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GREEK TRIBUNE

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CURRENT AFFAIRS

Wild South Australian storm tears roofs and downs trees

Every Australian state and territory has been impacted by wild weather over the past few days.

In South Australia, 40,000 properties were left without power and several homes were damaged as wind gusts of over 100 kilometres per hour hit on Wednesday night.

Victoria also saw severe thunderstorms, as well as South East Queensland and New South Wales.

Several homes in Adelaide have been left in ruins and 16,000 properties are still without power following destructive wild weather last night.

The sheer force of overnight winds removed roofs from houses and brought down trees and powerlines, with gusts of almost 100 kilometres per hour recorded at Adelaide Airport.

About 100,000 properties have been impacted or had power outages.

The State Emergency Service (SES) has been overwhelmed by call-outs and has responded to about 800 incidents since Wednesday afternoon.

The Bureau of Meteorology said a deep low pressure system had moved across the state, bringing up to 40 millimetres of rain over the Adelaide Hills.



Storm aftermath at Kensington Gardens

FECCA: Immigration decision shows lack of leadership

The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) said today that the Prime Minister's snap decision to cut immigration numbers by 30,000 showed a lack of leadership and was driven by dubious polling.

"At a time when leadership is required, we see Prime Minister Scott Morrison reacting to a divisive agenda", the Chairperson of FECCA, Mary Patetsos, said.

"Our strong immigration level is vital to Australia's economic growth, something Mr Morrison himself emphasised earlier this year when he declared that cutting immigration would negatively impact the Budget, that it would 'hit the bottom line, the deficit'."

"Instead of now declaring 'enough, enough, enough', Mr Morrison should be showing nation-

al leadership with a comprehensive plan to improve the nation's infrastructure so that it can service a growing, prosperous nation.

"It is not good enough for the nation's Prime Minister to abandon long-term vision for our future and opt for short-term populist politics.

"The real issue in the so-called 'immigration debate' is inadequate infrastructure, not migrant numbers. We need a Government that shows true leadership on population policy," Ms Patetsos said.

FECCA is the national peak body representing Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. Our role is to advocate and promote issues on behalf of our constituency to government, business and the broader community.

Turkish opposition calls for another Cyprus invasion

One of Turkey's leading opposition figures has caused alarm by calling for an invasion of Cyprus, 44 years after the Mediterranean island was partitioned.

To rapturous applause from Ankara's parliament, Meral Aksener said "Cyprus is Turkish and will remain Turkish". She said that growing tension over a push to exploit oil and gas reserves in the eastern Mediterranean could lead to open war.

"You should know that if need be the Turkish army will launch another invasion of Cyprus as it did in 1974.

Over 40,000 Turkish troops are stationed in the northern part of the island, an illegal state known as the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", recognised by no one in the world but Turkey.

Aksener, a former interior minister known as the "wolf", claimed that exploration for oil and gas by international energy companies commissioned by the Greek Cypriot government in the south of the island amounted to "imperialist activity" aimed at Ankara.

Turkey has very few natural energy resources of its own and its big energy import bill is a key factor in its wide current account deficit, Intellinews reports.

Earlier this month, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned foreign (US and European) oil companies against energy exploration near Cyprus, describing those defying Ankara as "bandits of the sea" who would face a similar response as its foes in Syria.

"As we made the terrorists

in Syria pay, we will not leave the scene to the bandits of the sea," he said.

Amid growing unease, the US Department of State has called on Turkey to refrain from indulging in rhetoric or action that would cause further tension in the region.

But, in a sign of how fragile the situation is, the illegal regime of the north this week accused the Cyprus Government of deliberately planning provocations in the buffer zone between the two sides "to create tensions".

According to reports from Cyprus the UN peacekeeping force, which controls the buffer zone and has been tasked with mediating between both sides, said they were concerned such incidents would undermine peace and stability and upset the status quo on the island.

Diplomats accused of crimes against children

Former Foreign Minister of Greece Nikos Kotzias revealed on Tuesday that he has referred to the prosecutor charges that Greek diplomats were allegedly involved in issuing illegal visas to unaccompanied children.

During an interview, Kotzias revealed there are 93 cases involving diplomats illegally issuing visas to unaccompanied migrant minors. The former minister said that some of the diplomats are already in jail because of his initiative, and he alleged that issuing visas to unaccompanied children is tantamount to organ trafficking.

"The ninety-three cases I sent to the prosecutor for violation of the criminal code, and and the fact that some diplomats went to prison because they were giving visas to unaccompanied children is nothing? Do you know what visas to unaccompanied children means? It means organ trafficking. Only the fact that I saved some lives will (allow me to) sleep in peace," the former foreign minister stated.

Eleni Glouftsis wins SA Young Australian of the Year Award

The 2019 South Australia Young Australian of the Year is 26 year old AFL umpire Eleni Glouftsis of Brunswick. Eleni Glouftsis made history at the age of 25 by becoming the first woman to officiate Australian Football League (AFL) games as a field umpire. While in high school, she began umpiring for amateur leagues and was awarded an AFL Female Pathway Scholarship. Through her dedication to the sport, Eleni became the first female umpire in the South Australian National Football League before going on to umpire 33 senior games for the Victorian Football League. After working hard on her fitness levels, Eleni finally broke through at the highest level in 2017. With no female umpire to look up to in her own career, Eleni hopes her

debut will open doors for other young girls who are passionate about professional umpiring. Her tenacity and commitment to overcoming barriers have enabled her to smash through this glass ceiling and redefine the role of women in sport. As a Greek-Australian, Eleni also inspires culturally diverse communities to be included in Australian institutions.

Other recipients of the award, include:

2019 South Australia Australian of the Year - Dr Richard Harris SC OAM

2019 South Australia Senior Australian of the Year - Reginald Dodd

2019 South Australia Local Hero - Megan McLoughlin

The 2019 South Australia Australian of the Year Award



From left, Dr Richard Harris SC OAM, Megan McLoughlin, Reginald Dodd and Eleni Glouftsis

recipients have been announced recently at a ceremony held at Adelaide Oval.

The South Australia Award recipients will become part of 32 State and Territory recipients

from around the country. These recipients will represent their state at the national Awards on 25 January 2019 in Canberra, where the four Australians of the Year will be announced.

HENLEY BEACH Go Greek Festival!

The Greek Orthodox Community of SA presents the 'Go-Greek Festival' on 6 January at Henley Beach incorporating the 2019 Annual Blessing of the Waters.

If you enjoy traditional Greek food, music, dance and festivals, then come along to wonderful Henley Beach for a Greek celebration for all to enjoy. Free entry all day - great family fun!

The Blessing of the Waters ceremony is an interesting event that everyone enjoys and one which is unique and sacred. The most exciting is where the holy cross is thrown into the waters. As the cross is thrown in by a priest, men plunge into the waters to catch it and try to outrace each other. Whoever manages to be the first and bring it out is believed to be blessed with good luck.

Every year on January 6, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most sacred days, the Feast of Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the River Jordan. It is also known as the Feast of Theofania because it is when the Most Holy Trinity is revealed to the world through the Baptism of the Lord. On the Day of Epiphany, the Church blesses the sea, the seashores, the islands and those whose livelihood is dependent upon the sea. Everyone is welcome.

Community Life



The Board of the Australian Hellenic Medical Charity Inc. (AHMCI)

Support for Greek Fire victims

The Australian Hellenic Medical Charity Inc. (AHMCI) and the Cyprus Community of South Australia Inc. are proud to have supported the "GREEK FIRES APPEAL" in achieving their first goal.

Due to the tragic fires near Athens, Prof. Greenwood from the (Royal Adelaide Hospital) procured a list of surgical, burns and skin graft apparatus that was required to provide critical surgery for burns victims.

The AHMCI and the Cyprus Community of SA raised \$62,550 as part payment of the cost of

medical equipment sent from Australia for the Burns Unit at Thriasio General Hospital in Elefsina. We received donations from many South Australians, sponsors and associated organisations including; The Greek orthodox Archdiocese of Adelaide, St Anthony's Greek Orthodox Youth committee, The Hellenic Soccer clubs of SA, West Adelaide, Cobras, Adelaide Olympic, The Kontoleon family, Henley Square Foodland, Colossus Panrhodian Society of SA, Dr Malcolm Nancarrow, Stavroula Mangos, Bill Pitsadiotis, George Boubouras and wish to thank and acknowledge their generous support.

City's Cathedral celebration

Members of GOCSA's Administrative Council as well as hundreds of the Community's members attended a two-day event that marked the name day celebrations for Adelaide's first Greek Orthodox Church, the cathedral of Archangels Michael & Gabriel on Franklin Street, on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 November 2018.

Wednesday night Bishop of Adelaide Chrysostomos along with the rest of the Community's clergy conducted the Great Celebrative Evening Vesper in the presence of the Executive Council members as well as dozens of parishioners.

The two-day event continued on Thursday morning as hundreds of parishioners came to the Cathedral to attend the Great Divine Liturgy, including Steve Groganas MP, the President Bill Gonis and members of the Administrative Council. The Divine Liturgy concluded with the traditional procession of the holy icon around the church. The morning service was followed by lunch at Olympic Hall featuring all the favourite grilled delicacies whereas the ladies from the Greek Women Society prepared the popular honey puffs 'loukoumades'.

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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



RIGHT: Minister assisting the Premier Jing Lee, Basil Amanatides of the Pontian Society, Governor Hieu Van Le, Connie Bonaros MLC, Greek Consul General and Steve Georganas MP at the Greek Consul General's Farewell reception

The Consul General of Greece Andreas Gouras, addressing a farewell reception given by the Premier of South Australia Stephen Marshall at the old Parliament House on 9 November. Also in the photo, Speaker Vincent Tarzia, General Secretary of GOCSA Dimitris Dimopoulos and President of Cyprus Community Andreas Evdokiou



A wreath laying ceremony took place at the cenotaph at the front of the Archangels Cathedral to mark the historic day of 28th October 1940. A large number of representatives of Australian authorities, official guests and many leaders of Greek community associations, including Ministers Rachel Sanderson and David Pisoni, former Lord Mayor Martin Haese, Labor MPs Katrine Hildyard and Jayne Stinson, Chair of SAMEAC Norm Suller, President of GOCSA Bill Gonis and President of Cyprus Community Andreas Evdokiou lied wreaths at the cenotaph in memory of the heroes who fought against fascism in the second world war.



The Premier of South Australia Stephen Marshall and Minister Assistant Jing Lee hosted a reception in honor of the 40th Demetria Festival at the Old Parliament House on 19 November 2018



Members of the Demetria Festival organising committee attended the Premier's Reception at Parliament House on 19 November

FAMILY EVENT!

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SA

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SUNDAY 6 JANUARY FROM 11AM

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Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.

NYE

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

2018

entertainment provided by

THE BAND ZEUS

MONDAY 31 DECEMBER 2018 | 7:30PM

@ OLYMPIC HALL, 288 Franklin St, Adelaide

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Cyprus to Build Hospital in Greece's Fire-Stricken Mati



President of Cyprus Nikos Anastasiades

The Republic of Cyprus announced on Tuesday plans to build a hospital in Mati, the region of Greece which was devastated by the July wildfires, in a gesture of solidarity with Greece.

Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades made the announcement after he received a donation of 50,000 euros for the East Attica fire victims on behalf of two Cypriot workers' unions during a meeting at the Presidential Palace.

"We have forwarded our intention, after consultation with the Prime Minister (of Greece) to build a hospital with the money the State and various organizations,"

including television channels and individuals, have donated, he stated.

The Cypriot President expressed the need "to have a symbolic building showing the solidarity of the Hellenism of Cyprus when tragedies happen."

"As we have had the support of Greece in many cases in the past, we will show our solidarity as well," the Cypriot President stated. "A hospital in the area where the tragic events following the fire in Mati happened will be a donation from the Republic of Cyprus and the Greeks of Cyprus with a specific symbolism," he emphasized.

Cuts to firefighting put safety at Adelaide airport at risk

The United Firefighters Union of Australia and Steve Georganas, Federal Member for Hindmarsh, have grave concerns about Airservices Australia intentions to cut the professional career firefighting crews at Adelaide airport – putting staff working overnight, aerodrome infrastructure and aircraft at risk.

Currently, during the overnight Curfew period (between 11PM and 6AM), Adelaide Airport has a professional career Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) crew 24-7 in accordance with CASA regulations. The airport is safeguarded by a dedicated crew of 5 staff able to deploy one aviation emergency response vehicle within 3 minutes to any point on the aerodrome. This provides a safe and rapid intervention in an emergency situation.

Airservices Australia is fully funded for the ARFF crews, but has decided to put savings before safety in proposing to cut the ARFF crew levels at night – downgrading the emergency response cover from one officer and four firefighters to just one officer and two firefighters.

The curfew at Adelaide airport only prevents large passenger aircraft from landing however, freighters and medical air transport still use the airport, with all 18 aerobridges occupied at night with passenger Boeing 737s and Airbus A320s.

In addition, there are airport staff, employees of a number of businesses that continue to operate overnight and a steady flow of early morning passengers totalling approx-

imately 3000 people. This 40% cut in firefighting staff will severely compromise the crew's ability to assist any aircraft incident on the runway, successfully enter any area of the airport to perform a rescue, or attack any structural fire including the Fuel Facility which holds in excess of 3 million litres of aviation fuel, Terminal, etc.

"Airservices Australia's cost cutting exercise is in direct contrast with the current expansion of Adelaide Airport. With the planned extension of the Terminal, construction of an Airport Hotel and a multitude of major upgrades on the aerodrome it seems shortsighted to reduce fire and rescue coverage", Mr Georganas said.

"The airport remains very active overnight when the curfew is in operation – it would be disastrous for cost-cutting of this nature to result in people getting hurt in times of need".

Peter Marshall, Secretary, United Firefighters Union of Australia said reduced crews will not be able to undertake fire and rescue duties.

"Any reduction in staffing will impact on ARFF's ability to intervene at an emergency. Airservices must acknowledge the growth at Adelaide Airport and provide a safe level of staffing and resources to meet customer expectations in line with other providers. The proactive and strategic direction of Airservices should be to increase the staffing to a crew of 2 officers and 4 firefighters using 2 vehicles to support the inherently high risks involved" he said.