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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

RIVERLAND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL Celebrating 100 years of Cultural Diversity!

As part of the Berri Centenary Year and to acknowledge and celebrate that the Riverland is one of the most culturally diverse regional communities in Australia, the Riverland Multicultural Festival is to be held on the picturesque Berri Riverfront on November 5, 2011.



Festival Chairperson, Rosalyn Kambouris, invites everyone to the free event, to celebrate our community and cultures.

Rosalyn explains 'A community committee has been planning the Festival over the past twelve months.

"There is something for everyone. Be treated to a day of performances, dance and song and workshops, reflecting our community through its rich cultural diversity.

"Be energised by the sounds of music and song from Sufi Soul, a fusion of North Indian, Middle Eastern and Afghan music. Through their workshop discover the origins of both traditional and contemporary music and song from North India, Middle East and Afghanistan.

"We thank Festivals Australia for funding to support 'Sufi Soul's performance", said Ms Kambouris.

"Riverland Youth Theatre will be support-

ing the event by hosting an activity tent. Come along and create something special for the parade or maybe you'd like an innovative face paint."

The Riverland community are invited to join in the fun and be part of the Festival parade as it weaves along the riverfront into the festival venue.

An exhibition tent will exhibit multicultural memorabilia and art displays.

The venue will offer a vibrant market place of quality handmade products. Treat your tastebuds to a selection of traditional food. The day offers something for everyone.'

For further information or if you would like to be involved in the day, the committee are currently seeking applications for food stall holder, art / craft stalls and buskers. Or perhaps you would like to volunteer.

For further information please contact the coordinator, Danyon De Buell on 0439820100.

SA Parliamentary Friends of the Hellenic Republic formed

Twenty South Australian Members of Parliament attended the inaugural meeting of a new Friendship Group on Thursday 7th July 2011.

The group resolved to call themselves the SA Parliamentary Friends of the Hellenic Republic.

Present at the inaugural meeting were the Speaker, Lyn Breuer, as facilitator, the Deputy Speaker, the Premier, the Treasurer and members of

a multi party group of Upper and Lower House Members of Parliament.

Leesa Vlahos, Labor Member for Taylor and Martin Hamilton-Smith, Liberal Member for Waite, were elected as Co-convenors of the Group and Minister Tom Koutsantonis was elected as Secretary.

Discussion on future events and speakers canvassed suggestions such as the Parthenon Marbles; the

support of Greek culture and language in schools and the broader community; and aged care services for people of a Greek background.

The Group hopes to encourage interactions and discussions around cultural links between Greece and South Australia through discussions with the Greek Government, Greek representatives and the Greek communities in South Australia and Australia.

NUGAS attend Hellenic Council conference

On 19-20 June representatives from the National Union of Greek Australian Students (NUGAS) attended the National Conference of the Australian Hellenic Council. This year's Conference placed particular emphasis on the importance of the youth and the role they will play in future years.

Issues of importance to Greek-Australians were addressed during the Conference and presented to our Members of Parliament, including:

- * Greek migration to Australia
- * Greek language in Australia
- * Cyprus
- * Macedonia
- * Parthenon Marbles
- * The Theological College of Halki and religious freedom in Turkey
- * The Christian Genocide of Anatolia
- * Battle of Crete
- * Southern Albania/Northern Epirus
- * The Australian-Greek Elderly

The Council's delegates met with several Ministers, Members for Parliament, including Tony Abbott (Federal Opposition Leader), Kate Ellis (Minister for Status of Women), Julie Bishop (Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs),



Ian Pelekanakis, Michael Christodoulides, Con Kouremenos, Eleni Eftymiou, James Papadopoulos, Lex Georgiou and Anthony Zorbas

Anthony Albanese (Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government) and Peter Garrett (Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth).

Some key outcomes from the visit to our Federal Parliament were commitments from Members to advocate on these issues, affirming their position on Cyprus and FYROM, as well as to visit the Greek-based aged care facilities in Australia, progress on the recognition of the Christian Genocide in Anatolia and the inclusion of the Battle of

Crete in the curriculum of the Australian History subjects.

NUGAS President Lex Georgiou was impressed with the outcomes from both the Conference and visit to Parliament, confirming NUGAS' commitment to its relationship and collaboration with the Australian Hellenic Council.

"NUGAS has always participated actively in Greek-Australian community affairs; this participation has also paved the way for our members to progress into the mainstream Greek-Australian community organisations", Ms. Georgiou said.

From the Editor's Desk Damaging statements

Members of the Australian Cypriot community have accused Van Coufoudakis, a Greek American professor, who was recently giving lectures in Australia on the Cyprus issue, that he was here to try and reverse the excellent work achieved by the President of Cyprus Mr Demetris Christofias during his historic visit in May.

Dr Coufoudakis gave two lectures in Adelaide, entitled 'Cyprus: A Fifty-Year-Old Republic at Risk?' one at the Flinders University campus in English and another one in the Greek language, at the Cypriot Community Club in Welland.

In an article in page 3 of the Greek Tribune, Dr Evangelos Katsiambirtas, a retired university lecturer, writes that he was staggered to hear Dr Coufoudakis saying that President Christofias is about to close the Cyprus issue with a "bad" solution by the end of the year and that he (Coufoudakis) would like to see "things staying as they are" with the island partitioned, which is also the ultimate goal of the Turkish Government.

It is believed by many in the Cypriot community that Dr Coufoudakis was in Australia trying to promote the divisive ideas of the cleric turned politician Archbishop Chrysostomos and those of certain Greek Cypriot politicians who oppose the UN sponsored talks and reject calls for the reconciliation of Greek and Turkish Cypriots under a unified, multicultural federal Cyprus republic.

In the extremely difficult times which Cyprus is going through at the moment, those who are trying to undermine a UN solution based on previous agreements between the two communities and UN resolutions for a bizonal bicomunal federation, are not damaging President Christofias - who is at present the legitimate elected leader of the country - but they are in fact jeopardising the future of Cyprus and its people as a whole.



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Community Life

of Dorylaeon, Steve Georganas MP, Professor Michael Tsianikas and a large crowd of South Australians, mainly of Macedonian background.

On Sunday 26th June the Panrhodian Society of SA hosted a Luncheon and Youth Fashion Parade, co-ordinated by Ms Barbara Langanis-Diakos. Delicious food and desserts prepared by the conscientious and very hard-working committee and volunteers, along with the 34 beautiful children and youths modelling designer apparel, was the perfect synthesis for a fabulous and a truly memorable afternoon. Children parading incorporated their individuality in their presentation on the catwalk to the rhythms of the latest Greek pop music prepared by the talented DJ Valandi. Clothes were provided by Bella Bello for Kids operating in the north eastern suburbs of Adelaide. The event bought families and friends together to enjoy the great entertainment by the children, to enjoy each other's company and to savour the delicious and abundant food in an always welcoming and friendly environment. The participants of the parade were - Anaisia Itsines, Lola Mounzouris, Paige Mounzouris, Frankie Bria, Nicole Koumpis, Vangeli Portellos, Ross Diakos, Savas Diakos, Francesca Germanis, Giorgio Germanis, Connor

Bartlett, Anthony Hagidimitriou, Zachary Hagidimitriou, Theodora Vratis, Ariel Vratis, Cassandra Vratis, Caitlyn Carypidis, Angelika Moschou, George Leonardos, Theo Leonardos, Jordan Leonardos, Christian Lapidaris, Bart Lapidaris, Anthony Linardis, Christian Linardis, Danny Ayelo, Angela Galantomos, Maria Galantomos, Angelina Galantomos, Paige Tsubarakis, Billy Tsubarakis, Artemis Constantinou, Christos Pasvouris and Tia Pasvouris.

For those who like good old Greek music, the Krystal Function Centre in Port Adelaide is advertising in page 11 of the Greek Tribune, an evening with popular singer GIORGOS MARGARITIS and band direct from Greece. Tickets, for \$90 per person, are pre-sold on (08) 7225 4949.



Participants of the youth fashion parade at the Colossus Hall, Torrensville, (story above)

Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

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Leader of the Opposition Ms Isobel Redmond amongst members of the Adelaide community at the launch of the 9th International Conference on Greek Research, on 30 June at the Adelaide Pavilion



Along with the President of the Cypriot Community Chris Ioannou, South Australian parliamentarians including (from left) Rachel Sanderson MP, Leader of the Opposition Isobel Redmond MP, Leesa Vlahos MP, Carmel Zollo MLC, Minister Tom Koutsantonis MP and Chairman of SAMEAC Hieu Van Le, attended a wreath laying ceremony at the Cross of Sacrifice marking the 36th anniversary of the military coup and the Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974



The main force behind the 9th International Conference on Greek Research, Professor Michael Tsianikas (centre) and Greek Ambassador Mr Christopoulos at the launch of the event on 30 June



Minister Tom Koutsantonis with wife Anthea, Wendy and Steve Georganas MP and Professor Michael Tsianikas recently attended a dinner at the Pan-Macedonian Centre to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the "Vergina" Cultural association

Strong Government support for Greek culture

More than 300 hundred guests attended the launch of the 9th International Conference on Greek Research, held at the Adelaide Pavilion on 30 June.

Speaking at the launch, the Premier of South Australia Mike Rann announced that his Government has committed \$600,000 over four years to help fund 35 scholarships for the education of local teachers of modern Greek.

In welcoming the guests and participants to the 9th International Conference on Greek Research, the Patron of the event, Premier Rann said, since it was first held in 1997, the biennial celebration of Greek language and culture has grown from strength to strength.

"Indeed, I recall the very first conference was a small research seminar that brought together around 20 delegates, all but one of whom hailed from Australia.

"This year, it features more than 130 academic papers, with hundreds of participants, including many international delegates and keynote speakers".

The Premier referred to the MOU that was signed in 2007 between the South Australian and Greek Governments and with Flinders University to explore the potential for a dedicated Centre for Hellenic Languages and Culture.

"I'm proud to announce, this evening, the realisation of that vision. The Logos Australian Centre for Hellenic Language and Culture will be established within Flinders University, further building on the outstanding work being undertaken there.

"It will not only promote even greater understanding of Greek knowledge and heritage, it will further boost our State's worldwide reputation for academic excellence", Mr Rann said.

The South Australian Govern-

ment has committed \$600,000 over four years to help fund 35 scholarships for the education of local teachers of modern Greek, as well as contributing to the development of on-line learning programs to widen the Centre's reach.

The first of those scholarships will be offered next year.

Through the Greek Ambassador in Canberra Mr Christopoulos who also attended the launch, the Greek Government reaffirmed its support to the project, allocating a qualified teacher from Greece, education materials and providing for 15 teachers per year to attend short programs at the Centre.

Mr Rann said that, working with the Greek Government and our local Greek communities, the Centre's focus will be on three key areas – teaching, culture and research.

"This initiative builds further on the State Government's commitment to ensuring the essential elements of Greek culture are nurtured, and passed on to future generations", he said.

Mr Rann said he was disturbed to learn that an 11-metre high statue of Alexander the Great, the warrior and King of Macedonia, has been erected in the centre of the FYROM capital, Skopje.

"It is the latest example of FYROM provocatively usurping Alexander the Great's legacy as its own. No nation has the right to steal another nation's history" he said.

Premier Rann said that his Government has included Modern Greek in the list of languages for which a specific curriculum is being developed by our Education Department. He also pointed out that, on coming to office, his Government made a priority of re-opening the Sturt Street School,



From left, Ambassador of Greece in Canberra Mr Christopoulos, Premier Mike Rann, Theo Maras and John Kiosoglous at the launch of the 9th International Conference on Greek Research

a goal that was achieved through the hard work and determination of the Greek communities.

Speaking on the theme of 'Ageing in the Migrant Diaspora' which was also part of this year's Conference, Premier Rann stressed that Greek migrants make up SA's second-largest non-English cultural community.

"By 2016, it's expected that one third of South Australia's diverse migrant communities will be aged over 80. This, in turn, carries significant cultural as well as health implications, as research shows that people tend to return to their 'primary' language and heritage as they age.

"So it's vital we provide appropriate, targeted support for those who arrived in the wave of post-War migration, and who, quite literally, helped build our State.

"Through our Home and Community Care Programs, the State and Commonwealth Governments provide funding and services for specific ethnic communities to help older people remain in their homes, and active

members of their communities, for as long as possible.

"Since 2002, the State Government has increased funding to the Home and Community Care program by more than 70 per cent, to a total of \$150 million, Mike Rann said.

The Premier also referred to President Christofias's recent visit to SA.

"We were honoured to host a visit from His Excellency the President of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias, who I'm also privileged to call a good friend. The ongoing campaign for a united Cyprus is another of the vital issues confronting the Hellenic Diaspora that I remain passionately outspoken about", he said.

Mr Rann said that, Greece is currently facing significant economic challenges.

"But it's at times like this we must rally together and show our support and our solidarity for a culture that has exerted unsurpassed and undeniable influence on Western civilisation", he concluded.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

President Christofias calls for unity

Nicosia, July (CNA) -- President Demetris Christofias has called on Cypriots to remain united, leaving behind divisive practices of the past that may bear catastrophic results for the country.

The President was the main speaker at an event at the Presidential Palace, on Tuesday evening, to condemn the tragic events of 1974, the Greek junta-backed coup and the ensuing Turkish invasion.

In his speech, the President condemned Turkey's policy on Cyprus, as a mere communication policy, and sent a message to Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan, who is on an illegal visit to Cyprus' northern occupied areas, to cooperate in a creative manner in order to achieve a viable and functional solution of the Cyprus problem.

During the event, a minute's silence was observed in memory of those killed during the coup and the invasion, as well as for the victims of the recent blast at the naval base "Evaggelos Florakis", in which 13 persons were killed, when about 100 containers – most packed with gunpowder, exploded.

The containers were seized in early 2009 from a ship sailing from Iran to Syria, in compliance with UN sanctions against Teheran.

President Christofias, in his out-of-text remarks while addressing the people, said he welcomed them "in this sacred place, which has been consecrated by the blood of those who resisted fascism and defended the dignity of this betrayed people".

The President stressed in his speech that it was time for unity, prudence and consensus. He said that people who stay united shall never be defeated.

"We have no right to behave like we have done in the past, because, this time, the results would be completely devastating" he said.

The President's call came in the wake of demands by the opposition, for his resignation following the deadly blast at the naval base on 11 July. Since the day of the deadly blast, hundreds of people encouraged by the main opposition party (DISY) and including members of the neo-nazi group ELAM, have been gathering on a daily basis outside the Presidential Palace, insulting Mr Christofias and demanding the resignation of his Government.

Greek Defence Minister Panos Beglitis represented the Greek government, while a delegation of Greek MPs represented the Greek parliament at the event organised by the Government of Cyprus.

The President asked Beglitis to convey to the Greek Premier George Papandreou his gratitude for his support to Cyprus, repeating the same pledge to the delegation of MPs towards Greek political leaders.

Prior to the event, short films displayed footage of the 1974 events - Turkey's invasion, excerpts of speeches by the first President of the Republic, the late Archbishop Makarios and anti-occupation marches.

The President further said that there has been quite a lot of scaremongering for potential clashes, due to another protest, organized outside the Presidential Palace in relation to the blast.

"People need to express their views and they do so tonight, through their massive and peaceful attendance in this grand gathering", he said.

The event was attended, among others, by the Secretary General of AKEL Andros Kyprianou, DIKO President Marios Garoyian, Metropolitan Nikiforos and Greek Ambassador of Vassilis Papaioannou.

On Monday, July 11, thirteen people were killed by a huge blast, following a massive explosion at the Naval Base "Evaggelos Florakis", near Limassol.

The explosion caused extensive damage to nearby Vassiliko power plant, leading to power shortage all over Cyprus. Communities in close proximity where also hit, while Mari village suffered most of the damage. President Christofias said that there will be a full and thorough investigation into the incident and charges will be laid to those responsible.

The blast occurred in containers, full of munitions which, at the request of the United States and the UN, Cyprus had confiscated from "Monchegorsk", a vessel sailing from Iran to Syria in 2009, complying with UN sanctions against Iran.

Temporarily relieved by Greece's bailout

Relief at a bailout package for Greece drove global shares higher after European leaders made sweeping changes to a rescue fund in an effort to seal larger economies off from the continent's debt crisis.

News of the euro109 billion (\$155 billion) package of loans for Athens caused the yields, or interest rates, on the country's bonds to fall sharply. The plan promised to reduce Greece's overall debt burden -- crucial to helping it beat a path out the cycle of borrowing.

The Greek Prime Minister, George Papandreou, welcomed the deal: "We now have a program and a package of decisions which create... a sustainable debt management for Greece.

"And this in the end of course will mean not only the funding of a program but it will also mean the lightening of the burden on the Greek people."

But the most radical part of the deal announced last week is that it allows countries to tap rescue funds before their borrowing costs reach a critical level, a plan that leaders hope will mean they can shore up faltering economies preventively and stop the march of the crisis.

Though markets were responding positively to the Greek bailout, some analysts tempered their praise, cautioning that it still didn't solve the fundamental problem: that Greece is swimming in debt and extending it with more loans could exacerbate the situation.