



Fitzroy History Society Oral History Project 2015-2017

Transcript of interview with Sam Stasinopoulos

(Interviewed by Hilary McPhee from the Fitzroy History Society on 25 May 2016)

Sam Stasinopoulos came to Australia from Kalamata in Greece as a young man. He saved his airfare after he left school at twelve by doing deals with tourists in Athens and landed in Melbourne where he quickly found work as a carpenter. He kept saving and started buying derelict shops and houses around Fitzroy in the sixties and seventies, including the house he still lives in with his son Nick. He married Georgia, a young Greek girl and they had four children. Georgia died three years ago and her massive funeral was a testament to the family's standing in the Greek community.



START OF TRANSCRIPT

- Facilitator: I'm speaking with Sam Stasinopoulos who lives at 311 Fitzroy Street. about how he first came to Australia from Kalamata in Greece
- Sam Stasinopoulos: When I, I finished school in Kalamata I then go to Athens because my uncle, he needs help baking the cakes, and I learn to make cakes but I don't like the job unfortunately ...[0:30] and I'm out, I lived my brother place, get there another job, at least Sundays I worked in big shops, market in Athens.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: In City Square, used to have a few shops. [Dealing] ignorant people buy something. I used - dealing - I said what do you want, say I'm looking for a jumper, I take to the shop, my knowledge, experience because young boy [unclear] in school - high school actually...
- Facilitator: Yes, and so this was in the 1950s when you were a young boy? Yes, you were born in 194-...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, I was born 1952.
- .
- Facilitator: In Athens it was hard to find work then after the war ?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh no, oh you could get a job, you could get a job. They looking for young people actually to work on the job.
- Facilitator: You were what, 16 or 17? [1:43]
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, my first job - no, I was 12 years old... Since I finish, I working part time before. But since I finish school I get in cake shop, learn to make cakes. Is a good living but I can't save a lot of money, I got a little bit expenses, I went there and spend a few dollars, yeah, 2 drachmas actually. Bit later my brother, he's married [elder niece]. Talked to him, told me become tradesman with me and become carpenter, I'll lend you tool, make you to be carpenter.
- Yes, and Sundays, Sundays at shops working in a shop, only a few shops. Dealing, we used to call [spoken in a foreign language] this guy in the door I saw you passing up and down, I say what are you looking? He says for a jumper. Oh I got a jumper. [Unclear] with the boss I get 10 per cent, it's 30 drachmas I get...



- Facilitator: So you would bring customers to different places and get 10 per cent.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, 30 drachmas I get three drachmas, and it cost me nothing. I do that in my spare time, can buy you a loaf bread, right.
- Facilitator: Yes, but that's good money, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, six drachmas you can buy one meal. Every day filled up my pocket. When I was come here pay my own ticket and I brought \$600-\$700 cash.
- Facilitator: So you saved lots of money...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I save a lot of money.
- Facilitator: ...and how old were you when you decided to come to Australia? How old were you then?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh 18, 19 - 18 years old, ... since I passed 18 I was come here.
- Facilitator: Yes, so you came on a migrant ship? Or...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, I come by plane.... I had saving money, I make ticket. Used to be at that time...
- Facilitator: Yes, plane tickets were very expensive.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: By the ship used to be 12,000 drachmas, it is meant roughly, roughly \$500, on the plane used to be \$1200 and I come by plane and I come by TAA.
- Facilitator: Did you?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: [Unclear] airlines.
- Facilitator: Why did you come by plane rather than boat?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Faster, luxury.
- Facilitator: Yes, and did you come on your own or were there other friends who came too?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No I was travelling alone...
- Facilitator: Yeah, and what did you know about Australia?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I used to have uncle here. Yeah here, used to be uncle.
- Facilitator: Yeah, and they were in Melbourne? [4:30]



Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, yes... I have a sister, my sister has come before me two years' earlier. My sister was come in [unclear] at that time like a fugitive of the government, us this time had people from Asia at immigration department for workers are looking the government, that's my sister. I was come here, that's [unclear].

Facilitator: So you came and stayed with your family when you arrived?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, when I go to come here I stay my family with my uncle, my sister and my uncle lived together.

Facilitator: Were they here in Fitzroy or somewhere else?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Ah, yes.

Facilitator: They were in Fitzroy...where the flats is. I stayed a couple of weeks and after, I like a little bit more luxury to live. My sister, we rent two rooms, George Street.

[5:37]

Sam Stasinopoulos: That time I was employed glass factory.

Facilitator: So you straightaway got a job.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah... the third day. Two days' rest, the third day I get a job.

Facilitator: Yes, was it a Greek factory? Were there Greeks working there?

Sam Stasinopoulos: No, Australia factory, he make the [portholes].

Facilitator: You had some English by then? A little bit?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Just, just I was speak a little bit English, not much but I communicate good enough actually and I get to the glass factory. But after a couple of months because I was working carpenter there and I left the shops and I went to carpentry because I was plan to go out and I had learning. Tradesmen get much more money. Then I left, I have a friend of mine he used to work labour and I asked him, he said yes, they need labourers, I said I don't want to labour I want to be carpenter. But I have idea because of my country the last, before I was come here I work carpenter, I starting carpenter.

Facilitator: So you had done some carpentry in Greece, yes.



Sam Stasinopoulos: I have idea, I have idea. I can't read the plans, can't read the plans, but I can do a bit but I know the trade, right, how to do it. ...

Facilitator: Yes, did you have tools?

Sam Stasinopoulos: No, I didn't have the tool but after buy tools one day, with a little bit of English and I saw paper that needed a carpenter. My first job used to be I do all this is in the rail station office, the motor carriage station office, they build there. Used to be an Italian company. When I was there one day asked them for job, say you know what you're doing? I say I know. He says to me okay, how do you know? [7:26]

Used to have [spoken in a foreign language] this is meant two stools to make a stool, to make a couple of boards on the top and if you want to cut straight or saw. Yeah, I'll do it. He says, that's electric saw, that is this, that's it, you want tools? I said okay.

He give me to start. I ask for job, he says to me you can do tradesman? Say yes, I am, I have idea, make trestles, when I make the, before I complete the trestles I put the legs, I put it, tried to make it level, I measure it up to cut. Before I cut the one length because timber was different...in length. He watched me, I said to myself I don't care if he watch me I'm not, you know. Before I complete the [unclear] he says you come tomorrow morning. Then following day I've been there in the morning, I brought tools, all that, and I start carpentry and that's it. That's my career then.

Facilitator: You stayed there for a long time, Sam? How long were you...

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, I was stay with him one year, after that I communicate other people, is a little bit mangled [unclear] that's how...

Facilitator: Yeah, and you were saving money

Sam Stasinopoulos: Saving money, yes I save money. I have complaints a couple of time because I saw other people who working the same hours, they get a few dollars top of me and I say one day, you don't like my job? [9:13]

He say oh no, you alright, you alright. I say, why are the other carpenters get \$20 over and I get \$20 less? Ah, he says, more experience. I say okay, one day when I found the chance I ran out of him, I get another job.



- Facilitator: Another carpentry job?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, carpenter job...
- Facilitator: Yes, so were they always in Fitzroy, your jobs? Were they Fitzroy mainly?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, I work, I live in Fitzroy and I work in city, I work in the city. ... That time of course it used to be, were very, was very [unclear] King William Street.
- Facilitator: Did you have Greek friends of your age, then?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh, met a lot of people.
- Facilitator: There were many, many Greeks coming at this time.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh used to be, used to be quite [unclear], quite - many, many, many.
- Facilitator: Yes, so did you have a social life? Did you go out to parties, to dances and stuff?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, oh yeah, yes.
- Facilitator: Where did you go?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: A quite a few times I was going down to Town Hall.
They've got dancing, dancing and...
I live in, that time was there, the [unclear], I live in George Street, George Street.
Three months, less three months. After I found this house.
- Facilitator: Then you found this house?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I found this house, I found this house. I have few dollars.
- Facilitator: Yes, you were very good at saving money.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I brought some money from my country, right, and brought American dollars. Big money, I make it American dollars, I went and brought the American dollars here, when I found the house I changed my American dollars to a pound. A pound used to be at that time £1, \$2.10.
- Facilitator: Right, so good exchange.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Good exchange, good exchange, yeah.



- Facilitator: Yes, so you bought this house for how many, how much money, American dollars or...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, \$700-something. [11:46]
- Facilitator: ...American dollars?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: American dollars, yeah. ...Then I start here. ...I went to unemploy[ment], they give me \$2.60 a week and then so I was...
- Facilitator: Why did you go to unemployment? Because you wanted to work on the house?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah no, two three days, one week. When I saw \$2.60 I said to myself that's no money for me, that's no money for me.
- Facilitator: So did you move into this house?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, one day I have few dollars because I brought from my country a few dollars, leave it a small deposit and I was passing, looking around. I live still, I used to live in George Street, [unclear] Street on the corner, two storey place, still there, and I saw this house. It was then broken windows, broken walls, this was not like that.
- Facilitator: Really, so very tumble down, yes. Lots of work needed.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Broken floors, tried to buy. £3500 and... But I work in city and my work's got to have [unclear], sometimes I call some mates Say yeah, okay.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so this would be 1960s or something, 1960?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, 1964, not even 1964, I think [unclear] by... I found my lady was living on the top, used to name Mrs [Stronghair].
- Facilitator: Mrs Stronghair?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Stronghair, English lady, very educated, was...
- Facilitator: Where was she?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Living here.... but was not kitchen here, was just like that one.
- Facilitator: Yes, oh a lean-to kitchen at the back.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Was no fence behind, no windows, some windows were broken but got some timber and over there Masonite, some [unclear].



- Facilitator: So the back was kind of all...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Covered up, covered up, covered up, covered up.... She live in the house, yeah.
- Facilitator: Yes, an English woman.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, used to be the kitchen was like that, it is meant only two metres, one and half metres, not so high because... three metres [unclear] ceiling. I was come here, I tell him to buy.
- Facilitator: Did she own the house? You bought it from her?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, no she living here, she living and she pay \$2.50.
- Facilitator: Rent, for the whole house.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Rent, the whole house, but she live just alone, yeah. She live in one room in the top.
- Facilitator: Yes. So did she stay when you bought it? Did she stay?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, when I was come here I said I bought it, stay in, here I'll make you a cup of tea. Oh she had a Kookers, remember the Kookers ['Kooka' or Kookaburra Metters brand gas stove of the 1930s]? I make a cup of tea, couple of Greek cakes, cake, nice lady. But I'm not going to say is poor, but is poor on the head, is poor on the head, that's how we say.
- Facilitator: Yes, was she an old woman?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Old, old woman.
- Facilitator: Yes, so old and a bit...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Little bit, at 70, over 70, over 70.
- Facilitator: Yeah, but you made her Greek cakes?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, no I buy the cakes, I don't make.
- Facilitator: Oh right, I thought you'd been cooking in the Kookers stove.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No. She live in one room at top it was, when I buy I said let me in to see your room, like to rent. Anyhow, by the time I say okay one day, so I say, I tell you what, I see you put some shampoo wrappers away in there.



Facilitator: Yes, so piles of newspapers.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Newspapers, newspapers.

Facilitator: Oh yes, the house was full of old newspapers. [15:35]

Sam Stasinopoulos: I try cleaning her room. I'm used to be shop here in [Curtin] Street selling second stuff, pay you three dollars. I say - one day in the street I found a small bed for her, [unclear], I said you better keep a bed, got one blanket and sleep on the top. Oh, I believe you might feel cold too, why don't you come here a bit later?

Facilitator: You moved in, yes.

Sam Stasinopoulos: When I bought it I come here...used to be tin, their fence, my fence was tins. Sometimes night time passing up and down the... and knock the, knock the walls. I mean...

Facilitator: Yeah, yeah.

Sam Stasinopoulos: ...and you have the noise. I suppose very nice lady, very educated, but unfortunately life was so bad. Used to have one friend, sometime only get cup of tea or a couple of biscuits, but I get good money, I work and when I got extra job outside on Sundays I work on Sundays.

I didn't have enough brain because if I good enough brain maybe I be multimillionaire today because through to the newspaper as I was working carpenter, as I told you, I was not aware. So we are do measurement, surveying farms, who a little bit lies to me too. He pay me £2 a day

What I'm do, I hold the meter and measure up and put in picks maybe. I've got the hammer...

Facilitator: Yeah, and was that surveying around the city or in the country?

Sam Stasinopoulos: In the country, in the country.

I said to him once, I said to him how much cost an acre? He says to me in one day we earn, we went to the pub, I have my birthday, let's go to the pub, have a couple of beers, drink a few beers. He says to me want to see one day [audio skip]. But he never told me how much he buy them because he divided the lands, big lands, big areas.



- Facilitator: Oh, was he going to develop them? He was...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, what he do, kept acres, measured up acres, distances, alright, from here to George Street, you know George Street is? It went from here to Town Hall.
- Got a [unclear] line too, at that time I learnt the ... line. [Unclear] lines, you know what's a ... line?
- Facilitator: Yes I do, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: [Unclear] line set in here. You can see straight.
- Facilitator: Straight, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: One fellow with a stick says go left, go right, right. Or he can show you.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so you learnt all that, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Alright?
- Facilitator: Yeah, and did - were you fixing up this house as well at the same time?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes I fix, I fix.
- Facilitator: So you were repairing the house. [18:37]
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, and the back.
- Facilitator: So you did all of this, you fixed it all over a long time.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I build this kitchen, this kitchen was like that, the floor's rotten, ... with concrete on the bottom, all the floors have got concrete, I pour the concrete.
- Facilitator: Yes, because it was so, so rough, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes... I learn from my country, my ..., yeah.
- Facilitator: Yeah, so you worked very hard all that time...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh yes, I work very hard.
- Facilitator: ...and did you go to, did you have fun as well? Did you meet Georgia at the Town Hall?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No.



Facilitator: Can you talk about...

Sam Stasinopoulos: When I fix the house, when I fix the house, the lady at the top. Mrs Stronghair, that lady's passed, I fixed her room, I threw all her rubbish away.

Facilitator: Yes, Mrs Stronghair...

Sam Stasinopoulos: She was nice lady she was.

Facilitator: ...and you were - yeah.

Sam Stasinopoulos: I say I...

Facilitator: Did she go on living here for a long time?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, I say [unclear] was from very wealthy family, very wealthy family. She used to have one girlfriend in [unclear] Street, sometimes go for coffee together. I was inspect it a lot of times was and when she die she left day before, or the two days before, doesn't feel well because I make cup of tea.

I live also with my sister, my sister, that I brought - my brother too, my brother in six months [audio skip]. A few dollars. My house in George Street, got a house in George Street, was big, two storey place with big veranda on the front, very big house. [Unclear] whatever. So life's starting here, slowly, slowly. I was teenager, I'm here now ... I start, I have a...

Facilitator: Yes, and Mrs Stronghair, did she die in this house? Did she go to hospital?

Sam Stasinopoulos: No, she doesn't die, she doesn't die here.

[20:39]

No, she get sick and went to see girlfriend in Napier Street ...second house from Napier Street, Greeves Street and Napier Street. Second house from the corner, corner is two storey place the next house, to have one girlfriend, yeah, I don't know what. But she never brought nobody here, she never brought [audio skip]. Nice, was nice lady. Was sometime - but before she dies I can see it you know, she's not go out and I call her, she said to me - she tried to give me a few dollars, she pay \$3 rent, \$2.50. Says I give you another \$0.50 make a - I say okay, I didn't push it.

Facilitator: She'd come and cook in the kitchen here sometimes?



- Sam Stasinopoulos: Only one cup of tea she make, nothing else.
- Facilitator: Yeah. So what did she eat?
- Sam Stasinopoulos: That is surprise me too, that's a bit surprise me. I believe she ate only with girlfriend.
- Facilitator: Oh right, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Maybe she ate at girlfriend place.
- Facilitator: Yes, went there for meals sometimes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Never meet the girlfriend, I never meet her. Her family is come later when she passed, [unclear]. [21:56]
- Facilitator: Oh right.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, because family is come from England... looking for her.
- Facilitator: Do you have all her things here and they came...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: No, no, no. All she got one old bed, you know the old single beds have got a TV on the bottom.
- Small, small thin mattress. Actually she had blankets, one blanket. I was believing she feel cold too, she's feel cold too, because we have a heater here and I call her a lot of times and we used to have a [unclear] here, have a TV. Is come out then, there two others was not ... as in ... or even the other one, she go down. But they are single [rooms], single door, here nothing. What's wrong? I've got a chimney here, it was here, bit later [ask] myself why not fixing?
- She stay a little bit, come sister I have a small heater, she [audio skip], she pass, she pass. [Audio skip] but nice lady, very nice, very nice. Sometime ... she's got one tea, one coffee, one biscuit, sometime I {leave} cakes, sometime a little bit food. Mostly times take it, many times doesn't take it, says to me I ate it, it's a lie. She was a nice lady.
- [Daughter arrives and makes tea and passes cakes]
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes. At the time I bought this house, well it was not very clean but my sister called me to come in with her and then I call my brother., We pay a lot of money. We live together, I working. First couple of months my sister and my brother paid

me \$2 a week, I receive it. After two months I said I told you I start job here — I get \$65 a week.

Facilitator: Yes, doing what?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes was good, oh tradesman, carpenter...

[Aside discussion with daughter]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Then I left, I left from there, I left from there and I found another good job, carpenter again, I become occupied carpenter and I get a job King William Street on the far end opposite the river to a one storey. I used to be like a boss there. I start carpenter and when I were there used to be general foreman and I have a small gang, I tell him what to do. Because I'm new Australian, that time Italians and one Ungaria fellow.

Facilitator: Hungarian?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Ungaria, Ungaria.

He was old man, with disease, he pissed himself, ... He come looking for job, he says to me he piss himself. He says he's got bucket, collect his pisses. I was feeling sorry for him. Every day he try garlic, onion. roasting pig. I have lots of complaints. Sometimes he talk to me and he cry, I tell myself, I have a bad feeling. I says to me, do right, I give him chance to life, I give him chance to life.

Facilitator: Yeah, and did he stay?

[26:28]

Sam Stasinopoulos: He stay before the end the job but the company say one day sacking, sacking lot of people except me, [unclear] I don't know, take him first, he was sacked. He's come to me, why you sack me? The office, the office decide to.

This are not my fault, say. Don't think about sack you, I can sack you but [audio skip] worker, is good worker, is good tradesman. But when he sack him he cried. I say I can't help you [audio skip] times ... his family on [audio skip] brought boiling pig.

Facilitator: Boiling pig, pork.



Sam Stasinopoulos: He tried to give me some, I say thank you, feel sorry. [Unclear] these hairs on the boar and I fix him a bit and I [rented], I live, I sleep on that room, my brother sit up there and sis-...

I was okay, I make money.

Facilitator: Did he come, did he come to stay in this house?

Sam Stasinopoulos: No, no he doesn't come. I have the neighbour, I have the neighbour only and sometimes I get private jobs outside with other people work for me. \$50-\$60 [audio skip] to do something for me, get 20-30 drachma, \$30, \$20 at least top whatever, I pay. I was never smart, I'm not like using -- and I like to make quid, to make quid, and I make quid, and I get the renovations. I have done a lot of jobs here in Fitzroy.

Facilitator: Yes, and did you stay connected with your Greek family in Greece? Did you go back to Greece

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, yes. I'm brought two or three times oil, I'm brought three...

Facilitator: Yes, Sam tell me, before we finish, where did you meet your wife, your lovely wife?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Here.... When I fixed the house and I rent it I have on top, [unclear] got small rooms on the top. Where the door is, up there I've got small rooms and I live there. My wife is coming and I pretend I'm here, look in the room. One Saturday early in the morning they come ask my sister, who used to be here, and asking for rooms. [29:10]

Says my sister, sorry the boss not here, can't tell you nothing. [Unclear] one room on top, my wife and her sister, her sister one, her sister still [unclear].

Facilitator: Yeah, what was her family's name?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Pashos.... P-a-s-h-o-s.

Facilitator: Yes, right. Yes, so she came with her sister and you gave her a room?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, they came ask for a room, I say I've got a room. I used to have one bludger on the top, I give him notice to go because he come night. ...Night times somebody sleep, like nice and quiet because everybody working.



Yeah and they come and they workers come here. Well, he was young, I was middle aged too actually...

Facilitator: Georgia was very young, was she?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah.

Facilitator: When she came to see the room? She was working in Fitzroy?

[30:10]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, she used to work in, yes, but said she doesn't like it. The reason because she was poor, don't like it and say the other words, they offered me, [unclear] were a lot of money, ...

Facilitator: Instead of Georgie, she knew that you liked Georgie, she wanted to stop that, yes.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, yes. I refuse, I refuse. Something I, I don't know, I don't know what, I don't know what make me [unclear] your sister, used to live in my brother house with mother-in-law...

But they got another sister, and they got a little bit dispute with their brothers and they say, because Georgia's sister used to work here in [Unclear] Street and next to Brunswick Street, the old bank. You know there used to be old bank?

Facilitator: Which street?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Brunswick Street and Johnson Street. Next to the bank, you know, in the shop...

[Over speaking]

Facilitator: Oh yes, yes. Where the...

Sam Stasinopoulos: They make [unclear], they make pyjamas. That's it. My brother is come here a bit late to that time I buy another house because my sister and I have a disagreement. Say don't marry her she's got another [unclear] East Melbourne.

Facilitator: In East Melbourne? [31:27]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh, not East Melbourne, is East Hawthorn.... East Hawthorn. Rent big house, saw in the papers one day [audio skip] to see the house says to me maybe somebody in somebody not. But anyhow if somebody in call him I send him to you. I work in 50 Campbell Grove, that's my house, second house.



It's a very big block, 180 feet, big thing behind the [audio skip] weatherboard house, weatherboard, four bedrooms, nobody paid their money. [Unclear] house, no-one goes through the house. I don't know, it's my luck.

Facilitator: Yes, it was luck, the best luck. Yes.

Sam Stasinopoulos: The money is good, I like money. But that's it, that is... and sometime I help out my sister and to be honest with you I ... my sister, really sorry, goodbye, it's happen. I asked her apologise a bit later.

Facilitator: Did you make friends again?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Hey?

Facilitator: Did the two women make friends in the end? Did she...

Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh yeah.... They become friends...

Facilitator: Bit of, they become friends. [32:30]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Since my first daughter. You never meet my first daughter.

My first daughter is at college.

Facilitator: I met, yes I did meet her.

Sam Stasinopoulos: But she doesn't work psychology. Is a big [unclear] in the mines, get more than ... roughly maybe she gets half million pay.

Facilitator: We'll keep going for another 10 minutes.

Sam Stasinopoulos: I don't mind, no, don't mind.

Facilitator: Then we'll finish. It's good. Now, where did you and Georgia get married? Where was that?

[33:15]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh, we married here.

Facilitator: Married here in this house?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, but important things. Oh and don't marry, I marry in a church. Sorry about that. My sister doesn't come to my wedding.



Facilitator: She doesn't come, oh.

Sam Stasinopoulos: At that time I live in East Hawthorn, in Campbell Grove...

[Over speaking]

Facilitator: So where did you marry? What church did you get married in, do you remember?

Sam Stasinopoulos: The Greek one.

Facilitator: The Greek church, yes, of course, in East Melbourne.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah.

Facilitator: Yes, the one that caught on fire the other day.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, yeah. I married...

[Over speaking]

Facilitator: Yes, you married there yes, big, big wedding, many people, yes?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Oh, I didn't have so many. I only have so many.

Facilitator: Did she have a big family, Georgia?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, Georgia used to have another two sisters and one brother. Yeah, yeah [audio skip] but at that time his father was not here and father come later and mother [audio skip] us. Still he got one sister and one brother here.

Facilitator: So you lived in East Hawthorn when your married life began?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Eh?

Facilitator: When you were living in East Hawthorn, when you were...

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes. [34:21]

Facilitator: [Audio skip] And your children were born there?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, a couple of my children born in East Hawthorn and... and I rest and I come here. Yeah, [unclear]. ... lesson from that's never forget.

Facilitator: Yes, yes, yes. Of course



Sam Stasinopoulos: You make the black, hard to clean it up...

[Over speaking]

Sam Stasinopoulos: Still my sister lie in the hospital.... [83] years old.... They used to have a, you know the hair?

Facilitator: When all your children were growing up you were living in Fitzroy?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes.

Facilitator: All of you were here, yes, and the children were at local schools, were they? Or were they....

Sam Stasinopoulos: Yes, they've been local, they've been to university and to Uni High...Even Nick.

Facilitator: He went to Uni High did he?

Sam Stasinopoulos: But he left.

Facilitator: Why did leave Uni high?

Sam Stasinopoulos: I don't know. Like good fruit, put him in with the bad ones, what's going to be? It's going to be bad.

Facilitator: Yes, that must've been hard for you.

Sam Stasinopoulos: Helen, she go to Uni High, she left Uni High.

Facilitator: Yeah. She told me you sent her back to Greece to make sure that she would learn the language and do all that, is that right?

Sam Stasinopoulos: Who left...

Facilitator: Helena told me, she went back to Greece, you...

Sam Stasinopoulos: We did say to go once holiday, all together. To Greece and because I [unclear] last two of them into Greece those to...

[Over speaking]

[36:04]

That's a life, no matter what they say, what things can be happen.



- Facilitator: No, exactly.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: What the God decides what, you know.
- Facilitator: Yes exactly, exactly.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: I was sitting here maybe another minute or two. We'll move. [Unclear] That's the life.
- Facilitator: That's the life, yes.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah, it's a laugh.
- Facilitator: You, when your wife passed you had such a big funeral...
- Sam Stasinopoulos: Yeah.
- Facilitator: ...and it was so wonderful seeing how much you meant to your community. It was an enormous community that were there.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: They were.
- Facilitator: It was wonderful and [unclear].
- Sam Stasinopoulos: My wife has a heart.
- Facilitator: Yes, that's what everyone said.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: ... she give it to her. Sometimes you've got to [audio skip] [spoken in a foreign language] ..
- Facilitator: Yes, she was very loved by many people.
- Sam Stasinopoulos: But unfortunately it's her heart, I can't save her. Beside some time, God give the good people boots, the others [unclear].

[37:09]

END OF TRANSCRIPT