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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### SA Government to maintain fruit fly stations

Fruit growers say the South Australian Government's decision not to close the night shift at two quarantine stations has saved the economy millions of dollars.

The Government had planned to close the night shift at the Yamba (near Renmark) and Ceduna stations but after a review they will remain open 24-hours-a-day.

Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien says recent fruit fly outbreaks in the eastern states suggest a need for increased vigilance.

Speaking on ABC Radio, Dino Ceracchi from the Fresh Fruit Growers Association said fruit flies could destroy production and export opportunities.

"It's those small percentages where people either accidentally or on purpose will come through and take advantage without any conscience at all and just have that pest or disease that could compromise South Australia's horticultural industry, cost the state millions of dollars. Why would you take that chance at all?"

Riverland MP Tim Whetstone said the Government was consid-



Minister Michael O'Brien

ering to close the night shift to save money.

"There is a wide-ranging effect of what a fruit fly outbreak would mean in the Riverland, particularly in the citrus industry it would cost in excess of a million dollars to ratify an outbreak," he said.

"The flow-on effect of that would be that it would have a huge impact on our markets, our reputation overseas." Ceduna Mayor Allan Suter has praised the Government's decision.

"Oh let's give credit where credit is due - the Minister was flexible and had a good look and came up with a sensible decision, so I'm not going to lampoon the Minister - good on him for getting to the right place," he said.

### Child porn arrest shocks state politics

PREMIER of SA Mike Rann said he will make a "major statement" in Parliament in relation to the MP charged with child pornography offences.

In response to questions by media representatives whether he was going to ask the charged MP to stand down, Mr Rann said it was up to the MP and he could not be forced to step aside unless he was found guilty.

"I will be making a major statement to Parliament when it returns (on May 3)," he told Channel 10 on Tuesday morning at the opening of the State Aquatic Centre at Marion to the

public.

"I am not counseling the MP at all. I don't think it would be appropriate to make any contact with that MP during a police investigation."

Mr Rann said, for legal reasons, it was extremely difficult to talk about the issue of the Labor MP at the centre of the child pornography storm.

"I will not talk about that particular case," he said. "But as a father and as a Premier I can't think of anything that sickens my stomach any more than child pornography or child sexual abuse."

"Anyone found guilty of such offences is unfit for public life."

Mr Rann rejected any suggestions his leadership was under threat.

"Rumours of my retirement have been around since March, 1995, and I have won three elections since then," he said.

In another surprising development last week, a Labor Minister, Mr Bernard Finnigan handed in his resignation. No reason has been given for his resignation yet. Mr Finnigan was Minister for Gambling and Acting Police Minister when he resigned.

### From the Editor's Desk

#### Un-Australian practices

Disturbing new stories have emerged as this year's horror grape season is drawing closer to the end, with huge volumes of shiraz and other winegrape varieties being rejected by the Berri winery - a former grower co-operative which is now owned and operated by the multinational Constellation Wines.

Angry Riverland growers claim that the winery refused to take their grapes earlier in the season when they were still in good condition and failed to warn them about the rejection in time for them to look for other buyers. Now, they are having their grapes rejected at the weigh bridge after they have gone to the expense of harvesting and delivering them to the winery.

The winery claimed that the grapes, after a few warm days, had gone very suddenly, from being very low in sugar to very high in sugar and are, therefore, unsuitable for the crusher.

Riverland Winegrape Growers' Association secretary, Mr Chris Byrne, has urged wine grape growers, who fulfilled their obligations under the contract with the winery and had their grapes rejected, to look at the option of taking legal action.

The question is, however, what chances does a broke grower have in a legal fight against a multi-billion dollar multinational?

Riverland MP Tim Whetstone, on the other hand, says that "if a winery accepts fruit on the fruit property then it should be accepted at the weigh bridge". He condemns the way the growers are being treated but believes we are bound by decisions of a free trade world market and that's where it all ends (see interview page 9).

In these circumstances, we wonder, how can our growers compete and how can they survive? We believe our Governments have an obligation to the people they are elected to serve, to step in and tell these corporations that their cowboy practices are totally unacceptable and explain to them the fair way of doing business in Australia.

Peter Ppiros

## ANZAC DAY SERVICE

### Battle of Greece Commemorated

This year's ANZAC Day commemoration, coincided with the 70th anniversary since the invasion of Greece and the Battle of Crete in the Second World War, where the Australian army lost 600 of its men defending the Greek land against the Nazi invaders.

An Australian Military Historian, author of the book "Diggers and Greeks", Dr Maria Hill from Sydney, was invited by the Renmark RSL branch and spoke on the topic at the ANZAC Day Commemoration Ceremony held on Monday April 25 at the Cross of Sacrifice, Ral Ral Avenue, Renmark.

Dr Maria Hill, herself of Greek origin, spoke about the very strong connection between the people of Greece and Australia which dates back to the days of World War 2 and said it was important to learn more about this part of our history.

In the photo, Dr Maria Hill with Tiana and Stefan Symeonakis of Renmark, on ANZAC Day, at the Cross of Sacrifice, Renmark.



### May Day to be celebrated in South Australia

On Saturday 30 April, the May Day committee and South Australian Trade Unions, will commemorate the 1886 massacre of American workers in Chicago who were striking for the 8 hour working day, according to a press release sent to the Greek Tribune.

Participants will assemble at 10am in Victoria Square/Tarndanyanga for live music and short speeches.

Later, they will march to the Torrens Parade Ground for more speakers, more music, stalls, refreshment tent, sausage sizzle, face painting and other kids' entertainment.

The May Day official Dinner will be held on Sunday May 1 from 6:30pm at the Cyprus Community Club, 8 Barpowell St, Welland.

"The Master of Ceremonies is well-known ABC commentator Peter Goers and the after dinner speaker is author and social commentator Humphrey McQueen. Workers in Adelaide would know Humphrey

for his stirring speeches in support of Ark Tribe. He is committed, entertaining and witty. The Lonely Cosmonauts will be entertaining us again. There'll be raffles and awards. Should be a great night", the May Day Committee press release says.

Tickets for this year's May Day Dinner are selling fast at \$40 for waged, \$25 for unwaged and \$350 for a table of 10. To reserve a place for yourself, your community organisation or union, ring Chloe at the CPSU on 8150 8400.

#### Port Adelaide Workers Memorial

The traditional ceremony will take place at the Workers Memorial at the corner of Commercial Road and St Vincent Street in Port Adelaide at 10am on Sunday May 1 to be followed by the Mayor's morning tea in the Council rooms. The annual barbeque with beers will be held at the Semaphore Workers Club, 93 Esplanade Semaphore from midday. Entry is free.

## GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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### Kid's Easter Party

welcomed the Easter Bunny to St Constantine and Helen's function hall in Goodwood on Sunday 10th April - An event first for the Greek Orthodox Community SA! Featuring balloons, and streamers, music, games and entertainment, the hall was transformed into a dream destination for the young community members. Taking part in a series of fun games and quizzes, including the popular egg race, there were great prizes to be won as well as face-painting and drawing stations - While parents, grandparents and guardians looked on in delight. The Easter Bunny was welcomed with deafening cheers from ecstatic children as they sang the popular Greek song "Ax Kounelaki" (as sang by young Greeks in Greece at Easter time). The kids enjoyed lots of treats such as hot cross buns, lollies and Easter eggs. Also, tea and coffee for the parents and an Easter Bunny for all children to take home, together with a certificate of attendance.

The Greek Worker's Educational Association "PLATON", of SA, will hold its annual May Day Dinner on Friday 13 May, at 6.30pm at the Cyprus Community Club, 8 Barpowell St, Welland. Members entry is free but everyone is asked to contact the secretary, Theo Gregoriades, on 8263 4958 to book their seats.

The Chian Association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on

## Community Life



The photos above and below, are from the very successful "Kid's Easter Party" at the St Constantine and Helen's function Hall in Goodwood



Saturday, 30 April 2011. The important milestone will be celebrated with a dinner dance to be held at 7.30pm at the Chian Club, 73 Grand Junction Road, Rosewater. For further information, call Michael, on 8346 9606.

The Federation of Cypriot Communities of Australia and New Zealand will hold its annual national conference in Darwin, starting on Friday 6 May and finishing Sunday 8 May. The conference will be launched

on Friday evening with a cocktail party to be given by the N.T. Government at Parliament House. The business of the conference will take place on Saturday and Sunday at the Cypriot Community club of Northern Territory. The High Commissioner of Cyprus in Canberra Mr Yannis Iacovou will give an opening address. The President of the Federation Michael Christodoulou and President of PASEKA Costas Procopiou will also address the conference. Some of the issues to be discussed, include the Justice for Cyprus committee activities in Australia, a report by Mr Panicos Mina from Melbourne on activities which aim to strengthen the relationships between Greek and Turkish Cypriots living in Australia, a discussion on the various elderly programs, issues and concerns and the future of Education, Greek Language and Cypriot culture in Australia and NZ. South Australia will be represented at the conference by the President of the local community Mr Chris Ioannou and Secretary Christina Charalambous.

The Pontian Brotherhood of SA will hold a "Pontian Gonocide Recognition Dance" in Adelaide on Saturday 30 April. The event will take place at 7.00pm at the Colossus Pan Rhodian Society Hall, 148A Henley Beach Rd, Torrensville. Good entertainment with Pontian music and dancing. Food and drinks will be available.

## Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



Young girls sprinkle flower petals on the "tomb" (Epitaph) of Jesus Christ on Holy Friday night



The Premier of South Australia Mike Rann, attended the Procession of the Epitaph, on Holy Friday, at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel in Adelaide. Also in the photo is the President of the Federation of Greek Communities of Australia Theo Maras and the General Secretary of GOCSA Sylvia Cassoudakis. The service was conducted by his Grace, the Bishop of Trimithountos Christodoulos.



The screening of the Cypriot film "Kalabush", in Adelaide as part of the European Film Festival, was attended (from left) by the President of the GOCSA Vasily Elovaris, the President of the Cypriot Community of SA Chris Ioannou, the Greek Consul General Christos Maniakis Grivas, Mrs Maria Ioannou and Mr Neoklis Hatzikakou



Mary Giannoudis, centre and husband Christos, organised a successful Greek dinner dance on 2 April in Adelaide, in support of cancer research. The event cleared a total amount of \$17,700. On the left is Vivien Dossmann, on behalf of the Woodville Hospital Research Foundation

## International News

### "TURKISH INVADERS GO TO HELL!"

## New Turkish Cypriot protest against Turkey

Thousands of Turkish Cypriots demonstrated on Thursday 7 April in the surrounding area of the so called parliament and the illegal Turkish embassy in the north occupied Nicosia, protesting against Turkey's oppressive policies, imposed on Turkish Cypriots through its puppet regime in the occupied areas.

This was the third demonstration organized by the Turkish Cypriot Trade Union platform. The previous two rallies took place on January 28th and March 2nd. The so-called parliamentary parties did not participate in the demonstration, in which tension and confrontations with the "police" prevailed, leading to the arrest of one person.

Many demonstrators waved the flag of the Republic of Cyprus and tensions escalated between "policemen" of the regime and demonstrators who attempted to place the flag of Cyprus on the gates of the Turkish "embassy". One banner they carried, called for "Turkey the invader, to go to hell!"

Members of the illegal police took excessive measures by closing with iron railings the road in front of the so-called parliament and the illegal Turkish embassy. Three hundred "policemen", according to an independent estimate, guarded the participants in the rally.

The demonstration began at 11am with the participants holding placards, with slogans against the Turkish government and its puppet regime in the occupied area and they demanded a solution of the Cyprus problem. One of the demands put forward by the Platform is the withdrawal of the financial measures imposed by Turkey.

Cyprus, which joined the EU in 2004, has been divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied its northern third.

The leaders of the two communities in Cyprus, namely President of the Republic Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Eroglu, are currently engaged in UN-led negotiations with an aim to reunify the island.

One year after his election to the State Parliament, Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone gave an interview to the editor of the Greek Tribune, describing the challenges, the experiences, his successes and outlining his vision for the future of the Riverland.

Liberal MP, Tim Whetstone, who unseated Karlene Maywald of the Nationals in the 2010 State election, said that in the first year, "everything has happened at the speed of light".

"I've been inducted into parliament which has been quite an honor and along the way it has been a huge learning process for me - learning how the parliament works, learning how to deal with different issues and who to deal with to achieve an outcome.

"I guess we had some good wins over the last twelve months, particularly in having Lake Bonney re-opened. I think that was a great win for the region. What we saw with Lake Bonney was just an example of how a community can be divided over a simple issue of a barrier between the lake and the river.

"Obviously the quarantine road block at Yamba has been a big issue for this region and I think it has an impact not only on every fruit producer but also on every South Australian. I think that's been very significant.

"We've had lots of smaller issues like with elderly people who may feel a little marginalised, dealing with issues to improve their day to day life. The personal approach that I have been able to give to our constituents on a one to one basis and get some outcomes, whether it was through State Government or local government, I think it has been quite rewarding.

"The issues with the winegrapes have been initiated by the big end of town, the big wineries, which have guided this region to the sense of belief that we need

## ONE YEAR AFTER HIS ELECTION TO STATE PARLIAMENT Tim Whetstone speaks to Greek Tribune

to plant more and more winegrapes. People saw an opportunity there with an industry that was looking very buoyant", Mr Whetstone said.

"We are now seeing people exiting the industry, properties which have pulled out the winegrapes because they can't continue but at the same time I think the adjustment we have gone through winegrapes, is that we are now taking more ownership of the work we do, we grow better fruit, we produce better wine, we are marketing our product much more effectively, so I think we are in a situation of restructuring particularly in the winegrape sector.

"That's a reflection across the region. Not only winegrapes, but we look at specialised varieties of fruit, special varieties of nuts etc.

"In the past, we used to see everyone had four or five varieties of fruit on their property. At the moment, the people who are struggling in particular have only one source of income and that's winegrapes. I think, we need that diversity back here.

"When I speak to groups, 'where to from here', I ask them: Do they consider diversifying their business again? Do they want to take more ownership and grow the produce, pack and even market the produce? Perhaps the Farmers' market is a good example. I visit many - many growers. And those growers who are willing to put the extra input into their work, they are getting a better outcome for their hard work.

"Something that this region is renowned for, is building up a fantastic reputation in the market



Riverland MP Tim Whetstone (right) speaking to the editor of Greek Tribune Peter Ppiros

place and then we sell it away. We sold the Berri Fruit Juices to a multinational, we sold the Berri Estates to a multinational", he said.

Asked whether Constellation Wines has the right to treat our local growers the way they are at the moment - rejecting winegrapes at the weigh bridge - Mr Whetstone said they haven't got the right to do that.

"But that is the real world of multinational ownership.

"Once up on a time we had ownership on what happened to that produce, where it went and we were in control of our destiny. Now days unfortunately we are a dot on the world map with that parent company. And if they can't source fruit from this region they will source it from somewhere in the world. We are getting treated just like that: if you can't supply it someone else will".

When asked whether there is anything we can do to respond to the multinationals' behavior, Tim

Whetstone said that's how private businesses operate.

"We are bound by decisions of a free trade world market. And it is having a huge effect on the local economy", he said.

"I believe we have made a significant amount of work to adjust, to improve the way we grow, but we are still in that phase of adjustment.

"We see small niche wineries starting to grow and they are doing a much better job marketing their produce in the domestic market and particularly the export market. There are opportunities there becoming now more and more evident of what we can achieve. I guess it is an

industry which is at the cross roads and we have to take more control of the industry to get a better outcome.

"I condemn the ways that some of the growers are being treated. I believe if a winery accepts fruit on the fruit property then it should be accepted at the weigh bridge", he said.

Mr Whetstone added that he is aware of some wineries that are preying on vulnerable growers who haven't got a home for their fruit.

"These wineries are preying on vulnerable growers and offer well below cost of production prices which bring instability and really bring everyone to their knees", he said.

"I think this region has a very prosperous future. In the short term and in the long term. I think there is a challenge with the 20 million Riverland Futures fund that needs to be carefully managed and ensure that the projects that are

put on the table, are credible projects that will benefit the region".

"There are a number of proposals coming from the Futures task Force that are very positive", he said and added that "the Futures Task Force Fund, is there for the benefit of every constituent of the Chaffey electorate".

"There is a need for the projects to be spread fairly amongst all Riverland towns", he said.

Asked to comment about how he envisages the future of the Riverland, Tim Whetstone spoke with confidence and optimism.

"We have shown that we can rise to the occasion where we are put to task, we are a resilient breed of people in the Riverland and I think that's being displayed with the acceptance of the multicultural community in the region. We have to be very careful in dealing with a sustainable future and ensure that it embraces everybody.

"I think growers have to take ownership in how to get through these tough times and that's something they will have to address themselves. Diversity and ownership are two of the answers.

Mr Whetstone said that as the river is now in much better health, another industry which must not be overlooked is the tourist industry which is begging for us to take more ownership.

"To introduce new people to the region, we have to have good services, good education, good health for people to consider coming to live in this region. These services are not only important to the people who are already living here, but also those who are potentially new residents.

"I have a deep passion for the river, for keeping the river sustainable for the producers and keeping the communities vibrant and prosperous for future generations. It's not only about today, it's about the future".