

Vale Marika Bisas OAM

Froniditha Care is saddened by the passing of another of its founding members, Marika Bisas OAM.

Marika was integral in the formation of Froniditha Care in 1977, and was the organisation's secretary for seven years.

She was a staunch advocate for the rights of Greek seniors and giving them the care they deserved when they couldn't care for themselves anymore.

Getting them into a place where they felt comfortable and able to converse freely was key for Marika.

"They were in nursing homes but they were at a loss. They did not speak English they could not communicate, they felt isolated," she said in an interview in 2017.

Setting up Froniditha Care was a labour of love for her, and quite literally had her wading through fields to see it set up.

"We cleaned the land ourselves with the volunteers," she remembered of the Clayton South property that would later become the location of the first Froniditha Care nursing home.

Born in Port Said, Egypt in 1929, Marika came to Australia in the early 1930s and began working in her father's café, 'The Lyric'. She married a regular customer Jack Bisas and had two sets of twins, and gave up much of her free time to see the Greek community looked after.

"When you understand how we started and what FRONDITHA CARE is now, it is a reward. A reward to think that all Greeks, wherever they are they can go to a Greek nursing home," she said.

Marika was actively involved in the Greek Women's Cultural Association (ESTIA), an AHEPA member of Penelope's division, where she spent two years as President and a long time volunteer at Pronia.

She will be missed.