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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Call to end domestic violence on International Women's Day

Amid the observance of International Women's Day on March 8, there has been a renewed call to end gender-based violence and female homelessness in Australia.

The latest figures have revealed that dozens of women were killed in suspected domestic violence acts last year, with recent cases of domestic violence prompting a commitment from Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth, to focus on early intervention strategies.

A report from Home-

lessness Australia revealed that domestic and family violence was the leading cause of homelessness for women, with the number of women forced to sleep rough doubling over the past decade.

As a result, the government says it is prioritising women's safety, with an additional announcement this week that women will receive superannuation on government funded paid parental leave, as part of a gender equality strategy.

Record-breaking autumn heatwave in SE Australia

An early-autumn heatwave in south-eastern Australia has broken March records with both day and night-time temperatures well above average.

Daytime temperatures in South Australia and Victoria soared up to 20 degrees Celsius above the norm, with night-time minimums 8 to 14 degrees warmer than expected.

The heatwave,

attributed to a blocking high-pressure pattern in the Tasman Sea and an upper-level high-pressure system over south-eastern Australia, has eased with the arrival of a southerly wind change.

Despite February being marked as the ninth consecutive month of record-breaking temperatures globally, experts note that early-autumn heatwaves are not unprecedented in Australia.

Qantas fined \$250k for standing down worker

Qantas has been fined 250-thousand dollars by the NSW District Court for breaching workplace health and safety laws, after standing down a former employee, Theo Seremetidis, for raising COVID-19 concerns.

Judge David Russell criticised Qantas for standing down Seremetidis for directing staff not to clean planes arriving from China, early in the pandemic.

Judge Russell termed it as "shameful" conduct that prioritised commercial interests over the safety of its employees.

While the ruling

marks the first criminal prosecution of a major airline for safety violations, Seremetidis said the penalty was insignificant for such a large organisation.

Labor Senator Tony Sheldon called for resignations, emphasising the need for corporate responsibility, as employers were warned about discriminating against health and safety representatives.

The airline accepted the penalty, apologising to Seremetidis, stating that the airline will "continue to encourage employees to report all safety-related matters".

Labor's Cressida O'Hanlon wins the seat of Dunstan

With about half the vote counted, South Australia's Liberal leader says it will be "exceptionally difficult" for his party to win the Dunstan by-election, but has stopped short of conceding defeat in the seat of former premier Steven Marshall.

At the closing of counting Saturday night, Cressida O'Hanlon was leading 53.8% (final 50.8%) to 46.2% (final 49.2%) for Liberal's Ms Finizio.

The numbers so far favour Labor candidate Cressida O'Hanlon over the Liberals' Anna Finizio, and also show a significant surge in first-preference support for Greens candidate Katie McCusker who managed a significant 19.1% on first preferences.

Labor is not claiming

victory yet, but Premier Peter Malinauskas told supporters on Saturday night that he was "taken aback" to find his party in an "extraordinary position".

About 27,000 people were eligible to vote in the by-election, which was triggered by the retirement of Mr Marshall from his inner-east Adelaide seat.

Counting of more than 7,000 pre-poll votes will get underway Monday.

Ms Finizio expressed pride in the way she had conducted her campaign. "It was the most marginal seat in South Australia and boy did we give it a crack, we gave it a huge crack," she said.

Speaking to volunteers at a Labor function on Saturday night, the SA premier was

buoyant about his party's prospects in the seat named after one of its most successful leaders, Don Dunstan.

"Cressida and I are both quite taken aback to be in this extraordinary position," Mr Malinauskas said.

The premier earlier said Labor was "up against" history, because "history tells us governments just do not win seats off oppositions at by-elections. It hasn't happened in South Australia since 1908," he said.

Ms O'Hanlon said she could not "express how grateful I am". "Tonight, we are in an incredible position and it's thanks to all of you," she told the gathering.

Greens candidate Katie McCusker expressed optimism



ALP's Cressida O'Hanlon

about a strong primary vote, which could in turn influence the broader outcome. "We're not here to make up the numbers, we're absolutely in this to win," Ms McCusker said.

A fruit fly outbreak has been declared at Salisbury North

Farmers say an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly in an Adelaide suburb could cause disruptions to the supply of fresh produce to the city and are raising questions about how the pest got there.

According to the ABC, the outbreak was declared at Salisbury North, triggering a restricted produce movement zone in the foodbowl of the Northern Adelaide Plains where tomato, eggplant and capsicum are produced.

Andrew Vorrasi, who has farms at Direk near the outbreak zone, will be unable to harvest the rest of his tomatoes this season unless he puts his produce through an expensive treatment process.

The SA Produce Market director said he was concerned about how the restrictions would impact the supply of fruit and vegetables for consumers who were already struggling with the cost of living.

"It has to be fumigated for it



to be able to be used and that adds a cost," Mr Vorrasi said.

"That cost has always been difficult [for growers] to pass on."

The third-generation grower said he was willing to do that work if it helped to protect the state's food security into the future.

"I'm happy to wear that short term pain because I think the long term gain here for SA is that we want to maintain this pest free status," Mr Vorrasi said.

SA Organics OrganicBox

director Vanessa Comley grows fruit and vegetables on farms in the Adelaide Hills and the Riverland.

She said her business had experienced financial and produce losses due to the detection of more than 50 outbreaks of Queensland fruit fly in the Riverland since late 2020.

Ms Comley said she was concerned about what the pest could mean for farmers, and consumers in Adelaide.

Peter Brooke grows vegetables at Barmera in the Riverland to sell at Adelaide markets, but has been unable to sell his cherries for two years due to fruit fly movement restrictions.

He said the Adelaide outbreak could have been caused by fruit being moved from the Riverland and was worried awareness of the risk was low.

Visitors and residents travelling to the region are

greeted with signs and checking stations that discourage the possession of fresh fruit and vegetables.

"There is one sign I think, but they're pretty hard to read when you go past at 110km," Mr Brooke said.

"Every Saturday we drive to Adelaide and every Sunday we drive home with fruit and veggies".

A spokesperson from the state Department of Primary Industries and Regions said there were strategically placed signs on main highways in the region, as well as campaign posters in tourist facilities.

They said the source of the fruit fly outbreak at Salisbury North was continuing to be investigated, while a response team had been stood up and was applying organic bait to gardens and checking fruit in the outbreak area.

They said it was anticipated the response would continue for at least twelve weeks.

25th March celebrated

People from Greek background from across Adelaide attended events celebrating the Greek National Day on Sunday 24th of March 2024.

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia celebrated the occasion with a church service at the Cathedral of Archangels Gabriel and Michael in Franklin street. Following the wreath laying ceremony attended by Government, opposition and local Government representatives, the community celebrated at the Olympic Hall with traditional dance performances, poems and songs performed by Greek afternoon school students.

A service and wreath laying ceremony was also held by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese at the National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide attended by representatives of the South Australian Government, the Opposition

Community Life



Members of the Greek Orthodox Community SA dance group, performing at the celebration for the anniversary of unification of the Dodecanese with Greece, held by the Pan-Rhodian Society at the Kolossos Hall on 17 March.

and the Local Government.

In the meantime, the Premier of South Australia Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, together with the Consul-General of Greece Hon George Psiachas, hosted a reception to celebrate Greek Independence

Day on 25th of March at the South Australian Parliament at the presence of many invited guests from the many Greek community associations.

Also, an official letter from the Premier of South Australia, Hon Peter Malinauskas MP

and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon Zoe Bettison MP addressed to the Greek Community Radio Program at 5EBI, they conveyed their best wishes to the committee and the community on the anniversary of Greek Independence.

"On this special occasion, we remember the service and sacrifice of all those who fought for Greece's independence from 1821 to 1832, bringing centuries of Ottoman occupation to an end.

"That legacy of courage, pride and determination has been the hallmark of South Australia's Greek and Cypriot communities for generations. We see it in your generosity of spirit, your deep sense of community, and your many contributions to all aspects of life in our great state".

"On Greek Independence Day, and every day, we thank you for working with us to make South Australia a more inclusive and culturally aware place for all", the letter concludes.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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At the Pan-Laonian Hall for the unveiling of the Leonidas portrait, crafted by Antonis Malavazos. At the microphone is Pan-Laonian Society President Dina Houssos and at the far right is the president of the Karitsa Community of South Australia Michael Malavazos. Second from right, guest speaker Dr David Rafferty (story below)



At the Pan-Laonian Hall for the unveiling of the painting of Leonidas, among others were, from left, Peter Ppiros Councillor of Charles Sturt Council, Mayor of Mitcham Chris Hanna, Unley Councillor Stephen Finos and Minister Tom Koutsantonis MP



Pan-Laonian Society President Dina Houssos, Minister Tom Koutsantonis and Comets president Dimitris Tsouvalas



LEFT: At the celebration for the anniversary of the union of the Dodecanese with Greece (officially united on 31 March 1947), President of the Pan-Rhodian Society Steve Mantalios and MC Barbara Diakos welcoming their members and guests.

ABOVE: The event was attended by West Torrens Councillor George Demetriou, Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas and Mayor Michael Coxon.

Cost of living crisis leading to health issues

A new report by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) has revealed that Australians are battling heat stroke to cut energy costs during record heatwaves.

Sixty percent struggle to pay energy bills, with 80 per cent falling ill due to high temperatures at home.

ACOSS Chief Cassandra Goldie pointed to the effect of heatwaves as being the biggest cause of hospitalisations dur-

ing hot conditions, and that more needed to be done to protect those on low incomes from the impact of these extreme weather events.

Residents fear homelessness as rent consumes 65 per cent of income, and rising temperatures underline the need for affordable cooling systems.

Daniel Kelly, a housing advocate, highlighted government inaction, urging for basic standards to be set.

Diminishing letters, shop traffic weighs down Aust Post

Australia Post is contemplating downsizing its retail network, as losses in its letter business continue to persist, due to changing consumer habits.

In a statement this week, the company noted that the continuing structural decline of the letters business was not preventable, with the latest figures showing Australians now received two letters on average per week.

Australia Post reported a 42 per cent increase in group profit before tax for the six months to December 31, driven by a record peak period with nearly 100 million parcels

delivered. Despite this profit outcome, the company's letters business reported a 182-million-dollar loss.

With letter volumes dropping by approximately 12 per cent, Australia Post and the federal government are implementing reforms like the Post26 strategy, increasing the price of posting basic letters, as well as the expansion of banking and retail offerings.

CEO Paul Graham acknowledged the need for downsizing the retail network due to fundamental structural challenges and declining foot traffic.

Adelaide Commemorates Battle of Thermopylae with Spectacular Portrait Unveiling

By Dimitri Katsambis

"The legacy of Leonidas and the 300 Spartans comes alive in Adelaide!"

In a blend of high culture and historical reverence, the Pan-Laonian Family Centre in Adelaide hosted a remarkable event on Saturday evening, 17th February, commemorating the legendary King Leonidas of Sparta. The occasion marked the unveiling of a captivating portrait, drawing a full house of enthusiastic patrons to witness a moment quite unlike any other.

The unveiling held special significance as it coincided with the commemoration of the 2500th anniversary of the Battle of Thermopylae, a pivotal event in ancient history. Jointly organised by the Pan-Laonian Society and the Karitsa Community of South Australia, the event showcased the culmination of months of anticipation and preparation within the local Laonian community.

The portrait, a masterpiece specially commissioned for the occasion, was crafted by local Adelaide artist Antonis Malavazos, himself of Laonian and Karitsa ancestry. Generously funded by Mr. Dimitris Tzagouris, the painting now stands as the centrepiece at the Pan-Laonian Family Centre, symbolising the enduring legacy of King Leonidas.

Karitsa, a small mountain village nestled on the foothills of Mount Parnon, holds a special place in the hearts of many Adelaide residents with roots tracing back to Karitsa. Since the arrival of the first villager in 1953, this community has steadily grown, now even outnumbering the current permanent population in the ancestral



Guests at the Pan-Laonian Hall for the unveiling of the painting of Leonidas. Among others were, Minister Tom Koutsantonis, Greek Consul Georgios Psiachas, Mayor of Mitcham Chris Hanna and Unley Councillor Stephen Finos

village itself. The Pan-Laonian Society, established in 1966, serves as the umbrella organisation representing all Laonians in South Australia, while the Karitsa Community, formed in 1986, aims to foster unity and maintain their connections with the small ancestral village.

The evening saw a gathering of esteemed dignitaries, including Member of Parliament Mr. Tom Koutsantonis, Consul General of Greece Mr. George Psiachas, local councillors, and mayoral representatives. Delegations from sister Laonian clubs across Australia, including Melbourne and Brisbane, further enriched the event.

Dr. David Rafferty, an academic from the University of Adelaide, delivered a compelling discourse on the

historical significance of the Battle of Thermopylae, emphasising its enduring impact on Greek unity and identity.

Dina Houssos, president of the Pan-Laonian Society, expressed pride in commemorating the Battle of Thermopylae and highlighted the importance of the joint event in celebrating Laonian heritage in South Australia. She extended gratitude to all involved, particularly Mr. Tzagouris for his generosity.

Michael Malavazos, President of the Karitsa Community, reiterated the sentiment, stating, "It has long been a goal of both the Karitsa Community and the Pan-Laonians to organise a joint event. The unveiling of the King Leonidas portrait presented a unique and fitting occasion to realise this ambition, allowing both groups to come

together and honour their heritage in a collective manner."

Artist Antonis Malavazos, honoured to undertake the task of portraying King Leonidas, described the painting as a timeless tribute to the fearless warrior. Using acrylic on canvas with gold accents, the portrait captures King Leonidas' strength and pride, symbolising his indomitable spirit.

The ceremony of the unveiling was truly spectacular. The painting remained hidden behind vibrant red velvet curtains positioned at the end of a magnificent red carpet. As speeches filled the air and excitement mounted, the curtains were gracefully drawn apart by the two presidents, unveiling the breathtaking artwork framed in gold. This moment was met with a crescendo of gasps of amazement, cheers of delight, and prolonged rounds of applause, echoing the overwhelming pride and admiration felt by all present.

As the evening drew to a close, the joint organizing committee drew breath to reflect on a job well done, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of all involved. The event stood as a testament to the enduring legacy of King Leonidas and the rich cultural heritage of the Laonian community in South Australia.

In commemorating King Leonidas and the Battle of Thermopylae, Adelaide not only celebrated a cherished historical event but also embraced the timeless values of courage, sacrifice, and unity. These are principles for living that continue to inspire Laonian communities, not least our own, to this very day.