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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## NEWS

### A week-long lockdown for Auckland for Covid

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern says Auckland will go into a lockdown for seven days after a community case of coronavirus with an unknown origin was recorded.

The rest of the country will be put into so-called Level 2 restrictions that limit public gatherings, among other restrictions.

Ms Ardern said the latest patient had experienced symptoms since earlier in the week and could have infected others.

"Based on this, we are in the unfortunate but necessary position to protect Aucklanders again," Ms Ardern said.

The Ministry of Health said the case, a 21-year-old man who is being called Case M, is an older sibling of a student at Papatoetoe High School. Several cases have been linked to the high school.

The student is a so-called "casual plus contact", which means they may have been exposed to the virus.

But the student has

returned three recent negative tests and is asymptomatic.

Public health officials are now interviewing the case to try and determine how they became infected.

Case M developed symptoms on Tuesday this week, and, as a result, they are regarded as being potentially infectious from Sunday last week.

The lockdown in Auckland, with Level 3 restrictions, will allow people to leave home only for essential shopping and essential work, Ms Ardern said.

Almost two million people in Auckland were forced into a snap three-day lockdown in mid-February after a family of three were diagnosed with the more transmissible UK variant of COVID-19.

Health authorities are trying to find out whether the new case was linked to the earlier February cluster, now at 12 infections.

New Zealand has seen just over 2,000 cases of the coronavirus since the start of the pandemic.

### Nicolle Flint quits politics amid culture of sexism

Residents in the Adelaide electorate of Boothby have expressed sadness Liberal MP Nicolle Flint will not recon- tect her seat at the next election, lamenting the prevalence of sexism directed at female politicians.

As reported by the ABC, Ms Flint announced last week she will not re-nominate for the seat, one of the Morrison government's most marginal electorates.

The second-term MP has previously spoken out about sexist abuse she has suffered since becoming an MP, includ-

ing being targeted by a male stalker and having her campaign office defaced with graffitied words "skank" and "prostitute".

Her announcement comes amid the fallout from Brittany Higgins's allegation a Liberal staffer raped her in a ministerial office and as an unnamed serving Cabinet Minister is accused of a historical rape.

The Prime Minister acknowledged Ms Flint's "efforts to stand against the bullying and nastiness of particular groups and individuals" in a statement yesterday.

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## Turkey Reiterates Right to Defend "Blue Homeland"

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar declared on Friday that his country is determined to defend its rights to what it calls the "Blue Homeland," referring to the Aegean by a name first used in 2020 by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

In what appears to be another jab from Greece's neighbor to the east after a year of almost never-ending incursions onto Greek waters and airspace, the Defense Minister invoked an expansionist doctrine which claims Turkish control over the eastern Aegean and the northern Mediterranean.

Referring to the Aegean as the "Sea of islands," Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday stated in an address to his AKP Party in Istanbul that no one should be concerned about Turkish presence from the Black Sea to the Eastern Mediterranean.

In Friday's remarks, Akar

stated "We have no claims on anyone's land or sea. Nevertheless, we will not back down on our rights.

"We are determined and capable of defending our rights across the 'Blue Homeland' as well as Cyprus," he added.

The irredentist concept of a "blue homeland" claims that vast sections of the Aegean and Mediterranean seas, including Greek and Cypriot waters — and the oil and gas deposits under them — all belong to Turkey.

Erdogan, in the meantime, referred to the Aegean Sea by the phrase "Sea of Islands" again just this past Wednesday, as he continued his provocative rhetoric against Greece before the restarting of Swiss talks on the future of Cyprus.

Erdogan stressed that Turkey will retain the right to have "a presence" in all the seas surrounding his country.

"We have a presence there



Turkish warships in the Mediterranean

with all our strength, with all our possibilities and we will continue to be there," he declared, adding that Turkey will also secure all its rights "in all the waters that surround us."

In an unusual turnabout, Turkey charged on Tuesday that Greek fighter jets had "harassed" its research ves-

sel Cesme while it sailed in international waters in the Northern Aegean.

However, the Greek Defense Ministry sources completely denied that any of its aircraft were even in that area at present, stating that the Hellenic Air Force is not active at present in the area where the vessel Cesme is located.

## GOCSA members elect new Administrative Council

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia held its biennial election for a new Administrative Council, on February 21, 2021. At their first meeting called by the Electoral Committee, the newly elected 15-members elected their office bearers as follows:

GONIS Bill – President  
PAPACONSTANTINOU Con – Vice President  
PPIROS Peter – General Secretary  
GARDIAKOS Peter – Treasurer  
GEORGARAS Peter – Assistant Treasurer  
ANAGNOSTAKI Kyriaki – Assistant Secretary

Committee Members are:  
NINOS John  
ZENIOS OIKONOMOU Akis  
MERMIGI Eleni  
GALANTOMOS Philip  
DOUROS John  
GLAROS Eleni  
PSARROU Dimitra  
SPEIS Ellie  
KOKKINAKIS Trevor

The Electoral Committee congratulates Mr Bill Gonis on his election as President of



Top, from left: Phillip Galantomos, John Ninos, Kiki Anagnostaki, Con Papaconstantinou, Peter Ppiros, Bill Gonis, Peter Gardiakos, Peter Georgaras, Akis Zenios Oikonomou Bottom from left: Ioannis Douros, Asterios Keliouris (Supervisory Com.), Emmanuel Koutelas (Super/Com), Evangelos Bogias (Super/Com), Eleni Mermigi, Eleni Glarou, Dimitra Psarrou, Elli Speis.

the Community as well as the other office bearers and ordinary members of the new

Administrative Council. The Electoral Committee of the GOCSA

### Con Prokopiou passes away

Dear PASEKA and Federation Members,

It is with great sadness that I am writing this email to inform you of our PASEKA president's Mr Constandinos Procopiou passing.

Mr Procopiou passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Thursday 25th of February 2021, his funeral will be at the St Catherine Greek Orthodox Church, 3B Epping Street, Malvern East, Victoria on Saturday 6th of March 2021 at 11.30am.

On behalf of all the members of PASEKA and the Federation of Cypriot Communities of Australia and New Zealand,

I wish to offer our deepest condolences to his wife Andriani, his children and grandchildren, his sister and the rest of his family and friends.

We will always remember him for his kindness, knowledge, his love for Cyprus and

## Community Life



Committee members of the Pallaconian Society of SA pose for the Greek Tribune at a dinner held at their clubrooms at Plympton Park on 13 February.

his fight for a just resolution of the Cyprus issue.

Αιωνία του η μνήμη ..... May you rest in peace our dear Costa!!

Christina Charalambous  
Secretary Cyprus  
Community SA,  
Secretary of PASEKA.

### 200 years of Freedom!

The Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. will honour the 200th anniversary of the 1821 Greek Revolution on SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2021 at 11.00am, at a celebratory Doxology at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel, conducted by the Community's clergy.

A large number of official guests have been invited to attend along with members of the Administrative Council, teaching staff and students. The celebrations will continue at the church's courtyard, in front of the war memorial, with a memorial service, poem recitals, laying of wreaths and the national anthems. After the memorial service, the Community's Greek schools will continue the celebrations with a special students event, featuring songs, poems and short sketches depicting the heroic tales of the 1821 Epos.



## Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Contact: Harri on 0484 387 818 - or email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



**LEFT and RIGHT:** The Pallaconian Society of SA serving the delicious goat roast with spaghetti at one of their "katsiki nights" held at their clubrooms at Plympton Park on 13 February. Photos by: Harri Ppiros



### A conclusion

And so one can only conclude the following;

Greek and Greekness is important as is any other similar associations like Australian and Australianism. The closeness that exists between the current Greek culture and the humanist ideals is the only measure that is worth debating. The natural evolution by all cultures toward the humanist ideals will diminish the cultural differences that are prevalent today. These temporary differences have been used by the unwise and those with vested interests to bring about misery and wastage of human effort and precious lives, under the pretext that it was something so important and worth dying to protect it. How disgusting to die for such trivia. An inward-looking monolithic culture is the biggest obstruction to human progress whilst an outward polyolithic culture can advance humanity. Such a culture, however, requires a more intelligent educated and more creative and more disciplined adventurous, and braver society.

In the next thousand years or so cultural differences will be regarded as humanity's greatest derailment in the

## How is culture learned

context of a new emerging Planetist and Solarist ideology. This will be based on the inevitable conclusion that we are: one species on one planet with the same universal basic needs of; survival, subsistence, spiritual gratification, Intellectual gratification, reproduction necessities, and a great sense of the need to belong and to be valued, and, to contribute to the glory of the human spirit.

All this will be embraced in a new existence involving immortality and a new human perspective extending from Planetism to Solarism. Just how important will our current value of the existing cultures be in the context of this inevitable cultural evolution? And what will lay beyond Solarism?

Without a doubt the monolithic Greek culture of today with its Greek Orthodox underpinnings will diminish in the same way as witchcraft is diminishing in preliterate cultures. All current cultures will inevitably acquire the status of primitive cultures in a thousand years from now. So let's for the remaining time of our life think of ourselves as citizens of that wonderful future that lays ahead and let's not be too attached to

primitive ideals. Let's divert our effort in fostering a cosmopolitan worldly culture, let's become Planetists and not Nationalists of any sort, let's be human and Planetists first and Australian or Greeks last. Let's get to the future first.

Orthodoxy fulfils only one of the many universal basic human needs. It provides for Spiritual gratification for some Greeks. In today's world, anyone can adopt Orthodoxy but that does not make them Greek. Some Greeks have chosen other religions and this does not make them non-Greek. The church can only determine what constitutes a Christian believer according to Christian doctrine. There are Orthodox believers in India but no one is suggesting that they should be regarded as Greek citizens any more than Serbian Orthodox citizens should be regarded as Greeks.

The Greeks of today have rejected Theocracy and have embraced Democracy instead. The Theocratic models presented by some of the Muslim nations are not examples, which are likely to inspire the Greeks to support the return of the church in their political arena.

One's religion and one's

nationality are two separate issues. One is not Orthodox because they are Greek. Most Greeks are orthodox because they have been culturalised that way.

Having said all of the above I am happy to be a Greek Orthodox but only because I have made a point of educating myself in the theology of Christianity, in another language and outside of the Greek Church. I enjoy the Gregorian chanting and most of the rituals associated with the mix of national and religious rituals. However, none of these have any relevance to my sense of identity as a Greek or as a worldly person, I have moved on from that evolutionary stage some years now.

I am a Planetist first and a Greek and an Australian also, who espouses the humanist ideology and seeks to move others along the same path. In the meantime, I give full respect to all who want to be Greek in whatever mix of faiths they see fit, and would fight for their right to do so. I say this because I know the path to Humanism is an inevitable destination for the human species. It is Gods path and some just need a little more time than others to get there.

Elias Hadjisavas.  
ADELAIDE

### LETTER

## Greek culture in Australia from a different point of view

Elias Hadjisavas is to be commended for grappling with the problems of culture and identity in an essay "Greek culture for Australian Greeks", 6 parts so far published in the Greek Tribune from July, 2020, and the Greek Tribune editor also for publishing his essay which will surely generate discussion. As Elias wished it has produced in me much contemplation.

I grew up in Australia at a time when migrants AND their children were officially called "New Australians". The majority of our fellow Australian citizens showed their disdain by giving us labels. I grew up being called a "dago". Most Greek migrants were content to settle for "Australian Greek" not "Greek Australian". From the very beginning I was burdened with the problem of "identity".

Elias suggests that the first reaction of the migrants on coming here is to "uphold their cultural heritage" and to be "dismissive of the culture of the host country". I would think that most of the newcomers were not aware of culture as a concept. They know that they left a particular way of life. They may be dismissive of the strange new ways mainly because they impose themselves on the individual and require learning, and also in response to the disdainful behaviour of those migrants and their descendants already established. Therein lie the origin of new social and psychological processes.

So I think the establishment of churches, Greek associations and language schools should be seen as creating the structures of a familiar way of life that helped them to maintain their Greek identity and also to adjust to the new with less mental stress, and not as a deliberate creation of symbols which is what Elias seems to be suggesting; these may be seen as such by them later and by outsiders.

I much prefer to view culture from the point of view of a concept that describes the complex way of life of succeeding generations of people. What has tended to stay still are the habitual practices, if you like, the culture of a particular generation, while the children more easily modify their behaviour to fit in with the practices of their new environment. Hence the difference in the reshaping of the identity/culture of the older and the younger. But isn't this what is happening in Greece anyway since Greece joined the European Union? In both Australia and Greece it is happening under the pressure of globalisation. So each generation wherever it is differs in significant ways from the one that begat it.

Elias is right to be critical of the education system in Australia for its neglect of teaching about culture. The powers-that-be don't really see the need. The common people, usually working people, and the majority of Greek families belong to this

category, are seen mainly as consumers and we see half-hearted attempts to "educate the consumers to spend their money wisely". You don't need much education to learn to use the new currency or to understand advertising, but a lot more to understand the way the economy works which itself is an important part of every country's culture. And that's before we see a real need to educate people about "multiculture".

Finally in his introduction Elias again links culture with identity and poses the question which is at the forefront of the minds of both the Greek migrants who came to establish a new life in Australia and their descendants in succeeding generations. What are the thoughts, reflecting social and psychological processes, that may be creating a turmoil in their minds? Are we Greek? Or are we Australian? Every child faces this question of identity. What do we mean by Australian Greek or Greek Australian? How do I want the meaning to change by using a hyphen? Is ethnic identity a question of place of birth, or of parentage, or of heritage? To what extent has "ethnic" become confused with "national"? This is a major conundrum which the whole Greek community needs to be addressing. In a later contribution I would like to share my thoughts and experience.

Efstathios Psaltis

## SACOSS SA will suffer with JobSeeker blow

The South Australian Council of Social Service says the government's JobSeeker announcement today is a harsh blow for people who are looking for work, and who will struggle to get by. It will also be a blow to the South Australian economy generally, and to parts of regional South Australia in particular.

"The base rate of JobSeeker was previously around \$40 a day, and was widely recognised as hopelessly inadequate," stated SACOSS CEO Ross Womersley. "In response to the COVID-19 pandemic it was boosted by a Supplement."

"The federal government has today announced that when the Coronavirus supplement ends at the end of March, the JobSeeker rate will increase from its old rate by just \$25 a week. This equates to an increase of just \$3.57 a day on the brutal old rate," he stated.

"This is miserly and will come as a huge disappointment for anyone struggling to find their way into work across SA. So many economists, business and community leaders, and other groups, have joined our national body ACOSS and the welfare sector in a united call for an adequate, permanent increase to lift people out of poverty."

"Competition for secure, well paid, good jobs is the highest it's been for years. To then additionally insist people who simply can't find work will be subjected to enhanced mutual obligations is unwarranted and unnecessarily cruel."

"What we know about jobs is that the total number of jobs in our state has barely recovered to pre-pandemic levels - and that's with the assistance of JobKeeper in maintaining them."

"What we need from our governments at this time is to help unemployed South Australians manage to keep holding their heads up, ready to put their best foot forward when a new job opportunity arises."

"Today our federal government missed one of the most important opportunities it has had since originally announcing the Coronavirus Supplement to ensure people who simply can't find work, or can't find enough work, are not left living in poverty."

"As importantly, there will be real economic losses too. When you increase income support payments, most of that money goes right back into the local economy,

into small businesses, into other people's wages. Because when people don't have much money, and you increase their income, they spend it on things they need."

"Without JobKeeper, and without the local stimulus spending provided by the Coronavirus Supplement, we are very concerned about future job losses, as well as the impacts for people who are trying to find work and struggling to get by."

"Many industries in South Australia are still feeling the impact of COVID-19 restrictions, and many workers in those industries are still struggling to find jobs. Job numbers in agriculture, forestry and fishing are 10% lower than pre-pandemic levels. Accommodation and food services jobs are 8% lower, information and telecommunications jobs are 6% lower."

"In fact, job numbers in 12 of the 19 ABS industry classifications have not recovered to pre-COVID levels, and not everyone can immediately move to healthcare, and to financial and insurance services, where jobs growth has been strongest."

"Similarly, many regional areas are still suffering, with job numbers more than 5% lower than pre-pandemic levels in the lower north and Yorke Peninsula, the Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island, and the Murray Mallee."

"For people in these industries and regions, the economy has not bounced back and ongoing support is needed. To have the Coronavirus Supplement withdrawn and have their income slashed adds insult to pandemic injury."

"Bringing JobSeeker and other income support payments to an adequate level is the right thing to do, both for people who are unemployed and for our communities and economy."

"What we have seen today is still so very far from what is required, and the harsh costs of this failure will be felt across our community. We thank all of those who have shared personal testimonies in campaigning for a decent increase in JobSeeker and reassure the tens of thousands of South Australians who are still facing the challenge of finding enough good, secure, well paid work that we will walk with you in continuing the campaign to increase this income support payment so that it will lift people out of poverty."

**Greek Orthodox Community SA**  
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**7088 0500**