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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

FEDERAL BUDGET

Support for needy, farmers

According to the official press release on the recent federal budget, the Gillard Government is investing an extra \$83.3 million over the next four years in emergency relief services to provide vulnerable families and individuals with life essentials such as food and clothing, pharmacy and transport vouchers, and help with accommodation and utility bills.

"This ongoing investment recognises that the demand for emergency relief services remains high across Australia. In 2009-10, 1.1 million Australians were assisted by 705 organisations in more than 1,340 emergency relief service locations nationally."

In addition, seventy-seven full-time financial counselling positions established during the global financial crisis will continue to be funded, with an extra \$28.0 million over the next four years.

Commonwealth financial counsellors deliver free, confidential and professional counselling for people experiencing financial difficulties.

As farmers move towards recovery after the long-running drought across the eastern half of Australia, the Government will continue to make EC assistance available including the programs: EC

Relief Payments, the EC Interest Rate Subsidy and EC Exit Grants.

The \$20,000 off-farm salary and wages exemption for EC Relief Payments for primary producers will be extended for a further 12 months to assist farmers to meet basic living expenses.

Small rural businesses will also be supported in their recovery. Eligible small business operators in EC declared areas will be able to access EC support until 30 June 2012.

An additional \$9.6 million will be provided in 2011-12 to support farmers through Re-establishment Assistance for primary producers. Eligible primary producers wishing to exit farming can apply for grants of up to \$150,000. Eligible primary producers may also receive up to \$10,000 for professional advice and retraining to help them plan for life after farming. They may also access up to \$10,000 to help with relocation expenses and to access job seeking services after they have sold the farm.

Other good news for the Riverland in Treasurer Swan's budget, is the injection of \$6 million for dental health care. The region will also benefit from the \$2.2 billion mental health program boost.

ODYSSEY ARTS EXHIBITION 2011

Artists Wanted!

Get ready to find your roots with this year's Odyssey Festival!

Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival Odyssey enters its sixth year following on from a successful celebration of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA 80th year celebrations in 2010.

This year's festival will run from October 5 to October 28 and will feature the Elder Hall Conservatorium concert on Saturday October 22 and the return of the Greek Film Festival.

Once again, the festival will be running its Odyssey Art Prize exhibition for the duration of the festival and the organisers are currently on the lookout for artists with a love for Hellenic culture to display their works based on the theme 'Getting back to your roots'.

This theme can be interpreted any way the artist wishes, with The 'Odyssey Art Prize' of \$2,000 (sponsored by the Maras Group) awarded to the best work in any art-form, be it painting, drawing, photography, print making, ceramics, sculpture etc.

The winning piece will also become a permanent fixture in the Greek Orthodox Community gallery.

To register your interest as a participating artist or for more information you may contact Odyssey Festival co-ordinator Maria Foundas on 0419 835 995 or maria@adelaideliveit-loveit.com.au.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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CYPRUS ISSUE

Critical meeting with Ban Ki Moon

Nicosia, (CNA) – The meeting between the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus will take place on July 7 in Geneva.

President Demetris Christofias, who met Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglou on Thursday, in the framework of direct negotiations on the Cyprus problem, said that during today's meeting he submitted a proposal on the competencies of the federal police and the joint Investigation Authority and expects the reaction of the Turkish Cypriot side.

He said he has asked to discuss issues concerning the Geneva meeting and its agenda "including the various

rumors for give and take".

"My wish is for each side to explain what give and take means. There can be no talks without give and take. But give and take on what issues. We have to clarify this," he noted.

He noted that he also clarified the position of the Greek Cypriot side that any thoughts on an international conference "must ripen and be implemented only when we are close to an agreement on all other issues of internal governance."

Christofias said that the conference must be multi-lateral, under the UN auspices, with the involvement of the UN Security Council permanent members, interested parties and the guarantor powers

(Greece, Britain and Turkey).

He noted that they will discuss the process before July 7, when the meeting takes place in Geneva.

Asked if they discussed the agenda of the meeting, Christofias said that as interested parties "we have a say on the agenda" and "it is not only the Secretary General who will decide the agenda."

Invited to say if Eroglou expressed his views on Christofias' positions concerning the international conference and the give and take process, the President said that it was confirmed once again that they have different views. The President also said that he will confer with political parties before he goes to Geneva.

PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS

Demetris Christofias arrives in Australia

The President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias, arrives in Adelaide today, 26 May, coming from Canberra where he met with the Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Governor General Quentin Bryce.

In Adelaide, the Cypriot President will be received by the South Australian Premier Mike Rann and Governor Kevin Scarce. In the evening, Mr Christofias will attend a reception to be given by the State Government at the Cypriot Community club where he will be greeted by several hundred guests mainly of Cypriot origin.

Mr Christofias' visit to Australia, aims to further



develop the excellent relationships between the two countries. It will also be an opportunity for the Australian Governments as well as the community to be informed

about the latest developments on the Cyprus issue.

The Cypriot President will also visit Melbourne and Sydney and return to Cyprus early next week.

From the Editor's Desk

International support needed

After two years of intense negotiations between the leaders of the two communities in Cyprus to find a just and viable solution that will reunite the island under the umbrella of a federal Government, the process is now drawing towards a very critical point.

According to public statements made by the President of Cyprus, the Turkish Cypriot leader as well as the Turkish Government, there are still significant differences which so far haven't been bridged, mainly due to Turkey's refusal to end its intervention and allow the two communities reach a compromise for the re-unification of their common homeland.

As announced recently, the leaders of the two communities, Demetris Christofias and Dervis Eroglou respectively, will meet with the UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in Geneva on 7 July this year to discuss the progress of the direct talks.

It is understood that the meeting in Geneva could be a very critical one for the future of Cyprus as the two leaders may be asked by the Secretary General of the UN to enter a new phase of the talks with a "give and take" process in order to reach agreement on the issues which the two sides have so far failed to agree upon. An international conference to deal with the external aspects of the problem - such as the guarantees, the settlers and foreign military presence on the island may also come up in the near future.

In these circumstances, our newspaper calls on the Australian Government to continue its support to the negotiations process for the re-unification of the island and hold Turkey accountable for its role. Australia should continue to apply pressure and keep reminding those who favor partition, that 22 million people of different cultures can co-exist and thrive in Australia. Why can't the same happen in a much smaller country such as Cyprus?

Peter Ppiros

Community Life



President of the Chian Association Michael Psarros and Chairperson of the Women's Auxiliary Sylvia Cassoudakis, presented an award to Monika Tsiflidis for her high achievement in Hellenic Studies

Cyprus and Australia. During the evening, two members of the association, Theo Markou and Jim Papanikolas were honored with awards of appreciation for their long services to the community of South Australia.

The Chian Association celebrated its 50th anniversary on

Saturday, 30 April 2011. The important milestone was celebrated with a dinner dance at the Chian Club, 73 Grand Junction Road, Rosewater. The event was attended by the Mayor of Port Adelaide Enfield Gary Johanson and Deputy Chairman Peter Ppiros (our editor) on behalf of SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le.

Chian Association President Michael Psarros spoke on the achievements of the association in its 50 year history and paid tribute to the early pioneers who formed the association in 1961. During the evening, Mr Psarros together with the chairperson of the Women's Auxiliary Mrs Sylvia Cassoudakis, presented an award to the Australian Hellenic Educational Progressive Association Prize winner, Monika Tsiflidis for her achievements in the Modern Greek language.

The Pontian Brotherhood of SA held a "Pontian Genocide Recognition Dance" in Adelaide on Saturday 30 April. The event took place at 7.00pm at the Colossus Pan Rhodian Society Hall, 148A Henley Beach Rd, Torrensville. Former Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Michael Atkinson MP, federal member for Hindmarsh Steve Georganas, Consul General of Greece Christos Maniakis Grivas and the Mayor of West Torrens John Trainer, were amongst the official guests that attended the function. Pontian Association President Mrs Anna Volis, welcomed everyone and spoke on the occasion of the genocide recognition. Good food and wine were on the menu and the Pontian Youth Dancers performed some of the most lively and expressive dances of Pontos.

Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

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The annual dinner dance of St Constantine & Helen Goodwood at the Olympic Hall on 14 May, was attended by the President of GOCSA Vasily Elovaris, Mayor of Unley Lachlan Clyne, Sofia Elovaris, GOCSA Secretary Sylvia Cassoudakis and Member for Unley David Pisoni



Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, Grace Portolesi, recently visited the Pan-Macedonian Centre where she was presented with an award of appreciation for her support to the Pan-Macedonian Association of SA



LEFT: The Pontian Brotherhood of SA held a Dinner Dance on Saturday 30 April at the Colossus Hall. In the photo, amongst those who attended were, Michael Atkinson MP, Minister Jennifer Rankine, Member of SAMEAC George Fomba, David Pisoni MP, Consul General of Greece Christos Maniakis Grivas and the President of the Pontian Brotherhood Anna Volis.

International News

Greek Union Leader warns of "Employment crash"

The head of the GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) union, has warned that deeper austerity measures planned by the government would cause an "employment crash," pushing the jobless rate to new records.

Mr Yiannis Panagopoulos, leader of the GSEE union, accuses the European Union of imposing unfair cost-cutting measures that would cause suffering for pensioners and low-income wage earners.

The Greek government has already announced that it will comply with EU demands to broadly double the level of austerity measures for 2011 "to maintain its bailout loan commitments".

Home for Cooperation opens in Nicosia

In the presence of President Demetris Christofias, the Turkish Cypriot leader, Dervis Eroglu, the Home for Cooperation (H4C) was officially opened last week. The two leaders expressed their strong support to the Home and their hopes for it to play role in strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the two communities.

Ambassador for Norway, Ingrid Schulerud, said in her address that "With the Home for Cooperation, a visible step is being taken in facilitating dialogue between the two communities on the island".

Dr. Chara Makryianni, President of AHDR and Dr. Meltem Onurkan Samani, Secretary of AHDR, in their joint speech stated that it was back in 2007 that the AHDR came up with the idea of looking for a meeting place in the Buffer Zone in order to help to give the 'dead zone' a new purpose and role, and transform it from a symbol of separation to a symbol of cooperation.

The AHDR aims for the H4C to promote the intercultural dialogue, cooperation and understanding in Cyprus, and to encourage Cypriots to demonstrate the benefits of cooperation across the existing divide. Located in the Nicosia buffer zone, the centre is a symbol of cooperation, with a welcoming environment for people from both communities.

May Day 2011

By Pam Andritsakis

ADELAIDE

Proudly waiving banners and flags, workers, comrades, unions, families, friends, politicians and supporters congregated at Victoria Square on the morning of Saturday 31 April 2011 for the annual May Day march. A good crowd of 500 people attended, considering work and family commitments and inclement weather forecast.

In the crowd I saw Theofilos Grigoriadis and I joined him to fly the banner for PLATON.

The slashing of public services, increases in rents and charges and the axing of 3,700 public service jobs sparked strong support for the event from public sector unions.

SA Unions secretary Janet Giles outlined the extent of the attacks on the welfare of the community to the crowd in Victoria Square before we marched along King William Street to the Torrens Parade Ground. "One struggle one fight, workers of the world unite!" and "Money for health and education, not for war and occupation!" were among the chants.

At the Torrens Parade Ground, Humphrey McQueen, Freelance Historian, spoke about the struggle of working people against their exploiters and the huge cost, human and economic, of gains that have been made.

Humphrey McQueen spoke again at the Workers' Memorial in Port Adelaide the next morning, recounting some history of the monument and continuing the theme of the real heroes in society - those who fought and keep fighting for a better, socially just future.

The May Day dinner was once again sold

out. Courageous building worker Ark Tribe was in attendance and spoke emotionally about the support he had received from the community during his battle with the ABCC. Steve Dolphin of his legal team also recalled incidents from the remarkable battle to free Ark from persecution by the notorious spooking force.

ABC radio personality Peter Goers was the witty presenter and Humphrey McQueen was an impressive keynote speaker. Several working class anthems were sung in solidarity by everyone.

GREECE

Labour Day in Greece has been marked by a transport strike to protest against austerity measures the government has introduced because of the country's dire financial state.

Train and ferry services were cancelled as workers downed tools. They feel they are low paid and bearing the brunt of the cutbacks that were demanded as part of an EU and IMF emergency financial rescue.

One protester at a rally in Athens said: 'They are telling us that we should pay for this crisis. Well, no! Workers don't owe a single euro because it is not them who made this crisis.' Another added: 'The final battle has not been won. We won some fights but not the final battle over these measures they are imposing on us.'

It has been more than a year since the austerity measures were brought in. Jobs have been lost and workers in several sectors have had their pay cut. But the government is still facing a big budget deficit.

* Pam Andritsakis is the President of the ASU SA&NT Branch

70 YEARS AFTER BATTLE

Australian Veterans revisit Greece and Crete

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, and Member for Hindmarsh, Steve Georganas, arrived in Crete with six Australian Second World War veterans and attended a commemorative ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, on 20 May.

The ceremony was held at the Hellenic-Australian Memorial, at Rethymno, on Crete, which depicts the Greek people fighting side by side with Australians during the battle for Crete from 20 to 29 May 1941.

Mr Snowdon delivered the commemorative address and laid a wreath during the service.

"This is a very important ceremony", Mr Snowdon said.

"It marks the 70th anniversary of the German airborne invasion of Crete, an invasion unlike any other because it was the first major aerial invasion in military history.

"It was the day when the Second World War came to Crete to fight over 10 days in what became an epic struggle. While Australians were ill prepared, ill equipped, and had a poor communication network, they were gritty and resolute and determined to repel the assault.

"While the outcome of the campaign wasn't in the Allies' favour, it was a significant battle that showcased the best of Australia's defence forces," Mr Snowdon said.

Of the 6,500 Australians that served in Crete, 274 were killed, 507 wounded and 3,102 taken prisoner of war. Only 16,500 of the 33,000 Allied troops in Crete were successfully evacuated.



Australian WWII Veterans, members of Australia's Federation Guard, officials from the Departments of Veterans' Affairs, Defence, and Foreign Affairs and Trade, and member for Hindmarsh, Steve Georganas, after the commemorative ceremony at the Phaleron Commonwealth War Cemetery in Athens. There are 2,029 Australian servicemen of the Second World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery.

Mr Snowdon said Australia's losses paled in comparison to those suffered by the Greeks, who lost half a million in the Second World War.

"The Greeks showed great courage and tenacity. On the island of Crete, they joined the battle with whatever weapons they had. In some cases civilians went into action armed only with what they could gather from their kitchens or barns.

"This country holds a special place in the hearts and minds of the veterans," he said.

Mr Snowdon said that 70 years have passed since Australian forces first arrived in Greece in April 1941, to join the

Allied forces holding back the German and Italian advance.

"The mission is a great opportunity to understand the significance of their role during the Second World War and to represent all their mates who served in Greece and on the island of Crete, especially those who didn't make it home.

"For some of these veterans, this will be their first trip back since their service to see the legacy of their hard work. I feel honoured to share this experience with them," he said.

During the German invasion of Greece, the Australians provided support on land and at sea. Unfortunately, the Allies

were overrun by the Germans and with Greek confidence waning it was decided that withdrawal was required. Of the 17,125 Australians who served in Greece, 320 died, 494 were wounded and 2,030 became prisoners of war.

While in Rethymno, Mr Snowdon has also officially opened an exhibition featuring memorabilia and photographs from the Battle of Crete collected by the Australian War Memorial, the Greek War Museum and from the private collection of avid local collector, Dimitris Skartzilakis.

The mission concluded on 22 May with the veterans due to return to Australia on 26 May.