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GREEK TRIBUNE

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JUSTICE FOR CYPRUS COMMITTEE

Peter Louca new Chairman

The newly elected committee of SEKA provides a great opportunity to reinvigorate our efforts to bring justice for Cyprus and raise awareness in South Australia.



Newly elected Chairman of SEKA Mr Peter Louca, centre, with former Premier Mike Rann and the President of Cyprus Demetris Christofias on his visit to Adelaide in May, 2011

Newly elected Chairman of the Justice for Cyprus Co-ordinating Committee SEKA, Mr Peter Louca said, "there is a good mix of new and experienced members ready to take up the challenge of engaging politicians and the public to raise our voice about Cyprus' plight."

New SEKA Committee consists of, Chairman: Mr Peter (Procopis) Louca, Deputy Chairman: Mr Paul Alexandrides, Treasurer: Mr George Nicou, Secretary: Mr Erricos Neophytou, Assistant Secretary Miss Christina Charalambous, Ex-officio (President of Cyprus Community) : Mr Christos Ioannou, Ms Ellada Harpas, Members: Mrs Leesa Vlahos MP, Mr Panos Georgiou, Mr Anastasios Bougessis, Mr Nick Hodge (Immediate past chairman), Ms Eleni Charalambous, and Ms Stella Charalambous.

Mr Louca said, "It is time to consolidate decades of hard work from successive committees and ensure the Cyprus issue remains at the forefront of political life in South Australia."

"I hope that we can make SEKA more accessible to all ages and soon we will increase our online presence through sites such as Facebook and redouble our

fundraising and lobbying efforts.

"It may be 37 years since the brutal invasion and occupation of the Mediterranean island republic of Cyprus, but today the effects are still real and unjust," Mr Louca stated.

"Not only does Nicosia remain the only divided capital in Europe, the current threats from Turkey's decision to deploy warships in the Eastern Mediterranean and signing an illegal agreement with the Turkish Cypriot regime in occupied Cyprus to delineate what it calls continental shelf are a significant threat to the security of Cyprus."

"I am glad to welcome some young professionals to the Committee, such as Mr George Nicou from the Bank of Cyprus, Local Councillor Mr Paul Alexandrides and am especially pleased to have a Member of the South Australian parliament, Mrs Leesa Vlahos MP, join the committee to show her support for our cause."

SEKA was established in the 1970s to support the international effort around the Government, Parliament and President of the Republic, currently Mr Dimitri Christofias.

Jay Weatherill takes the reins in SA

Jay Weatherill is the new leader of the South Australian Labor Party and Premier of SA as of 21 October.

Mr Weatherill was born and grew up in Adelaide. He is the son of a former long-serving Labor MP and deputy party leader George Weatherill.

He studied law and economics, became a lawyer and set up his own law firm in 1995.

He moved into politics as member for the electorate of Cheltenham in Adelaide's north-western suburbs in 2002.

Mr Weatherill and his wife Melissa have two daughters, Lucinda and Alice.

Taking over from the long-serving Mike Rann, Mr Weatherill has unveiled a "revitalised" cabinet with two new members, Ian Hunter MLC and Chloe Fox MP and revised portfolios as he attempts to build a government that better engages with the public.

The Education portfolio previously held by Mr Weatherill has been taken by Grace Portolesi MP and her previous portfolio of Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs went to Jennifer Rankine MP. Ms Chloe Fox has been appointed to the Transport Services and Ian Hunter takes on Communities and Social Inclusion portfolios.

The state's 45th premier says South Australia is faced with many great opportunities and he wants his government to tap into the energy and excitement in the community.

"We believe that if we're honest with people, if we share with them the challenges that we believe exist for our state we can tap into all of the wonderful skills that exist out there," he told reporters last Friday.

"I am utterly convinced that our best days are in front of us in this state."

The new Premier



Five days into his new role as Premier of SA, Jay Weatherill visited the Riverland and attended a community consultation at the Berri Town Hall. In the photo with the Premier, are Harvinder Singh of Renmark and Riverland MP Tim Whetstone.

said he wanted South Australia to be "quietly confident" and remain peaceful and safe and a fantastic place to bring up children.

"But we also want it to be an exciting and vibrant place, a place where those young people can have a prosperous future," he said.

"All of that is before us. All of those opportunities are before us."

His elevation followed the resignation

of Mr Rann, who had been premier for more than nine years and Labor leader for 17.

FREE PARKING

As a first move in the party's endeavour to reconnect with the community, Mr Weatherill announced at the Labor Party annual convention last Saturday in Adelaide that his Government decided to offer free car parking at public hospitals for a limit of two hours.

Bigger valencia crop than estimated but... lower prices

A larger than anticipated South Australian valencia crop represents yet another marketing challenge for the industry according to the SA Citrus Industry Development Board.

Chief executive officer Andrew Green said citrus industry stakeholders would need to work closely together to ensure the successful marketing of 60,000 tonnes of valencias.

"The valencia crop for this year is similar to the one in 2009-10 however fruit size, while highly variable, is slightly bigger than the historical average," Mr Green said.

"Better water availability will give growers the opportunity to improve fruit size for their markets, while the recent fall in the Australian dollar and the late navel season in the

United States will help to improve export potential."

Mr Green said that while the valencia estimate had risen from 50,000 to 60,000 tonnes, the total navel crop estimate was left unchanged with winter navels at 60,000 tonnes and summer navels at 25,000 tonnes.

"South Australia has harvested just over 58,000 tonnes of winter

navels to date, and just under 13,000 tonnes of summer navels," he said. "Only 12,000 tonnes of summer navels are left."

"The response from growers and other industry sectors has been phenomenal," he said.

Growers have experienced low prices during the navel season and the trend is likely to continue in the valencia season.

From the Editor's Desk

Reconnecting with the Riverland

Just five days into his role as Premier, Jay Weatherill accompanied by his Minister for the Murray River Paul Caica MP visited the Riverland and attended a community consultation forum organised by the Riverland councils to discuss the future of the Murray River. Mr Weatherill told the 100 irrigators and community members who gathered at the Berri Town Hall that his aim was to develop a South Australian united front in order to challenge the eastern states and achieve a better deal for a sustainable future of the Murray and its communities.

It must be acknowledged that Mr Weatherill's genuinity and his humane approach left a very good impression to those present - many of whom contributed their experiences and ideas on the water issue. The Premier, who was personally taking notes on the discussion, said that he came to the Riverland to listen and promised to take the people's views on board.

However, one issue that was overlooked by the participants at Tuesday night's forum, is the growing foreign ownership of Australian primary production. Until a few years ago, the water was not an issue for the Murray communities. It was flowing in big volumes, it was reasonably priced and thousands of small farming operations were prospering in all farming sectors.

In recent years, we have experienced unlimited foreign investment by big corporations into our primary industries as well as into our main resource, the life line of our country, the Murray River. As a consequence Australian farmers and fruit growers are exiting the industry in droves.

Foreign investment brings jobs and growth to the local economy initially, but in the long term, unlimited investment is detrimental to our local producers as well as to the consumers.

We believe this is an issue which cannot be ignored when discussing the future of the river and the regional communities.

Peter Ppiros



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Odyssey Festival 2011 seals its success

For over three weeks, Adelaide was in Greek fever as the Odyssey Festival delivered the best of Hellenism and its rich culture.

Odyssey's Cultural Night promised exactly that, featuring great cuisine, theatrical and dance performances, live music and loads of fun Greek Style!

The Cultural Night was held at Olympic Hall on Saturday October 15 those who attended had nothing but good things to say about the night.

With pride and a sense of respect towards the pioneers of this organization, the Executive Council and members of the Community attended the official launch of the special publication that marked the 80th year of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA.

"Our Journey at a Glance" was officially launched on Sunday 16 October at Olympic Hall by the Hon Jay Weatherill, Premier of SA, amongst other official guests.

The three Odyssey lectures throughout the three-week period touched on some critical issues of our days and tried to answer questions to some of the most challenging matters of life.

A true Greek night took place on Friday 21 October at Olympic Hall with the traditional lamb on the spit attracting hundreds of the Community's members. The block and the surrounding roads around Olympic Hall were filled with aromas that could only remind us of Greece. And the Odyssey's finale

Community Life



The Odyssey's Cultural Night featured Greek cuisine, theatrical and dance performances and live music from the Meraki band

sealed the Festival's success as Niki Vassilakis mesmerised patrons at Elders Hall with her solo violin performance, accompanied by Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra.

The finale continued with the after party held at the area outside the Conservatorium, featuring live music, Greek food and loads of dancing, a party of Greek proportions.

BERRI CENTENARY Celebrating 100 years of cultural diversity

As part of the Berri Centenary Year acknowledging and celebrating the Riverland as one of the most culturally diverse regional communi-

ties in Australia, the Riverland Multicultural Festival is to be held on the picturesque Berri Riverfront on November 5, 2011, commencing at 11am.

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

Rosalyn explains 'There is something for everyone. Be treated to a day of performances, dance and song, come and try activities 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 work-

shop discover the origins of both traditional and contemporary music and song from North India, Middle East and Afghanistan.

Riverland Youth Theatre will be supporting the event by hosting an activity tent. Come along and create something special for the parade, create an artwork or a musical instrument for the parade or maybe you'd like an innovative face paint.

Free workshops include lino print, Indigenous feather flowers, weaving and carving.

Demonstrations and performances include the energetic Soul Capoeira with their amazing art form that combines elements of martial arts, sports and music.

And of course there is no party without the fabulous Riverland Sikh Bhanga Dance troupe!

Everyone is invited to join in the fun and be part of the Festival parade as it weaves along the riverfront into the festival venue stepping off at 3pm.

An exhibition tent will exhibit multicultural memorabilia, photographs and art displays.

The venue will offer a vibrant market place of quality handmade products. Treat your tastebuds to a selection of traditional food.

Don't forget to bring your musical instrument and join in the final performance for the evening at 7pm - the all star jam.

The day offers something for everyone.

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

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The Hellenic Macedonian Cultural Centre at Mile End, SA, was officially opened recently by the former Premier Mike Rann. This year's DEMETRIA festival, was also launched at the same event. In the photo with Mr Rann, are the President of the Pan-Macedonian Association George Genimahaliotis and Nick Diamandopoulos.



ABOVE: The Cyprian Community of SA celebrated the Cyprus Independence Day (1 October) at a function held at the Cyprian Community Club. In the photo are, from left, Steve Georganas MP, Andreas Hadjithemistos of the Cyprus High Commission in Canberra, John Kiosoglous and Lieutenant Governor of SA and Chairman of SAMEAC, Hieu Van Le.

"Destination Riverland" board holds inaugural meeting

The unique nature of the Riverland will be leveraged as the key point of difference in the region's tourism marketing strategy according to Destination Riverland chair Joan Hall.

The Destination Riverland board held its inaugural meeting today at the Berri Resort Hotel.

The board received a briefing from the South Australian Tourism Commission's regional marketing team on its plan to promote the Riverland and other South Australian regions. The board also committed to developing a new brand image for the Riverland, and the best methods for forging strong links with stakeholders.

Ms Hall said the region's uniqueness among Australian holiday destinations should not only be leveraged but enhanced.

"The Riverland is unique and one of the keys to driving growth in the region's tourism industry will be to extend and build upon this uniqueness,"

she said.

"In the past week we've seen the success of examples of unique tourist offerings, such as the Rose Festival, the Food and Wine Festival and the 'running of the sheep' in Barmera. These are the sort of events upon which we must build the Riverland's tourism brand."

Ms Hall said that growing the region's tourism industry would be a major challenge for the board.

"Destination Riverland aims to develop strong partnerships with the region's tourism and visitor businesses, and focus our marketing strategy around signature events," she said.

"Recent experience has demonstrated that substantial visitor numbers can be generated by publicity focusing on specific events, with significant flow-on benefits for the region."

"An important priority of the board will be to develop an online marketing campaign incorporating social media and other online tools. We must



Chair of newly established "Destination Riverland" board, former Minister for Tourism Joan Hall and the group's CEO, Tony Sharley, at their inaugural meeting held last week at the Berri Hotel

also work to establish a regional Riverland brand that not only drives growth in tourism but has benefits for other sectors."

SA Parliamentary Friends of the Hellenic Republic meet in Adelaide with World Hellenic President!

On Tuesday 18 October, the South Australian Parliamentary Friends of the Hellenic Republic met to welcome the Hon John Pandazopoulos MP to South Australia.

Mr Pandazopoulos is the Member for Dandenong in Victoria and the President of the World Hellenic Inter Parliamentary Association.

Co-Convenor Leesa Vlahos MP was pleased to welcome Mr Pandazopoulos to Adelaide and introduce him to her parliamentary colleagues.

Mr Pandazopoulos' passion and knowledge of Greece made him a natural speaker for our second meeting.

"The significant useful affects of multiparty Friendship Groups in furthering relationships and sharing knowledge and understanding between Greece and Australia is well documented.

"As the President of the World Hellenic Inter Parliamentary Association it was good to meet and discuss with local State MP's the long and historic relationship between the two nations," Mr Pandazopoulos said.

The Consul-General of Greece in the State of South Australia, Mr Christos Maniakis-Grivas, addressed the gathering and praised the establishment of the group.



Front row, from left to right: Martin Hamilton-Smith MP; Consul-General of Greece in the State of South Australia, Mr Christos Maniakis-Grivas; Hon John Pandazopoulos MP; Leesa Vlahos MP; Steve Georganas MP. Back row from left to right: Hon Carmel Zollo MLC; Hon Terry Stephens MLC; Hon Stephen Wade MLC; Lee Odenwalder MP; Hon Tammy Franks MLC; Geoff Brock MP; Gay Thompson MP.

Mr Steve Georganas MP, the Federal Member for Hindmarsh, talked about the activities of the Federal friendship group.

The meeting was hosted by Co-convenors Leesa Vlahos MP and Martin Hamilton-Smith MP and Min Tom Koutsantonis MP who is the Secretary.

"This initiative reflects the multiparty support the Greek Nation receives in the South Australian Parliament", Martin Hamilton-Smith MP said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

New austerity legislation gets through despite protests

ATHENS, (ANA) - Greek parliamentarians have passed a deeply resented austerity bill that has led to unprecedented protests on the streets of Athens which left a peaceful demonstrator, 53 year old Dimitris Korsarides dead.

The new measures include pay and staff cuts in the public service as well as pension cuts and tax hikes for all Greeks. The bill passed by majority vote in the 300-member parliament.

The new austerity measures have sparked fury among Greek workers, with demonstrations during two days of a general strike.

On Thursday, 20 October, the day of the crucial vote, Greece experienced its largest demonstration for thirty years in which an estimated crowd of 200,000 participated.

One man was reported killed and 74 injured after masked youths lobbed firebombs at PAME unionists tasked with maintaining order during the demonstration. The unionists counter-charged and regained control. This time, the police chose to keep back.

According to officials from the left wing union PAME, the masked youths belong to neo-fascist organisations and are tasked to infiltrate and disperse the growing demonstrations by throwing firebombs, stones and chemical gases.

Demonstrators were planning to encircle parliament where lawmakers were to hold the final vote on the bill Thursday evening that introduces collective wage amendments, major tax break cuts, a new civil service salary system which aims to outlaw collective bargaining agreements and layoffs for thousands of public sector staff.

The government has repeatedly warned that the bill is needed to avert a public debt default, but to people in the streets the measures mean further belt-tightening in a country that has been mired in recession for months.

"I am a pensioner and they are reducing the already reduced pensions," Georgia Tardeli told reporters. "The worst is the prospects this country has with the youth. The unemployment, the lack of goals. The lack of prospects and hope."

Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos told parliament on Wednesday that Greece faced a "battle of all battles" in Brussels, where EU ministers were to meet from Friday, and would be unable to finalise its budget without the bill.

Cyprus anti-vilification law

Nicosia, (CNA) – The House of Representatives unanimously passed on Thursday a harmonized bill expanding Cyprus' legal framework to cover other offenses which include provisions such as liability of legal persons and consideration of racist and xenophobic motivation as aggravating factors when imposing penalties for other offences.

The new bill on combating certain forms of racism and xenophobia through the Criminal Law provides for the harmonization of Cypriot legislation with the Council framework – decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008, which criminalizes certain racist and xenophobia attitudes.

It provides, inter alia, for the criminalization of certain racist and xenophobic attitudes and determination of relative penalties.

More specifically, certain intentional acts emanating from feelings of racism and xenophobia defined by law such as public incitement to violence or hatred against a person or group of persons because of race, color, religion, descent or ethnicity as well as publicly condoning or trivializing crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes are determined as offences.

In addition, it criminalizes incitement, aiding and abetting of the aforementioned acts which constitute offenses and establishes the criminal liability of legal persons for committing the above offenses, when these are committed for the benefit of the legal person and relative sanctions are defined.

The new bill extends the jurisdiction of the Cypriot courts to try any offense where such acts are committed through computer system.

The harmonized bill allows a court, when sentencing, the discretion to take into account as aggravating factors racist or xenophobic motives.



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