects. Finally in 405 A.D. St Mesrop was able to complete this courageous undertaking by inventing the 36 characters of the Armenian Alphabet – two characters were added in the 12th century to bring the total to 38.

Today, every Armenian owes a great debt of gratitude to a man who possessed both genius and vision, St Mesrop Mashdots, and to all his students and followers who kept the torch burning and insured its survival to this day.

"Cherish your language and practice it daily, for it's the key to your cultural identity" – J.S.

Kind Regards,

John Semerdjian

Webmaster & Creator of 'Hye Etch'

Visit 'Hye Etch' at: www.HyeEtch.nareg.com.au

A RARE INSIGHT INTO ARMENIAN, HISTORY AND CULTURE

The daughter of an Armenian war bride has undertaken an 18-year quest to publish a book on her culture.

Middle Park author Nadia Wright has written a 392-page tome, *Respected Citizens: the History of Armenians in Singapore and Malaysia*.

Ms Wright's curiosity was sparked during a three stay in Singapore, where her husband was posted for work.

Her book is based on extensive research including newspaper, church, cemetery and official records, and interviews with Armenians and their descendants.

"It is a seminal account of the Armenian merchants from Persia and India who ventured to Malacca, Penang and finally Singapore from the 1800s," Ms Wright said.

"Detailing the dynamics of the larger community in Singapore, it focuses on St Gregory's Church, Raffles Hotel, the national floral emblem and the major Armenian commercial concerns."

Ms Wright said the self-published book was one of the few about Armenians that did not focus on the 1915 genocide.

The book can be ordered for \$40 through the website:

www.amassia.com.au

HOPE... THANKS TO MISSION ARMENIA

Dr Armen Gakavian

Khachik

Khachik is, well, nothing less than a legend. At the age of 85, he has a sparkle in his eye that I have rarely seen before. I went to visit the Mission Armenia Social Welfare Centre and Soup Kitchen in Gyumri with my friend Gharib, the President of the Gyumri Students' Council. And there was Khachik, playing backgammon – of course. He caught me with the corner of his eye and asked me where I was from. And from there it went.

Khachik is one of 5,000 elderly who rely on Mission Armenia for their daily meal. For some of these elderly, the hot lunch at Mission Armenia's Soup Kitchen is the only meal they ever get. Most have no family and no one to care for them. And most had no hope until they found Mission Armenia – or, should I say, until Mission Armenia found them.

This was the first time Gharib had visited a Mission Armenia Soup Kitchen, and he was very impressed. In his conversation with the director of the Soup Kitchen, Gharib promised to send volunteers to help with serving meals and home visits.

Mission Armenia

Founded in 1993 in Yerevan, Mission Armenia's mandate is to serve the needs of some of Armenia's most vulnerable: the abandoned elderly; and refugees from Azerbaijan living in temporary accommodation.

What started as a small team of volunteers distributing food packages to earthquake victims in Gyumri is now one of Armenia's largest NGOs (non-government organisations). Today, Mission Armenia boasts over 450 salaried staff throughout Armenia including social workers, doctors, nurses and other specialists, as well as hundreds of volunteers. It runs 29 community centres, where over 5,000 elderly are provided with hot daily meals as well as a number of other social services such as medical treatment, advocacy training and social activities. It also cares for over



Gharib talking with the Director of Mission Armenia's Gyumri Soup Kitchen. Khachik is in the foreground, on the left.

10,000 refugees through the provision of relief, loans for small businesses and vocational training.

How it all works

Mission Armenia receives funding from a number of international government and non-government sources, including the United Nations, USAID, the Swiss Government, Eurasia Fund and the Tufenkyan Fund. However this funding still leaves many crucial needs unmet. Further, much of the current funding will end by 2008.

This is where Mission Armenia's branches come in. In 2001, branches of the organisation were established in Sydney and Los Angeles, whose aim is to promote, support and help expand the work of Mission Armenia – and to fill the gap in the funding not met by Mission Armenia's international donor organisations.

Thanks to you, they live

Since its inception in March 2001, Mission Armenia's Australian branch, Mission Armenia Ltd, has sent over \$30,000 - donated by people like you - to Armenia.

Almost half of this amount has been used to buy heaters and provide winter heating for over 200 elderly who would otherwise live in an icebox. Another one-third was used for the purchase of the Erebuni Community Center, a multi-purpose centre providing a variety of social, medical and educational services for the elderly and refugees, as well as vocational training in areas such as hairdressing, carpentry and dressmaking, and computer, legal, business and other skills.

The remaining funds have been used to sponsor 35 students a year who have participated in Mission Armenia's Internship Program. These students volunteer their time to tutor refugee children, organise children's activities and deliver food to homebound elderly.

The need of the hour

However, we now face an even greater need. Mission Armenia's major donor, USAID, has announced that it is ending its funding of medicines. **This means that, as of January 1, the supply of medicines for the elderly under**



An instructor demonstrating sewing skills to a refugee girl at the Erebuni Community Centre, which was purchased with funds raised in Sydney and Los Angeles.



Some of Mission Armenia's young volunteers, photographed here with Mr Robert Grigorian, Co-Director of Mission Armenia Ltd.

Mission Armenia's care will begin to run out. By the middle of the year, the elderly will be completely without medication.

The total amount needed for medications for the elderly is \$35,000 (Australian dollars) each year. The Los Angeles branch has undertaken to raise \$20,000, and the Australian branch needs to raise \$15,000.

We invite you to give generously, once again, for the needy in Armenia. Any amount, small or big, will help.

Together, let's continue to stand by Armenia's most vulnerable in their hour of need.

To make your donation, please make your cheque out to 'Mission Armenia Ltd' and send to:

Mission Armenia Ltd, PO Box 824, Chatswood NSW 2057

Or, for further options on giving, please call 02 9436 3011, email mission_armenia@yahoo.com.au or visit our website at www.missionarmenia.com

Remember, all donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Please give today – and save a life!



An elderly lady teaching schoolchildren Armenian dancing.

ARCHBISHOP AGHAN BALIOZIAN AMONG A TEN-PERSON DELEGATION FROM AUSTRALIA TO VISIT INDONESIA FOR DIALOGUE ON INTERFAITH COOPERATION

By Laura Artinian

The 10-person delegation from Australia arrived this morning after participating in a Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Dialogue involved religious leaders from the major faiths and religions and Interfaith experts from the South East Asia region that included Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam. The theme of the Dialogue was "Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation: Community Building and Harmony".

At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, the Hon. Alexander Downer M.P., His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand, was among the delegation from Australia that included six Christian leaders representing the Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Lutheran and Armenian Orthodox Churches, plus representatives from the Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu faiths.

The Dialogue on Interfaith Cooperation is a joint Australia-Indonesia initiative announced by Mr Downer and his Indonesian counterpart, H.E. Dr N. Hassan Wirajuda at the ASEAN meetings in Jakarta in July.

The broad objective of the Dialogue is to convene discussion among world denominations and to foster greater understanding and cooperation between the various faith communities in the region. By working together more closely, there is also much potential to resolve the challenges that face communities today.

On his return, Archbishop Aghan said "It was a high level delegation that demonstrated a mutual respect and understanding toward differing faiths and beliefs. It is with real hope that the dialogue will continue to create real harmony in the region."

The organising of the Dialogue is a reflection of the good relationship between the Republic of Indonesia and Australia. It provides a strong basis for reinforcing mutually beneficial ties between the two countries and in this case, a good understanding of interfaith issues.

Thursday, 9 December 2004

**HAYASTAN
ALL-ARMENIAN FUND**

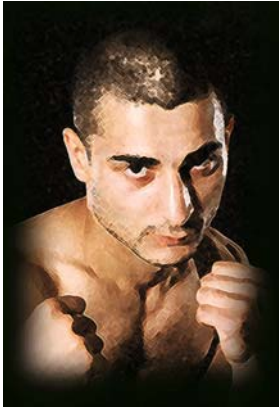
P.O. BOX 694, CHATSWOOD, NSW 2067



DARCHINYAN STOPS PACHECO TO WIN IBF FLYWEIGHT TITLE

By Paul Upham

Australian based Armenian "Raging Bull" Vic Darchinyan 22-0 (17) won the IBF flyweight title on Thursday night at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Hollywood, Florida, USA with an 11th round knockout over



Colombian Irene Pacheco 30-1 (23). Darchinyan dropped Pacheco with a left hand in round 10 and again in round 11, before the corner of 33 year-old Pacheco stopped the fight.

"I am very happy," Darchinyan told SecondsOut. "Jeff (Fenech) came into the ring when they stopped the fight and he picked me up. After much hard work, finally I have become world champion."

28 year-old Darchinyan first joined Jeff Fenech's Team Fenech in 2000 after representing his native Armenia at the Sydney Olympic Games. The three-time world champion and Hall of Famer was very impressed with what he saw and encouraged him to stay in Australia and turn professional.

"He went exactly how I thought he would go," said Fenech. "I thought that he was going to be a little off. He had been training for so long. I knew he would go through this tired period and then he just came back strong as ever."

The first six rounds of the fight were very close and Fenech reminded Darchinyan between rounds of what was at stake.

"I thought it was close," said Fenech. "I thought Vic might have been in front by one round after nine. It was close and afterwards they told me that after nine rounds it was even. I

had some serious words to Vic at the end of round eight and nine. I told him a few home truths and he went out and did the job."

"It was my fault," admitted Darchinyan, in describing some slow work from himself in the middle rounds. "I stopped a bit and Jeff reminded me to keep punching again."

In rounds 9 and 10 Pacheco was twice penalised for intentional low blows. "When he knew that Vic was going to finishing him, he was punching low on purpose," said Fenech.

"Pacheco was a good champion," said Darchinyan. "He had some good punches to the body. But he was a dirty fighter too. He hit me low when we were in close."

After the 9th round, there was an unusual ten-minute delay for safety reasons due to a large fireworks display next door at the Hard Rock Hotel. "It was crazy," said Fenech. "We weren't worried about the fireworks. I told the referee to just let them fight. We were there to win."

Darchinyan, who arrives back home in Sydney at 8am on Sunday morning, has no promotional options on him and will not have to make a mandatory defence until September 2005. Unification bouts with WBC flyweight champion Pongsaklek Wonjongkam and WBA champion Lorenzo Parra are a priority.

"I want to stay at flyweight and win the WBC and WBA titles," said Darchinyan. "I'll talk to Jeff and after that, we may move up in weight."

If those fights are not possible straight away, Darchinyan has his eyes fixed on a USA 2000 Olympian.

"I want to fight Brian Vilorio," he said. "I have sparred him before. I win, no problem."

SecondsOut, 17 December 2004



IBF Flyweight World Champion Vic (Vakhtang) Darchinyan with members of the Armenian Nor Serount (New Generation) Cultural Association - Toros Boyadjian and Kevork Bedrossian

Հայաստանի հաճախական հիմնադրամ
Hayastan All-Armenian Fund
Australia Branch
 P.O. Box 694 Chatswood, N.S.W. Australia 2067
 Phone: (02) 9419 8056 Fax: (02) 9413 1709

TO: HAYASTAN ALL-ARMENIAN FUND
 P.O. BOX 694, CHATSWOOD, N.S.W., 2067

I am/we are paying our Azkaiin Bardaganoutioun:

By cheque for: \$ 100 \$200 Other \$

By credit card: Bankcard Visa Other \$

Amount \$ 100 Amount \$

Name:

Card No: Expiry date:

Signature:.....