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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

JOHN HOWARD'S TOP ADVISER

Arthur Synodinos to enter the Australian Senate

Former adviser to the Howard Government Arthur Synodinos will be the next Greek Australian to enter the Australian Senate, according to recent reports in the mainstream Australian media.



Arthur Synodinos

Mr Synodinos, who is the current President of the New South Wales branch of the Liberal Party, has been endorsed by the executive committee of the branch to fill the vacancy created following the retirement of former senior minister Helen Coonan last month.

The announcement was welcomed by many top executives of the party. Among them was former PM, John Howard, whom Mr. Synodinos has served as chief-of-staff and main political enforcer.

Mr Howard said "Synodinos displays a unique combination of intelligence and necessary knowledge about

the functions of the upper rungs of our political system" adding that "he is a self-made man only relying on his potential".

Mr Synodinos was born in 1957 in Newcastle, by Greek parents from Kefalonia, Greece. He keeps close contact to the Greek Community and has served in the past on the board of directors of the Greek Community of Canberra.

Letters to the editor

We Australians who have had to rush our families away from awful threats, such as bushfires and floods, know exactly how refugees react to danger. You grab what you can and get out of danger in any way you can.

We are a nation who helps those who are down on their luck. Many other nations

are doing the same - only much more so. Let's stop all the rubbish about "stop the boats" and off-shore processing and get on with being our decent humane selves. Let's process refugees on shore in a timely and caring way.

Rosemary Walters
ACT

Cyprus defends right to explore its own natural resources

President of the Republic of Cyprus Demetris Christofias has called on the UN Security Council to make clear to the Turkish leadership that any threat to or violation of the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus, or any continuing violation of international and European law, will not be tolerated.

The President made the remark while addressing the 66th session of the UN General Assembly today at the UN headquarters in New York, where he condemned Turkey's illegal act to conclude an agreement with the illegal regime in the occupied area of the Republic of Cyprus, to pursue exploration within the Republic of Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone.

President Christofias told the UN body that the Turkish naval maneuvers in the region of Cyprus Exclusive Economic Zone, where exploration is being carried out, are provocative and pose a real danger for further complications in the region.

On the Cyprus issue, the

President said he regrets that lately in particular the Turkish Cypriot side is backtracking even from previously found convergences and this change in the Turkish Cypriot leaderships stance draws on the recent negative and provocative policy of Turkey in the region.

Noting that the Cyprus problem is first and foremost a problem of invasion and occupation, a problem of violation of international law and the human rights of Cypriot citizens, President Christofias said that since the Turkish invasion in 1974, our aim is a peaceful solution to the problem, that reunifies the country and its people through negotiations between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot community under the auspices of the UN Secretary General and on the basis of the Security Council and the General Assembly Resolutions on Cyprus.

President Christofias told the UN General Assembly that in recent years, the Republic of Cyprus has started the process



President Christofias addressing the UN General Assembly

of the exploration and potential extraction of hydrocarbons within its Exclusive Economic Zone. This, he added, was preceded by Agreements to delimit the Exclusive Economic Zone with neighbouring countries, always within the framework of international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which the Republic of Cyprus has ratified.

Nominations open for new people of Australia Ambassadors

Australians can now nominate their own local champions who have helped to promote inclusion and strengthen community relations under a new ambassador program set up by the Gillard Labor Government.

The People of Australia Ambassador program will see up to 40 local champions selected from nominations submitted by the public across the country.

The ambassador program is a key initiative of the Gillard Government's new multicultural policy - The People of Australia - announced earlier this year.

People of Australia Ambassadors will champion inclusion and provide advice to the new Australian Multicultural Council and to the Government about effective initiatives which promote belonging and leverage diversity in our communities.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard is encouraging Australians to nominate outstanding individuals from their neighbourhoods who have encouraged participation in their community.

Ambassadors will be appointed for a 12-month period and have key roles in annual community events and celebrations including Harmony Day on 21 March.

Communities and individuals who has contributed to promoting the benefits of social cohesion and diversity, or has played a pivotal role in building strong community relations in Australia.

Nominations for the Ambassador roles need to be submitted before 7 October. All nominations will be considered by the Australian Multicultural Council.

For more information on the program and nomination process, go to www.amc.gov.au

From the Editor's Desk

"We are all boat people"

The ongoing dispute between the main two political parties on the boat people arriving in Australia, makes one wonder: Haven't our politicians got any other issues to talk about to get voter support? What difference will it make if asylum seekers are processed in Malaysia as Prime Minister Julia Gillard wants or Nauru, which is the preference of Opposition Leader Tony Abbott?

The Federal Government announced earlier this year through Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP that it budgeted for a sustainable annual level of net overseas migration - in the region of 170 000-180 000 over the next few years. This is consistent with Tony Abbott's statement just before the 2010 election, that the Coalition would aim for net overseas migration of 170,000 people had it won the election. (The numbers include the refugee quota).

According to official Government data, a comparatively small number of 2432 people took the desperate journey across the oceans and made it to Australian waters from January until September 2011.

Australia's annual refugee quota is 13,750. The 2432 asylum seekers will eventually be included in this quota. We, therefore, are at a loss to understand what the argument about the processing location is all about.

The arrival of boats at Australian waters will not stop regardless of who is in Government and what policies they implement to stop them. But our politicians must not exaggerate the issue because the 2432 who crossed the deadly oceans in rickety boats and came to Australia so far in 2011 are only a tiny fraction of the number of refugees crossing continuously into parts of Europe because of its proximity to conflict zones of Africa and the Middle East.

So, let's stop the arguments and start processing the refugees on shore as we did in the past. Then our politicians might be able to spend more of their valuable time on real issues affecting the everyday lives of the 22 million Australians.

Peter Ppiros



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A series of events will take place as part of the DEMETRIA Greek Festival 2011 during the month of October, including an official reception by the patron of Demetria, Premier Mike Rann, on 7 October. A quiz night will be held at the Macedonian Cultural Centre, 94 Henley Beach Rd Mile End, on 21 October and the official Dinner Dance, also at the Macedonian Centre on Saturday 29 October. Tickets for the dinner dance are \$40 with meal. On Friday 4 November, 7.30pm, Demetria Festival will present a concert, with the participation of Greek and other ethnic community artists, at the Macedonian Centre. Free entry. The Demetria Festival will culminate with an all day cultural festival on Sunday 13 November. The event starts at 10am and goes until 10pm at the Macedonian Cultural Centre. The event will feature music bands, dance groups, arts and students exhibitions and lots of traditional Greek food and sweets. Free entry - everybody welcome! (information supplied by the Pan-Macedonian Association of SA).

The showery and chilly conditions didn't stop the hundreds of Hellenes across Adelaide to flock on Sunday morning, 11 September, to the chapel at Kapiris Farm at Virginia for the Birth of Virgin Mary feast. At around 8.30am parishioners along with members of the Executive Council attended the Morning Mass and the Great Doxology, followed by the Blessing of the Bread ceremony and the Holy Preach. The

Community Life



The Palace, a multi-award winning Australian short film on Cyprus by Anthony Maras, has just enjoyed its US premiere to a sell out audience at the Telluride Film Festival. In the photo, Hollywood Reporter's Executive Director Owen Phillips, actor George Clooney, In Contention Blogger Kristopher Tapley, Australian Filmmaker Anthony Maras and Hollywood Reporter's Todd McCarthy

Great Doxology was conducted by Bishop of Trimithoudos Christodoulos, accompanied by Archimandrite Prokopios Kanavas. The religious part of the day reached its peak with the procession of the holy icon of Virgin Mary around the church and surrounding areas. Meanwhile the Kapiris farm turned to an outdoor funfair with tents, chairs, tables and grills creating the ultimate atmosphere for a Greek feast. The church procession gave way to the

aromas of the various cooked delicacies and it was not long before queues of people waiting to be served were formed. And since a Greek funfair can't do without music and dancing, the students of the Community's Dance school impressed everyone yet again with their talent and skills on traditional dance. Good food and fun continued until the late hours of the afternoon and spring finally started to show her true colours with more sunshine as the day pro-

gressed. Meanwhile, the \$5900 that was raised on the day went in aid of the Community's Greek Schools. The Birth of Virgin Mary Annual Feast, an initiative of the Kapiris family and in conjunction with the Greek Orthodox Community, marks the beginning of spring and puts hope for a productive summer. (information supplied by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia).

The Cypriot Community of South Australia will hold a Quiz Night on 4 November 2011, at 7.00pm at the Cyprus Club, 6-8 Barpowell street, Welland. Entry is \$10 per person. Food and drinks will be available. To book a table call Stella on 0410 829378 or Christina on 0419 854257.

As part of the Berri Centenary Year and to acknowledge and celebrate that the Riverland is one of the most culturally diverse regional communities in Australia, the Riverland Multicultural Festival is to be held on the picturesque Berri Riverfront on November 5, 2011. The South Australian community are invited to join in the fun and be part of the Festival parade as it weaves along the riverfront into the festival venue. An exhibition tent will exhibit multicultural memorabilia and art displays. Come and taste our international cuisine or enjoy the performances by our traditional musicians and dancers. The day offers something for everyone. For further information or if you would like to be involved in the day, please contact the coordinator, Danyon De Buell on 0439820100.

Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

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



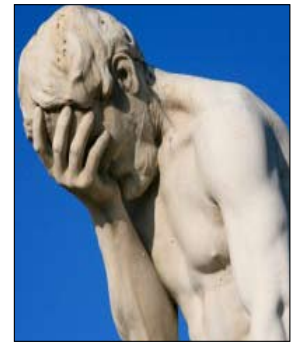
ABOVE: The St Nicholas church (Thebarton) held a luncheon on Sunday 25 September. In the photo, among others, are Steve Georganas federal MP with wife Wendy, Bishop Christodoulos, SAMEAC member Norman Schueler and GOCSA new President Nick Portelos.

LEFT: Popular singer Giorgos Margaritis from Greece, appeared at the Krystal Function Centre in Port Adelaide on 3 September before an audience of well over 500.

NEWS FROM GREECE

Deeper pension cuts more property tax hikes

Greek Government said it would deepen pension cuts, extend a painful property tax hike and put tens of thousands of public servants on notice this week to secure a new injection of aid and save the country from bankruptcy.



With public anger high over a belt-tightening campaign that is driving the country into a fourth year of recession, the powerful labor unions and public transport workers announced strikes starting on Thursday in opposition to the measures.

After the so-called troika of inspectors from the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund made clear it was losing patience over the failure by Athens to meet the fiscal targets of its bailout, the cabinet agreed to front-load the measures to comply with the program through 2014.

"These choices are sending a message to markets and our partners that Greece wants to and can fulfill its obligations and remain firmly in the very core of the euro and the European Union," government spokesman Ilias Mossialos said.

Financial players are almost certain Greece will default, but they see little chance the troika will deny Athens its next 8 billion euro (A\$11 billion) aid tranche before the euro zone strengthens its European Financial Stability Facility, or EFSF, safety net designed to limit contagion.

The cabinet agreed to cut pensions amounting to more than 1,200 euros (\$1,642.913) a month by 20 percent and further reduce payments for former public servants who had retired before the age of 55.

It will extend a new real estate tax hike originally slated to expire next year until at least 2014.

It will also put 30,000 public servants in "labor reserve" this year, reducing their pay to 60 percent and giving them 12 months to find new work in the public sector or lose their jobs.

Already, the new taxes imposed recently, plus job and pension cuts, have helped push youth unemployment to 40 percent and hammered small business owners.

Austerity Stepped Up
A few thousand protesters rallied in Athens' central Syntagma square in front of parliament against the new austerity measures.

"I've been honestly working for 25 years," said 49-year old public sector employee Sofia Vardaki. "They have no right to throw me out now. I don't want to sit on my couch doing nothing. I want to work."

One of Greece's biggest unions planned a three-hour work stoppage against education reform, while it agreed with another — together they represent some 2.5 million workers — to strike for two days on Oct. 5 and Oct. 19 to protest cost cuts.

"We will fight to the end, to topple this policy," Ilias Iliopoulos, general Secretary of public sector union ADEDY, said on Wednesday. "The troika and the government must go."

New opinion polls
According to two polls published on Sunday by the Proto Thema newspaper and the Eleftheros Typos newspaper, both major parties (PASOK and ND) continued to see historically low support.

The polls confirmed that both major parties combined enjoyed less than one-third support of the electorate. The two surveys on Sunday showed New Democracy with 21.5% overall support and the governing PASOK party with just 15.5% support.

The polls also showed the Communist party (KKE) at 9%, ultra nationalist LAOS 5.5%, Coalition of the Left 5%, The Greens 3%, DISY 2%, Citizens Float 2% and Other party 4%. Undecided voters, or voters saying they wouldn't cast a ballot in the next elections, totaled 30% in the Eleftheros Typos poll and 32.6% in the Proto Thema poll.

29 - 30 OCTOBER 2011 Adelaide Glendi returns triumphantly!

THE Glendi, South Australia's largest multicultural festival is back and it's going to be bigger and better than in previous years.

The Glendi, was last year cancelled because of a lack of volunteers and sponsors.

Glendi chairman John Chefalachis said major sponsors were secured and volunteers numbers increased to ensure the success of this year's event.

"We were written off and it was said Glendi was dead," Mr Chefalachis said.

"Last year was just a break and we were always confident it would come back in 2011."

Festival coordinator Tom Ladas said everything was on track for Glendi's return.

"Glendi has been an important cultural festival for a long time, it's part of the fabric of Adelaide, an institution," Mr Ladas said.

"We had a bit of a hiccup in 2010 but we've got enough hands on deck to deliver a festival that is as good as the 30-odd years before it.

"Our motto this year is that Glendi is back, bigger, better and a little more Greeker."

Glendi is an annual weekend long festival that celebrates Greek culture in Australia. For over 30 years Glendi has been presenting Greek culture at its best. The festival blends all the things which make life so wonderful; food, dance, music, art, education and family. Glendi is the Greek word for "party".

Glendi, a major project of the Lions Club of Adelaide Hellenic which organises the event along with volunteers, was first held in 1978 and attracted more than 25,000 people when it was last held in 2009.

Glendi will be held on October 29-30, from noon each day, at the Adelaide Showground, Wayville. Entry \$13/\$9, children under five free. See glendi.org

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY SA ODYSSEY FESTIVAL 2011

Join us at the hub of this year's Odyssey Festival as we 'reconnect with our roots' and transform Olympic Hall into a modern day Agora. Reminiscent of the Ancient Agora of Athens - where philosophers, politicians, artists, poets and the general community met as one - in 2011, Olympic Hall is that 'place to meet.'

Throughout the duration of Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival Odyssey (5-22 October), Olympic Hall (cnr West Tce & Franklin St Adelaide) will play host to exhibitions, lectures, cultural events, school holiday workshops, a cafeteria and so much more - a hub of educational, social, musical, culinary and artistic activities for the whole family.

Presented annually by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc, Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival "Odyssey" enters its 6th year this year, kicking off on Wednesday 5 October.

Through a series of exciting and entertaining events, join us on the 'journey' for 18 days of Greek culture including the 18th Greek Film Festival (6-9 October), the Odyssey Festival Concert Finale in conjunction with the Elder Conservatorium (22 October) plus all the activities in the Odyssey hub of Olympic Hall - The Agora, The Place To Meet Odyssey Kafe & Exhibition Space.

AGORA THE PLACE TO MEET

With a cafeteria, free internet access, kid's activity spaces, exhibition displays and more. (George Tsamandanis photo exhibition, Tramountanas-North Family Display &

Odyssey Art Prize exhibition) 5 - 22 October - Olympic Hall - Open at selected times.

18th Greek Film Festival

Presented nationally by Bank Of Cyprus 6-9 October - Palace Nova Eastend Cinemas 8 movies, 12 sessions over 4 days as Adelaide kicks off the national run! www.greekfilmfestival.com.au

School Holiday Fun

JOIN US IN ODYSSEY'S AGORA FOR A WEEK OF SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN From percussion and art and craft workshops, to making Greek sweets and fun at our Kid's disco.

Monday 10 October - Friday 14 October - Olympic Hall - Free/gold coin!!! Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc. Level 1, 262 Franklin Street, Adelaide, SA 5000 P: 08 8231 4307 E: gocsa@gocsa.org.au

Lecture

'TIMAEUS': PLATO, COSMOGONY AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE WESTERN CULTURE Presented by Professor Michael Tsianikas in conjunction with Flinders University Wednesday 12 October, 7pm - Olympic Hall - Free

Cultural Night

A JOURNEY TO OUR ROOTS, IN THEATRE, IN MUSIC AND IN DANCE, A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE. Saturday 15 October, 6.30pm - Olympic Hall - Free (mezedes and beverages available to purchase)

Book Launch

OUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE 1930-2010

Sunday 16 October, 5pm - Olympic Hall - Free

Lecture

AN EARLY PAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE GREEK PRESS AND PUBLISHING IN SA Presented by Professor George Kanarakis in conjunction with the State Library of SA

Tuesday 18 October, 7pm - Olympic Hall - Free

Significance of Icons Cathedral Tour

Wednesday 19 October, 11am - Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel - Free

Nick Manos Lecture Series

THE RETURNS OF ODYSSEUS: EXPLORING NOSTALGIA IN HOMER Presented by Ioannis Ziogas in conjunction with Adelaide University

Thursday 20 October, 7pm - Olympic Hall - Free

The Lamb is on the Spit

FAMILY NIGHT Friday 21 October, from 5pm - Olympic Hall

Odyssey Concert Finale

Presented by the Elder Conservatorium of Music Saturday 22 October, 6.30pm Elder Hall

For more information look out for the Odyssey Festival brochure or see it online at www.odysseyfestival.com.au Become a fan on facebook 'Odyssey Festival Adelaide' for updated information on this year's program or call 08 8231 4307.

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