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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Adelaide woman killed by a falling tree in North Adelaide

A woman has been killed by a falling tree in the Adelaide parklands in North Adelaide.

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) said crews were called to University Oval near War Memorial Drive, but were unable to save the woman.

MFS commander Declan Dwyer said it appeared the woman, aged in her mid-twenties, was sitting under the tree when it fell.

"It appears she was doing nothing more than sitting on the lawn having something to drink or eat."

SA Police said it has launched an investigation into the incident.

Adelaide Lord Mayor Jane Lomax-Smith extended her condolences to the woman's family.

"I express my sincere condolences to the family and friends of the young woman tragically killed in what appears to be a shocking accident," Ms Lomax-Smith said.

"Council staff have assisted authorities at the scene and we are doing our best to determine what has happened.

"Unfortunately, I can provide no further information at this time as the circumstances which led to this tragic event will be the subject of an official investigation."

### Adelaide faces highest rise in grocery prices

Adelaide residents have been facing doubled grocery prices prompting them to shop at low-cost stores like The Food Centre.

Demand for food relief surged by 35 per cent at The Food Centre and 57 per cent statewide.

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows prices cumulatively increased by 16.4 per cent in Adelaide, in the period between 2021 and 2023, compared to 14.8 per cent in Sydney and 16 per cent in Melbourne.

Greens MLC (Upper

House) Robert Simms is seeking a parliamentary inquiry into grocery prices, backed by independent MLC Frank Pangallo.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is investigating supermarkets, but the proposed Simms's inquiry awaits major party support.

SA's Consumer Affairs Minister, Andrea Michaels, is considering the inquiry, with the federal government already reviewing pricing and competition in the sector.

### South Australians targeted by NSW campaign to relocate

South Australia has dismissed the NSW government's "Make the Move Campaign" targeting interstate essential workers, as a desperate attempt to address skill shortages in the eastern state.

The campaign encouraged workers to move to regional NSW, offering incentives such as bonuses for teachers and health worker packages.

South Australia's Premier, Peter Malinauskas, says he saw

it as a response to the 30,000 people who left NSW last year, but believed his state's economic performance was what was attracting people. SA Treasurer Stephen Mullighan questioned the need for relocation, pointing to higher housing costs in regional NSW.

NSW Premier Chris Minns will also aim to compete for essential workers in Victoria and Queensland, to address the nationwide teacher shortages.

## Over 1,000 cases of neglect every month in aged care

The Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission has reported a surge in neglect cases in aged care homes.

Since late 2022, a steady rise in incidents has been reported as the industry continues to struggle with work-force shortages and concerns about the lack of funding in the sector.

The regulator has warned of inadequate care standards as over one thousand cases a month are reported, with the just over three thousand neglect cases in residential care homes and 556 in home care reported in the last quarter.

Commissioner Janet

Anderson acknowledged progress in the sector, but noted ongoing performance gaps in the industry, with one-in-five services failing quality standards assessment.

Despite speculation that increased reporting may signal improved awareness rather than worsening conditions, other industry figures have attributed the increase in neglect cases as signifying the persisting challenges the industry is facing.

A story published in February by the Greek Tribune, referred to criticisms towards the star rating system for Australian aged care homes,



introduced in December 2022, as almost 150 facilities, which failed to meet minimum standards, were awarded four or five-star compliance ratings.

The system, designed to help families make informed choices, has been called a "total waste of time" by Kathy Eager, a former adviser to the aged care royal commission.

## By-election to follow Stephen Marshall's resignation

Thousands of voters in one of Adelaide's most marginal seats will return to the polls next month for the Dunstan by-election, following former premier Steven Marshall's resignation.

According to the ABC network, Speaker Dan Cregan confirmed on 8th of February the by-election will be held on Saturday, March 23.

Mr Marshall flagged his intention late last month to quit politics, and on Tuesday said he had formally tendered his resignation as the member for Dunstan.

According to the Electoral Commission of South Australia, there are more than 27,000 electors enrolled to vote in the inner suburban electorate.

It is the second by-election to be held in South Australia since the Liberal government was defeated after just one term at the

March 2022 election.

Former deputy premier Vickie Chapman triggered a by-election in the seat of Bragg in Adelaide's east, which was retained by the Liberals.

Mr Marshall retained Dunstan at the 2022 election, with the Liberals holding it by 0.5 per cent.

Labor's Cressida O'Hanlon will re-contest the seat for Labor, with the Liberals formally pre-selecting lawyer, former Liberal staffer and factional moderate Anna Finizio, while Katie McCusker will contest for the Greens.

Mr Marshall first entered South Australia's parliament in 2010 and became Liberal leader in 2013.

He served as premier for four years, including during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While he was reluctant to examine the reasons for the 2022 defeat, saying he instead wanted to "leave



Labor candidate Cressida O'Hanlon (left), Liberal candidate Anna Finizio (centre) and Greens candidate Katie McCusker (right). (ABC News photo)

the commentary to the commentators", Mr Marshall attributed the result partly to the pandemic.

"Certainly, Omicron was not a particularly helpful occurrence just before the election when we did have to put some restrictions in place," he said.

"There have been some moments which didn't go exactly the way I would like them to have gone, but I certainly don't leave with any animosity in my heart.

"COVID, bushfires, drought, fruit fly, I mean it was a pretty difficult period", he said.

### Greek Women's Society launches 2024 activities

On the 13th of February in the presence of the Mayor of Unley Hon Michael Hewitson and Cr Georgie Hart, the Greek Women's Society of SA "O Taxiarchis" officially re-opened its doors for its patrons at the Goodwood Community Centre. Also present were, the President of the organization, Ms. Chrisoula Heisler, the President, Vice President and Secretary General of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, Mr Peter Gardiakos, Mr. Peter Gonis and Ms. Smaro Skordas respectively.

According to a press release sent to the Greek Tribune by the group, the Greek Women's Society, is the first Greek Women's association to be established

## Community Life



The President of "Taxiarchis" Chrysoula Heisler with Mayor of Unley Hon Michael Hewitson and Cr Georgie Hart

in South Australia (operating since 1930). It runs the Greek Women's Centre Fitness and Wellness program which is sponsored

by the Unley Council, every Tuesday between 09.30.a.m - 12.00p.m. at the Goodwood Community Centre from February to December. The

program concludes with coffee, beverages and cakes.

It is customary at the re-opening of the Centre each year in February to commence the program with the cutting of traditional "New Year's Cake" called the Vasilopita a tradition that dates back thousands of years.

This year, the Mayor of Unley as the guest of honour, was asked to cut the "Vasilopita". Before doing so Mayor Hewitson addressed the patrons of the organization, congratulating them on running a program, which is aimed at wellbeing, recreation, with inclusivity and diversity, in line with the objectives of the Unley Council. The lucky winner, this year, Eleni Koutz, apart from being blessed with good luck for the year received a Gift basket.

(Contributed by: Helen Vassos)

### GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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## 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



At the official opening of the Cyprus Festival 2024, were from left, Georgios Psiachas, Consul General of Greece, Federal MP Steve Georganas, State Minister for the Arts Andrea Michaels and Connie Bonaros MLC



The President of the Cyprus Community Andreas Evdokiou, and the Deputy Mayor of the Charles Sturt Council Edgar Agius with his wife at the official opening of the Cyprus Festival 2024 on 3rd of February



Cypriot identities Chris Ioannou and Thekla Petrou with Jing Lee and husband Eddie at the Cyprus Festival 2024



Bishop Silouan of the Greek Archdiocese, Peter Psaroulis of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA and Mr and Mrs Devrelis



Retired MLC Irene Pnevmatikos, husband Chris and the Cyprus High Commissioner Antonios Samoutis

## Riverland wine grape growers are "going broke"

Tractors, harvesters and trucks have lined the streets of Renmark as growers in Australia's largest wine grape growing region protest for greater sustainability in their industry.

Hundreds of farmers and wine grape growers drove through the South Australian Riverland town in trucks, tractors and harvesters at the beginning of February, before blocking both lanes of traffic in front of a hotel.

The region, about 200 kilometres north east of Adelaide, is home to more than 900 growers that contribute about \$400 million to the national economy.

The tractor convoy was led by 25-year-old Sava Giahgias, who said he wanted to raise awareness about the unsustainability of an industry where farmers were paid below the cost of production for their grapes.

"If the industry collapses, the Riverland will collapse," he said.

The third-generation grower said despite the temporary disruption to traffic, people had been largely supportive.

"A couple of guys stopped me and said,

'Good. Keep doing it,' Mr Giahgias said.

"The Riverland is going to collapse if we don't do something about it. Us farmers are the Riverland. We are the food bowl."

**'People are going broke'**

The protest followed a heated meeting at a property in Loveday on Tuesday, where more than 100 growers expressed concern that the upcoming grape harvest could be their last.

The gathering was hosted by Sava Giahgias' father, Jim, and South Australian independent MLC Frank Pangallo.

Their key demands included making wine grape prices more sustainable, and improving support from the industry and government for growers.

Prices for the 2024 vintage are confidential, and some wineries are still negotiating agreements, but the ABC understands some could be about \$150 a tonne for red wine grapes like shiraz and cabernet.

Mr Giahgias said the meeting was a chance for people to talk about turning their frustrations into collective action.



Barmera growers, father and son, Jim and Savas Giahgias, leading a winegrape-growers movement for better prices and justice in the wine-grape industry (photo: ABC News)

"People are going broke," he said.

"Growers cannot grow grapes for a third of the cost of production.

"It's time that we were not treated like peasants, and that we are treated like business people."

When contacted by the ABC, a spokesperson for the Federal Agriculture Minister Murray Watt referred to a December statement that said a major problem for Australia's wine industry was the collapse of the China market, which the government was working to stabilise.

Accolade Wines, who accept the majority of the Riverland's grapes, as well as The Wine Group, and Kingston Estate, were contacted for comment.

An Accolade Wines spokesperson says it is "currently in negotiations with CCW [Cooperative] growers for grape pricing for V24 [vintage 2024] and these are ongoing and confidential".

The Wine Group (TWG) general manager Brigid Nolan said wineries were facing pressures from the global red wine surplus, and a declining demand for wine.

## NSW drilling ban first of its kind

The statewide ban on offshore drilling in NSW has dashed hopes for other such projects, extending beyond other the measures of other regions.

Supported by coastal communities and environmentalists, the ban prohibits petroleum and mineral exploration and recovery, in state waters.

Premier Chris Minns has defended the move, acknowledging the impact on potential proj-

ects. The ban has strengthened the push-back against gas company Advent Energy's PEP-11 development.

The ban is also seen to reflect earlier Coalition efforts, prompting accusations of policy adoption.

Legal complexities surrounding coastal jurisdiction have led to caution in previous attempts to legislate on the matter.

## Sydney housing costs prompting exodus of young families

Research conducted by the NSW Productivity Commission has found that Sydney is at risk of becoming the "city with no grandchildren" as housing affordability drives young families away.

Between 2016 and 2021, Sydney lost twice as many individuals aged 30 to 40 as it gained, with unaffordable housing identified as the primary reason for the exodus.

The Commission has suggested an increase in housing density in inner Sydney suburbs as a solution,

which could also boost productivity and cut emissions.

Local councils in the inner city have been hesitant to raise density levels due to heritage conservation areas and pushback from local communities.

However, the Commission contends that it is possible to enhance density without compromising quality of life.

Premier Chris Minns said he would not accept the status quo and would work to find better ways to increase population density in the city.

## Homeless Australians are dying at age 44 on average

Hundreds of Australians experiencing homelessness are dying more than 30 years prematurely.

These new figures come from a year-long investigation by The Guardian, identifying and examining more than six hundred cases of homelessness.

This has been labelled a nationwide crisis driven by a crucial housing shortage, lack of health provision, violence on the streets and failures of the justice system.

The results found people experiencing homelessness are dying at an average age of 44, a significant life expectancy gap that experts say is worse than any other disadvantaged group in the country.

Indigenous Australians were also vastly overrepresented among the homeless deaths, with approximately 20 per cent of the reported deaths involving an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

## Australia leads world as fatal shark attacks double

Australia experiences a disproportionate number of deadly shark attacks, according to new research.

The study has been done by researchers from the Florida Museum of Natural History, looking at shark behaviour, compiling an International Shark Attack file with the University of Florida.

Isolated areas were found to be a greater risk of fatalities according to the new international research.

The ten fatal attacks

globally in 2023 doubled from the five in the previous year, with four of last year's deaths occurring in Australia.

Surfers were more present in the data than people swimming or wading, experiencing 42 per cent of unprovoked bites around the world, 22 per cent of which happened in Australia.

Spearfishing was the most common activity in attacks which were left out of the study, after being considered as a provocation.