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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### SA community hold vigil in support of Afghani people

Last Saturday night, South Australia's Afghan Community held a vigil at Victoria Square to reflect on the deeply distressing situation that is unfolding in Afghanistan.

Amongst the several hundred people attending the event, were the South Australian Premier Stephen Marshall, the Leader of the Opposition Peter Malinauskas, CEO of Migrant Resource Centre Eugenia Tsoulis, President of the Afghan Community SA Hussain Razaiat, Chair of SAMEAC Adriana Christopoulos and members of SAMEAC, members of the African Communities Council of South Australia, the President Bill Gonis and members of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA and many more.

"I know many have watched in horror at images coming out of Kabul and Afghanistan - images of despair and desperation", Premier Marshall said.

"But South Australia stands shoulder to shoulder in solidarity with all those affected by the Afghan conflict, including our serving and ex-serving communities.

"I have discussed the situation with the Prime Minister and offered him

any assistance that South Australia can provide to help Australia's response effort", he concluded.

Australia's Immigration Minister Alex Hawke has announced the government will allocate 3,000 places to refugees from Afghanistan due to the unfolding crisis.

Ms Wahidi, who is the vice president of the Afghan Women's Organisation in Victoria, said that number was "just not okay" in the face of the unfolding humanitarian crisis.

"We do implore the Morrison government to open more humanitarian visas and welcome more refugees from Afghanistan," she said.

South Australian Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas, said if we are serious about supporting the the Afgani community, we must start by granting the 4200 Afghan nationals who are already in Australia on temporary protection visas (TPV) a path to permanent residency and ultimately Australian citizenship.

"As the South Australian Labor Leader I call on the Federal Govt to show some compassion and let these 4200 individuals know that they really can call Australia home".

### Ethnic Communities call for solidarity with Afghani people

"The Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW declares solidarity with the Afghan people in their hour of most need," said ECC NSW Chair Peter Doukas OAM. "We watch with horror the violence inflicted by the Taliban and the devastating impact this bears for the people of Afghanistan and Afghans across Australia distressed and deeply affected by a fast-devolving crisis."

"We call on the Australian government to fast-track all humanitarian aid to those who are suffering in Afghanistan, as well as extend support services as required to members of Afghan communities in Australia in these most extreme circumstances" said Doukas.

"We urge the Federal Government to grant

Afghans on temporary visas or under Australian jurisdiction, in light of their increasingly vulnerable situation and severe state of affairs, permanent visa status - it is a basic, immediate and meaningful humanitarian contribution Australia can and should make."

The ECC NSW, the peak body representing culturally and linguistically diverse communities in NSW, believes non-repatriation of Afghans is the correct decision and that we should reconsider the current scope of our humanitarian intake for the purpose of accepting persons fleeing Afghanistan.

"The ECC NSW offers its support to the Australian Government to ensure it responds to this emerging humanitarian catastrophe," concluded Doukas.

## South Australia closes border to Victoria

South Australians will need a specific exemption to return home from Victoria from 6:00pm Sunday as the COVID-19 situation deteriorates in the eastern state, SA's Police Commissioner says.

It puts Victoria on par with New South Wales, where some SA residents have been stranded for weeks waiting for permission to come back.

According to the ABC, at this stage, the 70 kilometre cross-border bubble will remain.

"That's for this current point in time — we will obviously continue to assess the situation in Victoria as it goes," Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said.

"Hopefully, we'll see a reduction in case numbers and the lockdown arrangements in that state get on top of the current outbreak."

The increased restrictions are in response to the Victorian government's statewide lockdown, after positive cases were identified in regional parts of the state.

Commissioner Stevens said authorities were giving a day's notice on the direction to prevent "excessive" queues forming at the state border.

Under the new rules, anyone who wants to travel into South Australia from Victoria will be classified as level 6 and will have to apply for exemptions to enter through SA Health.

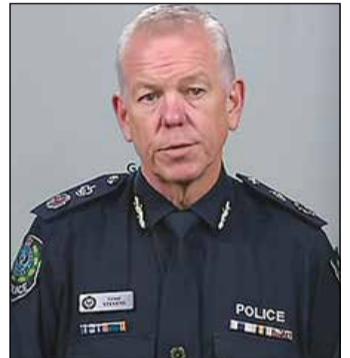
People fleeing domestic violence will be subject to level 5 requirements, which include COVID-9 tests on days one, five and 13, 14 days of quarantine and wearing a mask at any time that they come into contact with the public for 14 days after their arrival in SA.

Currently, in SA Level 1 restrictions apply. That means, 3 persons per 4 square metres (for seated activities) are allowed. Seated food and beverage consumption only.

One person per 2 square metres (for non-seated activities).

Home gatherings are capped at 20 people including residents of the home.

Funerals and weddings are



South Australian Police Commissioner Grant Stevens

capped at 50 people and masks are essential.

## "Foreign ownership of water not a concern"

There was no need for major changes to the way Australia records foreign ownership of water, according to the Productivity Commission.

As reported by the ABC, currently, 11 per cent of Australia's water is owned by foreigners, with the highest proportion of foreign-owned water held in Queensland and Western Australia.

Since 2017, any foreign person who acquires a water asset has been required to notify the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Canada is the foreign nation that holds the most overseas-owned Australian water, ahead of China, USA and the UK.

Water is able to be owned because the water reforms over the past 30 years have supported the development of markets for water.

The thinking is that creating water entitlements as tradable assets has allowed water to be used more efficiently and has provided new opportunities to invest capital — from both domestic and foreign sources.

A draft report released by the commission on Tuesday found that few Australians were aware of the Register of Foreign Ownership of Water Entitlements, but that the information it provided was sufficient.

The report made three recommendations: That state and territory governments link their water registers to the foreign register of water entitlements, and inform foreign entitlement holders to register with the ATO;

That future ATO reports identify farm landholders among water registrants;

That the ATO better explain the mandatory need for the foreign register and various



A photo of the Murray River snaking its way through parched brown land, south of Renmark.

terms linked to its use.

In its report, the commission noted that the public perception of foreign ownership of water was often not shared by mining and farming industries, which were responsible for most water ownership.

"The Australian community generally perceives the risks and threats associated with foreign investment more prominently than the benefits.

"In contrast, the commission has observed that the agricultural and mining sectors, which are the predominant holders of water entitlements, have few concerns about foreign investment in water entitlements and

generally support it," the commission said in its report.

The report said that major industry groups from the farm and mining sectors rarely raised foreign ownership of water as a concern.

The commission said few water market participants referred to the register and suggested that "maybe not a great deal" would change if the register did not exist.

"The commission considers it unlikely that, in the absence of the register, the Australian Government would significantly tighten its policies for foreign investment or water markets in response to pressure from community members," it said.

### ODYSSEY FESTIVAL Coming Soon!

"The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia proudly presents Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival ODYSSEY, celebrating 15 years of Greek culture in South Australia this year", says an announcement sent to the Greek Tribune.

After last year's cancellation of the event due to COVID-19, we return this year with a brand new schedule for all to enjoy.

"We invite the whole community to come celebrate with us and enjoy every aspect of Hellenism through the arts and entertainment.

"Feel the cultural pulse with this year's theme "Celebrating 200 and 90 Years of Independence" namely the Bicentennial of the Greek War of Independence and the 90 Year Anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia.

## Community Life



The icon procession around the building block, at the Greek Orthodox Community Church of Panayia, Croydon on 15 August 2021

"Indulge your senses with the sounds and the colours of Greek Arts as captured by the artistic eye".

The Odyssey Festival features a huge variety of cultural

events and productions, from Australia and Greece, catering for all ages and all tastes.

"Experience the arts from every angle with a dose of Hellenism through sculpture,

painting as well as handicraft and costumes.

"Enjoy a variety of comedy theatre productions and revisit the Greek 60s with a special music dress up night dedicated to the golden era of music and fashion.

"Greek cinema fans, get ready for the latest films from Greece as the 27th Greek Film Festival kicks off in October featuring top comedy and drama films at Palace Nova cinemas.

"From October 1 to November 14 Adelaide's vibe turns Hellenic and we invite the community to be part of this exciting cultural program.

The official program and other announcements will be published very soon, so stay tuned for updates and information on how, where and when you can enjoy your favourite Odyssey event or events.

Adelaide's 15th Hellenic Cultural Festival ODYSSEY!

The heart of Greece, beats right here in Adelaide! the announcement concludes.

### GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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**Cultural, social and political events in South Australia**

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**ABOVE:** At the celebration of the Dormition of Virgin Mary on 15 August at the Greek Orthodox Church at Croydon, members of the Greek Orthodox Community SA Auxiliary Committee, prepared tasty loukoumades for the Adelaide Greek community to take home raising some much needed cash for the needs of the local church



**ABOVE:** At the celebration of the Dormition of Virgin Mary on 15 August at the Greek Orthodox Church at Croydon, were from right, Mayor of Adelaide Sandy Verschoor, Shadow Minister for Multi-cultural Affairs Zoe Bettison, President of GOCSA Bill Gonis, and Treasurer Peter Gardiakos

## Disaster of unprecedented proportions in Greece

Greece has been ravaged by hundreds of wildfires in August, during its most severe heat wave in decades, which left unprecedented devastation to the forests and towns.

Other Mediterranean countries – Turkey, Italy, Algeria and Spain among them – have suffered similar problems.

The two major fires in Greece began in early August, one on the island of Evia and another in a national park north of Athens.

The environmental devastation from the fires in northern Evia is enormous, according to a statement issued by the meteorological service of the National Observatory of Athens (NOA).

According to the NOA, a total of 126,023 acres (or 510,000 stremmata) has been burned on the island of Evia.

The fires in August claimed the life of a volunteer fireman. In 2018, 102 people died in the fire at Mati, east of Athens, which was the second-deadliest wildfire of the century after the 2009 bushfires in Australia which killed 173 people.

The fire at Mati also counted as the sixth-deadliest



One of the worst fires that caused widespread devastation on the island of Evia, Greece.

in the last 100 years.

Scientists say there is little doubt that climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is driving more extreme weather events.

Other affected areas in Greece include southern Peloponnese Peninsula, near Ancient Olympia, and Fokida, in the Central Greece region north of Athens.

Another serious fire

ravaged Mount Parnitha – a national park with substantial forests and the latest one that was burning until several days ago was the town of Vilia, west of Athens. The island of Rhodos has also been heavily affected by the August fires.

Greece is facing a "natural disaster of unprecedented proportions", Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.

He apologized "for any weaknesses" on the part of the government in containing the wildfires, which have destroyed hundreds of homes and forced people to evacuate dozens of villages over the past weeks.

"These last days have been some of the most difficult for our country in decades," Mitsotakis said, blaming "the extreme heat and months of drought".

## LETTERS TO THE GREEK TRIBUNE A Message by the State Premier Steven Mashall

On behalf of the Government of South Australia, we write to convey our deepest sympathies to you and your community as devastating wildfires continue to cause widespread destruction across Greece.

As you know, South Australia and Greece enjoy a long and enduring friendship and we stand with you to grieve for those who have lost their lives and livelihoods in these tragic circumstances. We also acknowledge the courage and determination of the first responders and rescue teams who continue to risk their lives to help curb the spread of the flames.

Our thoughts remain with the people of Greece,



especially any of your colleagues, friends and loved ones who may have been impacted by these events.

Yours sincerely,  
Hon Steven Marshall  
MP, Premier of South Australia  
Hon Jing Lee MLC,  
Assistant Minister to the Premier

## Message from the South Australian Labor Leader Peter Malinauskas MP Wildfires in Greece

We are saddened to learn the news of the continuous wildfires during the hottest summer in Greece since 1987.

Greece is facing, in the words of Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, a "natural disaster of unprecedented proportions."

Thousands of people have evacuated from their villages. Images seen show pillars of smoke and ash and the devastating damage to homes, businesses and surroundings. Firefighters, as part of one of Europe's biggest-ever common fire-fighting operations' have battled over 560 wildfires.

The people of Greece are resilient and will get through this devastation. We offer our thoughts to those in Greece and their



families and friends here in South Australia.

**Peter Malinauskas**  
South Australian Labor Leader  
**Zoe Bettison MP**  
Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Joe Szakacs MP**  
Assistant Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

## Federation of Greek Orthodox Communities of Australia

### GREEK FIRE RELIEF PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

As you are all aware, Greece has been ravaged by the worst forest fires in decades. The devastation caused by the blaze is beyond belief. Hundreds of thousands of hectares of forest land have been destroyed, wildlife animals perished in the flames and hundreds of homes were burnt to their foundations. It's an unprecedented catastrophe that has marked a black page in the country's history.

Following the huge devastation, the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) have opened a bank account to raise funds in support of the fire victims and the environment.

To provide some relief to the victims of the devastating fires, the Federation of the Greek Orthodox Communities of Australia (which includes the communities of Sydney, Adelaide, Newcastle and Saint Albans Victoria) urges the community to dig deep. Those who wish to contribute financially are kindly requested to deposit their donations in the following bank account:

Bank: EUROBANK  
Beneficiary: HELLENIC RED CROSS  
Account Number: 0026.0240.30.0201205013  
IBAN: GR2602602400000300201205013.

All deposits must be marked "Wildfires." For more information you can call: (+30) 210 36 09 825 or visit the website of the Hellenic Red Cross www.redcross.gr. Or call the Adelaide Community, 08 8231 4307.

For the Federation of  
Greek Orthodox Communities of Australia,  
Bill Gonis, President - Peter Ppiros, General secretary

(continued)

### What can we conclude from this article on Greek culture?

1. The other valuable cultural attitudes that should be transmitted across to the Australian culture are;

(this is not suggesting that these are not present in the Australian culture. They are present but with less intensity than in the Greek culture)

1. The way alcohol is used in the Greek culture versus that of the Australian culture. Drinking within the Greek culture is undertaken always with food and in moderation. Drunkenness is viewed as socially irresponsible no matter what the circumstances. Whereas boozing within the Australian culture is practiced as a social competition and used without a socialising context involving meaningful social bonding or food.

2. Methods of celebrating through dancing and music that is based on social bonding.

3. An approach to hospitality that is free and unconditional but assured that such an approach will not be taken advantage of by the hosts.

## How is culture learned

4. The attitude to Clan cohesion and bonding.

5. The Greek cuisine food range and preparation.

6. The political awareness prevalent in the Greek culture but with an in-depth understanding of the underlying ideological principles.

7. The contributions of the Ancient Greeks to the social-political and economic foundations of the western cultures particularly in the fields of; The Olympics, Theatre, literature, the democratic system of governance.

8. The greater emphasis on moderation on all matters and the greater emphasis on the good for the many rather than the individual.

9. Of course, there are many others deemed to be worthy of transmitting to our children based on every individual parent's social conditioning and cultural perspectives.

It is a fact that each generation of Australian Greeks moves from integrating to assimilating. This will have a huge impact on the survival of the Greek communities that

have been established from the time of the first generation of Greek migrants that were designed to provide services relevant to their needs of that time.

This means that these associations need to evolve with these changes and restructure themselves to remain relevant to the social religious needs of the new generations. Without question, the religious provision must change to the English language instead of the traditional byzantine delivery style and with a greater theological emphasis rather than the ritualistic liturgical approach of the past.

The other provisions that are overdue even at this point in time are;

1. Provision of an educational provision on matters necessary for the functioning of our younger generation in the current social-economic environment. Monthly lectures in English on subjects such as;
  - a. Political changes for multicultural societies
  - b. Law changes necessary for multicultural societies
  - c. Technology and survival in the near to medium future
  - d. Educational lectures in future employment fields
  - e. Financial awareness
  - f. Political influences to improve the greek community
  - g. Sporting ventures designed to increase bonding among the younger Australian Greeks.
  - h. Establishment of a directory of all Greek professionals and use them for presenting/informing the greek Australian population.
  - i. Organising the Greek youths into societies that can organise events relevant to their interests.
  - j. Establishing reputable primary and secondary schools
  - k. Establishing services for the ageing Australian Greek population and the generations in between.
  - l. And many others.

To follow this conclusion I will present the article on how personality is shaped because it has a huge bearing on how our personality and sense of identity is shaped through cultural influences.

To be continued  
Elias Hadjisavas,  
ADELAIDE