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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Neo-nazis of Golden Dawn behind bars

Judges at the Athens Appeals Court announced near maximum sentences under Greek law for the convicted leaders and members of the criminal organization Golden Dawn.

Leader Nikos Michaloliakos (pictured right) and five other leading members, including Christos Pappas, Ilias Kasidiaris, Ioannis Lagos, Giorgos Germenis, and Ilias Panagiotaros received 13 years in prison.



and aggressive behavior. However, it failed to win a single seat in last year's parliamentary election.

### Greek Australians condemn Golden Dawn

In the lead up to the court's verdict, about 150 Greek Australian identities, including parliamentarians Steve Georganas MP, Perth MP Peter Katsambanis and the three Presidents of Melbourne, co-signed a statement demanding a conviction of the Golden Dawn as a criminal organisation.

"As Australian citizens of Greek background we followed and condemned all these years, the criminal acts of Golden Dawn in Greece. We also were opposed to the extreme ideology and terminology expressed by their few vocal supporters in the community here in Australia.

"We hope that the decision of the Greek court on Wednesday 7 October 2020, in the trial of Golden Dawn will put an end to this organisation. We hope that the court will rule that they are a criminal organisation and guilty verdicts on all charges will be handed down. Further, that the leadership of Golden Dawn are held criminally responsible for the crimes committed.

The intimidation of citizens, the undermining of democratic politics and institutions through violence and murder or through racist and extreme language, have no place in Greece", the statement said.

Prosecutors had argued that Michaloliakos ran his party under a military-style hierarchy modeled on Hitler's Nazi party, with himself as a leader for more than 30 years.

Tapping into anti-austerity and anti-migrant anger during Greece's 10-year-long debt crisis, Golden Dawn for a time was the third most popular party in the country.

The party was in Parliament from 2012 onwards, with its MPs repeatedly shocking the chamber with provocative

## GREEK - TURKISH STANDOFF Threat of war in the Aegean

The "moratorium" regarding cancelling of military exercises announced by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg did not age well. Just a few hours later, Turkey issued a navigation warning (NAVTEX) announcing naval exercises in the eastern Mediterranean for October 27-28, on the Greek National Holiday.

On Friday, Stoltenberg told reporters that "both Greece and Turkey have decided to cancel military exercises which were planned for next week."

According to Stoltenberg, the military exercises would be canceled on the national holidays of the two countries, Greece on October 28 and Turkey October 29.

"These are steps in the right direction, they help to reduce the risks of incidents and accidents," he added, expressing hope that the move would have a positive effect on German-mediated efforts to ease tensions between the two NATO allies.

It must be noted that Turkey issued the two NAVTEX reportedly as reaction of planned military exercises by the Greek Armed Forces. It demands the demilitarization of the islands of Limnos, Samothraki and Ai Stratis, claiming that Greece violates the de-militarized status of some islands contrary to the Treaty of Lausanne.

Greek and Turkish Navy forces are in standoff near the island of Kastellorizo due to the activities of Turkish seismic vessel Oruc Reis. At the same time, Ankara has leaked to the press that it will extend the operation of the vessel in Greek maritime zone close South of Kastellorizo and East of Rhodes and Crete, Crete and Rhodes.

Greece said that no military exercise was scheduled for this week, and Turkey issued the NAVTEX that will bring its Navy very close to Kastellorizo.

Greek ambassador to Turkey submitted a demarche to the Foreign Ministry in Ankara.

As Turkish warships are



Turkish Oruc Reis disturbs the peaceful waters of the Aegean

escorting the Oruc Reis, the Greek Navy has also deployed warships in the area off Kastellorizo, with the naval forces of the two countries lined up against each other.

The presence of Oruc Reis in the East Mediterranean Sea have again led to a standoff of Greek and Turkish military forces. Athens has warned that it is considering all possible scenarios, including military ones,

to protect its sovereign rights. The Greek Armed Forces have been set on high alert and the General Staff published for the first time pictures of the Navy fleet monitoring the Turkish flotilla escorting the Oruc Reis.

At least 5 Greek warships have built a "protection wall" at the Greek "red line", the territorial waters of 6 nautical miles off Kastellorizo.

## Farmers call on Government to bring back backpackers

Farmers and tourism operators have written to the Federal Government pleading for backpackers to be allowed into Australia to harvest crops, care for children and travel.

It comes as department officials struggle to pinpoint labour shortages this summer and almost 30,000 Australians who are stranded overseas cannot get home.

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) has teamed up with Backpacker Youth Tourism Advisory Panel (BYTAP) to call for an urgent re-start to the Working Holiday Maker program.

According to the ABC, the number of backpackers in Australia has halved since international borders closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 earlier this year, creating a potential shortfall of more than 20,000 working holiday-makers.

In an appeal sent to about 30 federal politicians, the NFF and the advisory panel argued backpackers should be permitted to enter Australia under a COVID-safe plan to work as au pairs and harvest labourers, and to travel to boost the struggling tourism industry.

A backpacker stands in an apple orchard in Manjimup, WA. Covid-19 restrictions mean there are fewer backpackers in Australia to harvest crops this year. (ABC Rural: Jon Daly)

NFF chief executive Tony Mahar said backpackers made up 80 per cent of farm labour.

"A recent report detailed that without access to working holiday-makers, the fresh fruit and vegetable industry may suffer a \$6.3 billion reduction in value and the cost of produce could increase by 60 per cent," he said.

Backpacker Youth Tourism Advisory Panel spokeswoman Wendi Aylward said backpackers contributed \$3.2 billion to the economy each year.

"Each working holiday-maker brings \$5,000 with them as a visa requirement [and] spends \$10,300 during their stay," she said.

"[That's] compared to \$687 per trip that Australians spend domestically and \$474 spent by Australian youth domestically."

As revealed by the ABC in August, the industry groups have been working on the proposal for some months and want backpackers from countries with low COVID-19 infection rates, under a strict testing regime, to be allowed to enter and quarantine in Australia before commencing work or travel.

Under its pilot proposal, the NFF and the advisory panel



want visa fees to subsidise the cost of COVID-19 testing, and they have called for the Federal Government to consider offsetting the costs of quarantine with the 15 per cent backpacker tax or superannuation earned by working holiday-makers.

A recent report commissioned by Hort Innovation estimated the industry would fall short of 26,000 workers this summer.

## Greek milestones to be marked in 2021

After an interruption due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Greek Orthodox Community of SA (GOCSA) looks with optimism to the future and prepares for the celebration of two important anniversaries next year, in 2021 with a series of high quality events.

In 2021 Hellenism across the globe will celebrate the important milestone of 200 years since the beginning of the Greek Revolution of 1821! At the same time, Adelaide will honor another important milestone, 90 years since the founding of the Greek Orthodox Community SA!

Below are some of the proposed events that will take place in Adelaide to honor these two important milestones:

MARCH 8 - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: Tribute to the contribution of women to the Greek revolution of 1821. Bilingual event at the Olympic Hall with guest speaker. MARCH 28, Sunday, National

## Community Life



Celebrating 200 years since the uprising of the people of Greece against the Ottoman oppression

Anniversary Celebration with doxology, laying of wreaths at the cenotaph of the Cathedral on Franklin street and a school celebration.

MAY, Concert with a 20-member orchestra "200 Years of Greek

Freedom" under the direction of George Ellis. A musical work dedicated to the revolutionary songs of great composers such as Manos Hadjidakis, Stavros Xarchakos, Mikis Theodorakis and Vassilis Tsitsanis. In Adelaide

the concert has been proposed to take place in May 2021 at Dunstan Play House, (Festival Plaza).

MAY, Music and dance performance by the Community Dance Academy at the Scott Theater.

Children's theatrical performance from the Greek schools of GOCSA.

Greek Literature and poetry: With the participation of local writers from Adelaide who will present their poems or literary works - on the themes of the Revolution of 1821 and the 90 years of GOCSA.

Lecture by Dr. Alfred Vincent in March on the works of the great writer, politician, thinker and revolutionary Rigas Feraios, accompanied by a cultural program. (bilingual lecture)

The 28th Greek Film Festival will present a series of films in 2021 with a central theme on the Greek Revolution and events directly related to it.

Photo exhibition and TV interviews with former members of the Community.

More details will be given later.

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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



### MULTICULTURAL RADIO 5EBI FM New Greek Radio Committee

The Greek Community Radio Program of SA at 5EBI had its annual AGM and elections for a new committee. Electoral committee consisted of Emannuel Koutelas, Bill Gonis, John Duros, Angelo Bogias and Nick Flabouris. New committee consists of Peter Ppiros (Chair), Peggy Voulgarakis (Secretary) Helen Mermingis (Vice President), Dimitria Psarros (Treasurer), Ellie Speis, Anna Frangoudi, Eugenia Demirdesli and Diamantis Tsarnas.

## Ancient Church Discovered Under Turkish Lake

The remains of a 1,500-year-old basilica constructed in honor of St. Neophytos have now emerged after water levels in Lake Iznik in the province of Bursa had dropped recently.

The basilica in northwest Turkey, hidden underwater for centuries and believed to be dating back to the

4th or 5th century AD, was discovered after aerial photographs of the lake were taken, revealing the submerged ruins of the Byzantine church, only 20 meters from the banks of the lake.

Archaeologists had discovered that there was a basilica submerged there as early as 2014.



It is really important that women keep up their regular screening to check their breast health, even during COVID-19.

BreastScreen SA invites all women aged 50 to 74 years to book in for a screening mammogram (breast X-ray) every two years. Women from aged 40 are also eligible to make their own appointments to screen.

Each year in South Australia, close to 100,000 women will have their screening mammogram at one of our 7 metropolitan clinics, or at one of our 3 mobile screening units visiting rural and remote parts of our state.

During the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic BreastScreen SA is committed to providing screening in a safe environment for our clients and our staff. Social distancing measures have been implemented at all of our clinics, along with strict hygiene and infection control practices.

Specific measures include:

- Social distancing – We have increased appointment times, seating arrangements and are maintaining 1.5 metre distance where possible.
- Increased cleaning – We are regularly cleaning our clinics, including door handles, benches and seating.
- Hand hygiene on arrival is required.
- Client only area – we are restricting the number of people inside this clinic to only clients and staff.
- Zero tolerance of illness – staff and clients who are ill are asked not to attend appointments.

Detecting breast cancer at an early stage saves lives! ... and we are keen to ensure women attend and keep their appointments up to date during this time.

Phone: 13 20 50 for more information and to make appointments

## AHEPA NSW calls in the administrators after in-fighting

Sydney - Greek Community Association, The Order of AHEPA NSW Inc has appointed Michael Hird and Alan Walker of Cor Cordis as Administrators to recover approximately \$3.5 million owed to creditors.

The amount owed relates primarily to legal and consulting fees connected to longstanding internal corporate governance issues and a proposal to redevelop the Bexley Bowling Club.

The Bexley Bowling Club proposal sharply divided members of the Association and exacerbated historical differences amongst members concerning membership and constitutional issues.

The Supreme Court of NSW has dealt with the Associations governance issues on no less than three occasions in recent times with the NSW Court of Appeal finally determining the issues on 26 August 2020.

Draft orders were made by the NSW Court of Appeal and have yet to be finalised.

Cor Cordis Director Michael Hird said the aim of the Administration was to maximise the return to creditors and to preserve, as much as possible, the Association's assets.

He will also assist the Association to implement changes that may be ordered by



Leader of the Greek Archdiocese of Australia Archbishop Makarios cutting the vasilopitta at the start of the 2020. He was the first Archbishop to bless Sydney AHEPA in the organisation's 85 year history. Accompanying Makarios was the Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago and the CEO of St Basil's Homes Fr. Nicholas Stavropoulos. (Greek Herald photo)

the NSW Court of Appeal that may enable the Association to return their efforts to the admirable objectives of their charter.

"Our intention is to reach an amicable, fair and productive outcome for the Association which has a rich history having been first established in Australia in 1934."

The first report to creditors was finalised on 8 October 2020, with a second meeting to follow. Creditors will be advised in due course.

Cor Cordis is a national business advisory firm specialising in turnaround, restructuring and insolvency.

# Greek culture for Australian Greeks

(Continued)

### How is Culture learned

Culture is the study field of anthropologists and is the focal subject of their entire discipline. An Anthropologist learns about cultures through observation and by living in the culture. Culture has its own behavioral rules that dictate social relationships and personal and interpersonal communication patterns.

The ordinary members of a culture learn their culture via/by:

- A socializing process - Living in the culture and learning through modeling.
  - Indoctrination through formal or informal educative processes, this is often referred to as guided learning or kathisis. To follow are some important culture realizing inhibitors:
    - Family upbringing. The incubator of culture.
    - Study of history as interpreted by the state.
- The state is in charge of the curriculum and dictates what will be learned and presented as legitimate within the formal educational system. Subsequently, the learning is practiced outside of the educational system and so both become indistinguishable and self-reinforcing and self-legitimizing and self-reassuring and unchallenged.
- The presentation of models the likes of past heroes embedded in the nation's history, and modern heroes the likes of financial heroes (the rich) intellectual heroes the likes of discoverers, scientists and social/political heroes, sports heroes, and any other.
  - Language plays a role in fusing culture in law, in normalizing cultural character, and in intellectualizing culture. However it does not have to be the language of the culture, it can be any language that is able to communicate the relevant understandings and equivalent subtleties.
  - Participation in shared rituals and shared mannerisms, the likes of food, body language, personal space, music, etc. These sharings serve to create a sense of belongingness and a sense of solidarity which is

an expression of loyalty to the culture and which is the basis of nationalism. This is now referred to as the sense of "Tribalism" of a nation. It is about one of the universal basic needs of the human species, the need to belong.

The whole cocoon in which the incubation of the members of the culture takes place is held together by a dominant underpinning philosophy. Or a dominant mixture of philosophies

What is the dominant ideology of the Greeks? Have the Greeks got an ideology, which is different from that of the Western civilizations?

Well, let us consider some of these!

- The essence of the law of western civilization is based on Christianity and Greece is no different in this regard to other Christian nations.

- The social-political system is based on the principles of democracy and Greece is no different in this regard to other democracies.

- The financial foundations are based on the principles of capitalism and Greece has had a long history of capitalism and imperialism and so do many other nations.

- The social rituals are governed by its recent history, which is immensely influenced by the Orthodox religion. Its ancient history is not a ritualized component of the Greeks of today. There is no celebration of Plato's or Aristotle's birthday but nearly every saint from the orthodox religion is celebrated. This is not very different from most Christian based nations of the western world.

The Greek value system stems from, a symbiotic tie between Nationalism and Christian theology. Theology is a recognized philosophy in its own right.

The long history of the Greek Orthodox religious dominance has a huge impact on the Greek culture. The impact of this influence has given rise to a strong sense of fatalism, a strong sense of predestination, theophobia, and a confused amalgam of State and the Church.

Although Greece has an ancient history and prides itself on the huge contribution made to the modern world by the classical Greeks, the

Greeks of today are only attached to that history in a very abstract and intellectual way.

Greece was under the occupation of the Ottoman Empire for four hundred years. During this period the only education that survived was provided by the Greek Orthodox Church. The emphasis of the church on Christian faith, afterlife rewards and punishments served to exclude the Greek classical paradigms that had associations with idolatry. As such when Greece was liberated from the Ottoman Empire it had to re-establish itself as a nation with the church once again asserting its power and influence in the education and the social-political domains. This New Greek nation had to relearn its own history to the extent allowed by the Church. As time moved on the intellectuals of other European nations were instrumental in helping the New Greek nation learn its classical history beyond the bounds imposed by the church. These historical evolutions are the main reasons for the abstract relationship that Greeks have with their classical history. One must acknowledge however that on balance the church played a very important part in the survival of the Greek culture over the period of Turkish rule. At the same time, one can see remanence of cultural assimilations that transmitted across the Greek culture from the intercultural friction that was taking place during the period of Ottoman rule. Even today one can identify some similarities in music, food, some customs, and the dress of some of the very old members of the Greek population.

Prior to the Ottoman occupation, Greece was under the Eastern Roman Empire for nearly one thousand years the so-called Byzantine empire.

The irony here is that Greece on the one hand has the oldest and most significant history and influence in the development of the western cultures yet it is only a nation in the making for no more than 180 years from the time of its liberation from the Turks. Some regions of the country the likes of the Dodecanese Islands were reunited with the motherland after the Second World War which makes them as young

as fifty-five years old.

During this 180-year period of National reconstruction, Greece incurred further instability due to wars that impacted the nation as a consequence of its Geographic location. The Second World War had a significant impact on the retardation of the development of this young nation and the civil war that followed served as the last nail on the coffin.

The influence of the historical experiences on the Greek culture is very apparent. The Turkish rule helped to strengthen the influence of the Orthodox Church. The church had an established system of governance through which the Greek nation survived the Ottoman oppression and the conversion of its population to Islam. As such, the Church at the time became indistinguishable from Greekness and the Greek Statehood.

After the liberation, the masses expressed a great deal of gratitude and indebtedness to the church. This gratitude has since being engraved into the descendants through the so-called paradox, through; rituals, anthology, religious practices and formal indoctrination processes via the educational system to this day. The final outcome of this process is the creation of a norm, which sees the Greek orthodox religion and Greekness as inseparable entities. This gave rise to a monolithic view of what is Greek identity and at the same time created a strong intolerance of any other religion-giving rise to religious persecution which was practiced by ordinary folk and in law by the state and church until recent years. To this day, however, the view that Greekness and Greek orthodoxy are one and the same is firmly entrenched and is a deeply rooted value in the culture and overshadows the association with the classical Greek era. Very little of this era is embedded in the daily life of the Greeks of today, in either the shared celebrations, folk songs and dancing, anthology, the literature of today, or the political-economic concerns of modern Greece.

Elias Hadjisavas.  
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