



September 2011

GREEK TRIBUNE

www.greektribune.com.au

Renmark: Ph/Fax: (08) 8586 5002 - Mobile: 04 0886 5004

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

GOVERNOR'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS South Australians encouraged to nominate

Multicultural Affairs Minister, Grace Portolesi is encouraging South Australians to nominate people from all walks of life for the Governor's Multicultural Awards.



Multicultural Affairs Minister, Grace Portolesi

The 2011 Awards are now open for nominations of individuals and organisations who have made outstanding contributions to multiculturalism in SA.

"The scope of these awards acknowledges that multiculturalism isn't something that is specific to one area of our society," Minister Portolesi said.

"Everyone is a part of multiculturalism. We all contribute and the awards are open to all South Australians, regardless of their background.

"Our society is made up of diverse cultural, religious and language groups who offer their unique traditions to our community.

"The Governor's awards recognise those who have demonstrated qualities such as innovation and leadership in supporting and embracing multiculturalism in our State," the Minister said.

The categories of Awards are:

- The Arts and Culture Award, which has been introduced for the first time this year.
- Community Sector

- Award (Individual)
 - Community Sector
- Award (Organisation)
 - Media Award (Individual)
 - Media Award (Organisation)
 - Private Sector Award
 - Public Sector Award
 - Volunteer Award
- Youth Award (Individual)
- Youth Award (Organisation)
- Outstanding Individual Achievement Award.

Nominations for the Awards close on 31 October 2011 and winners will be announced at a reception at Government House in February 2012.

Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the Multicultural SA website www.multicultural.sa.gov.au.

Farmer's Exit Grants closed

The Exceptional Circumstances (EC) Exit Grants will be closed to all new applicants as the program allocation of \$9.6 million has been fully committed for the 2011-12 financial year.

The funding amount was announced as part of the 2011-12 Federal Budget. The Exit package consists of an exit grant of up to \$150,000, an advice and training grant of up to \$10,000 to assist in planning for farm exit and a relocation of up to \$10,000 to pursue new employment opportunities.

The Exit Grants offers time-limited, one-off exit assistance for those farmers whose farm enterprise is, or was, located in an area covered by an EC declaration on or after 1 July 2010 (formerly 25 September 2007).

Under the program, farmers must sell their farm enterprise and have settled the sale and leave farming.

Landholders who have sold their farm and submitted a claim for the EC Exit Grant, or dispatched a claim for the grant in the mail, before close of business on 10 August 2011, will have claims assessed under existing arrangements.

Successful claims will be paid according to their entitlement under the guidelines.

For information about Exceptional Circumstance Exit Grant applications, contact Centrelink on 13 2316 or go to www.centrelink.gov.au.

MINISTER O'BRIEN ASKS FOR EXTENSION

State Minister for Agriculture Michael O'Brien, said he will ask the Federal Government to extend the exit grant scheme.

"I'll be raising the issue with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Joe Ludwig, to see if the program can be extended", he said.

"It's good that people have had an opportunity to exit with a certain degree of dignity and with



Left, State Minister for Agriculture Michael O'Brien and Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone

minimal financial duress.

"However, I'm concerned that many eligible landowners may have missed out on receiving assistance".

Mr O'Brien said the State Government played a major role in shaping the program's application in the Riverland.

"We recognised that many people on smaller blocks wanted to stay living on their properties after they were taken out of production", he said.

"We argued that people should be able to stay on their farms as long as they removed irrigation infrastructure and were not operating commercially.

"The State Government will continue to support and assist regional communities in distress, as we have done in the Riverland with structural adjustment and drought relief.

"The \$20 million Riverland Sustainable Futures Fund, for example, encourages agricultural initiative and diversification", Mr O'Brien concluded.

CHAFFEY MP TIM WHETSTONE NOT HAPPY

Chaffey landholders planning to take Exceptional Circumstances (EC) exit grants have been left high and dry by Labor's Federal and State agriculture ministers according to Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone.

Mr Whetstone said that some landholders in Chaffey were not

only eligible for exit grants but counting on them.

"Senator Ludwig telling landholders they were eligible, and then telling landholders it's too late because the money has run out, is a cruel blow," he said.

"Minister O'Brien saying he'll raise the issue with the Senator, when he should have ensured months ago that every eligible South Australian landholder could obtain an exit grant, is a slap in the face.

"It's too little and too late. I can only imagine the level of stress and anxiety this has caused for landholders who have taken steps to sell their properties on the understanding they were eligible and would receive exit grants.

"The Federal Government's allocation of \$9.6 million for exit grants was always going to run out before June 2012. The fact that it has run out in only six weeks shows that Labor is still very much out of touch with rural Australia."

Mr Whetstone said that he had been contacted by a number of eligible landholders who had missed out on exit grants.

"These people went through all the necessary steps and waited six months for the department to deliver the paperwork," he said. "They were told they were eligible, but have since been told there's no money left for exit grants.

"Labor simply can't get anything right, and people in regional Australia are suffering as a result", Mr Whetstone said.

In the last couple of days, Ashley Lawrie has emerged as one of the local Riverland growers to receive a letter stating that he (and his partner Tania Bradley) will not receive the exit grant. They are claiming that they sold their Kingston on Murray vineyard as part of the requirements to receive the funding and were already pre-approved.

From the Editor's Desk New exit sought

Some people may think the purchase of the Loxton Winery by a large overseas company, was a positive move as regards the Riverland growers and the local economy. We'd rather be cautious about that because we have seen quite a few large overseas companies taking over Riverland fruit companies in recent years but that didn't bring any joy to our local growers.

We urge the Government to monitor the way the wineries (and other fruit companies) operate and ensure that our local growers are given a fair go. That's if, at least, some of our growers are to survive. For those who are not going to survive, the Governments must start thinking what's going to happen after the end of March 2012 - in terms of assistance or exiting the industry - when the Exceptional Circumstances (EC) scheme runs out in the Riverland.

Our very proud community was created about 120 years ago on the foundations of an irrigated fruit growing settlement and exiting schemes are not the type of solutions that we prefer to have. But, we also realise that unfortunately our options are very limited.

State Minister for Agriculture, Michael O'Brien must be commended for his support and willingness to ask Federal Minister Ludwig to extend the exit grant scheme but we'd like to suggest that the conditions of the scheme be reviewed.

An exit scheme which will allow growers to stay on their land would be much more effective than a scheme which sets as a pre-condition, the sale of the property. It could assist unviable growers to move on, pursue new employment opportunities and be productive and independent once again.

If growers are expected to find buyers for their farms in the current economic conditions, that's not going to happen and they will continue to be suppliers of cheap winegrapes to the wineries until they are forced out by the banks.

Peter Ppiros



SIMEONE Accountants & Financial Services Brokers

Providing the most convenient integrated financial service in the world

- * Accounting & Tax, * Insurance,
- * Investment & Superannuation,
- * Finance & Loans * Estate & Succession

We share & understand your culture and your values
"Una Faccia Una Razza!"

We speak the language of money in ways you can easily understand

Suite 4, 83 Payneham Rd St Peters SA 5069

T:08 8362 6600, F: 08 8362 2370

E: simeone@simeone.com.au

Free no obligation first appointment

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

ABN: 55 829 388 691

EDITOR: Peter Ppiros

ADDRESS: BOX 3070, RENMARK, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5341

PHONE/FAX: (08) 8586 5002

Mobile: 0408 865004

Website: www.greektribune.com.au

E-mail: info@greektribune.com.au

For parents and teachers, it was an "out of this world" dance.

For the Greek Community Schools' students, it was a magical journey in space through their imagination and creative spirits. The Annual School Dance, themed "The Solar System" was held at Olympic Hall on Saturday August 6 at 7.30pm with the attendance of almost 400 Community members. From planets, to stars and space ships, this year's theme was depicted all around Olympic Hall's spacey decoration with the young students living it up. Although the decoration took patrons to distant worlds, the aromas that came out of the kitchen weren't alien at all! Grilled delicacies, sausages, shashlicks, chips, salads and the popular honey puffs kept everyone "grounded" but satisfied nonetheless. The students' creativity and imagination as well as their talent produced an amazing show with poem citations, sketches and musical performances, all revolving around the solar system. Ms Sylvia Cassoudakis, General Secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community, in opening the formal part of the night thanked everyone for coming along and praised both students and their teachers for their great efforts. The school dance continued with the raffle draw and one lucky student won a Nintendo DSi which was the main prize. Meanwhile, and for the first time in the

Community Life



Many of the Greek community's new generation, attended the Kimisis tis Theotokou name day at Croydon on 15 August

Annual School Dance's history, students received awards of Excellency sponsored by The Tramountanas Association. The three students that received the awards were Maria Aslanidis (Year 2 Group), John Pappas (Year 3-7 Group) and Kyriakos Nikias (Year 8-12 Group). The students' performances and award presentations gave way to some serious dancing as the students of Olympic Dance Group showed some talent and skills on the dance

floor. The fun continued until late in the night with everyone making it to the dance floor as "Trio Meraki" band played popular Greek songs for every taste. The National Union of Greek Australian Students held its 2011 annual general meeting in Perth. The Greek Tribune, received the following statement from NUGAS' Media officer Poppy Christou: "For the first time in 12 years, Perth was lucky enough to host the

2011 NUGAS Annual General Meeting. Blessed with a weekend of lovely weather, the inter-staters were warmly welcomed by the Western Australian Committee. The weekend included many activities such as visits to the renowned Kings Park, Fremantle and Cottesloe Beach, and the visitors were made familiar with the beautiful scenery via boat cruise. The entertaining continued throughout the 3 days, and new friendships were formed whilst existing ones were only made stronger. The Annual General Meeting was held on the Sunday, hosted at the Hellenic Community Hall, where everyone was served lunch and treated quite well. Congratulations to Lex Georgiou, who was once again elected National President for another term, and also, congratulations to the new National Committee members, who were also elected. We look forward to the next National event, being the Convention in 2012, which will be held in Melbourne. The newly elected National Committee look forward to a new, successful and eventful term, and to new friendships and milestones."

Our hearts are with the Mangos family who had their daughter and sister Sabrina, 10, so tragically taken away on 7 August, while on a trip to the United States. The Greek Tribune expresses its sincere condolences to the family.

Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

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



Members of the Ladies Auxiliery of the Greek Orthodox Community of Berri, volunteered their time serving Greek sweets on the Kimissis tis Theotokou day, on 15 August in Berri. They are from left, Eugenia Liapis, Lina Kontoprias, Popi Stvahtaris and Panayiota Spanos

ABOVE: Michael Atkinson MP, representing the SA Government, David Pisoni MP representing the Opposition and Hieu Val Le, Lieutenant Governor and SAMEAC Chairman attended the "Kimissis tis Theotokou" name day at the Croydon church on 15 August.



RIGHT: The clergy of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, presided over by Bishop Christodoulos, leading the procession of the holy icon around the church of the Dormition of Virgin Mary in Croydon.



Bishop Nikandros of the Greek Archdiocese, presided over the celebrations of the "Kimissis tis Theotokou" name day in Berri on 15 August. Right, is Riverland priest Dimitrios Moraitis

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Greek economy to shrink more...

Greece's economy will shrink by over 4.5 percent this year, the country's finance minister said on Friday, adding that a new bailout deal for the troubled eurozone member would not be completed before mid-October.



Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos

After Finland secured a collateral on loans to Greece, Austria, the Netherlands and Slovakia said they wanted the same, complicating efforts to finalise the rescue deal.

The four account for about 11 percent of the eurozone contribution to the new 109 billion euro Greek bailout.

Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said all bilateral decisions are up for approval by the other eurozone members and that it would be a while before the new bailout negotiations are completed.

"We should not expect to be finished before the first or second week of October, because parliaments need to vote and banks to complete their own processes," he told Sky Radio.

Venizelos painted a grim picture of the economy, saying the slump this year would be worse than expected, but said no new austerity measures were in the pipeline. Tough salary cuts and tax hikes have prompted street protests and pushed Greece into its deepest recession in about 40 years.

Greek Orthodox pilgrims gather at Sumela monastery, Turkey

Nearly 1,000 Orthodox Christians gathered for a historic service at Sümela Monastery in the Black Sea coastal province of Trabzon early Monday, marking the second religious ceremony held at the monastery in the history of the Turkish Republic.



Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew

The Divine Liturgy, held on the occasion of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos according to the Orthodox liturgical calendar (also known as the Assumption of Mary), was officiated by Istanbul-based Fener Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew I. Pilgrims from Greece, Russia, Georgia and other countries traveled to the monastery, which currently serves as a museum.

Beginning the homily by saying "Our Muslim brothers," Bartholomew thanked the Turkish government, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for allowing a second service at Sümela. Stating that Mary has a special place for both Muslims and Christians, he recalled a Quran verse which says: "And (remember) when the angels said: 'O Maryam (Mary)! Verily, Allah has chosen you, purified you (from polytheism and disbelief), and chosen you above the women of the 'Alamin' (mankind and jinns) (of her lifetime)," the patriarch called for peace and brotherhood in Turkey and in the world during his speech.

"The peace that we long for is vital, in particular during these days. We cannot rid ourselves of the burden of the tragic events in Norway yet. There is ongoing bloodshed in neighboring countries. Mothers are crying in our country. ... Let's make a call from the high Sümela Mountain, from the presence of the feet of the Virgin Mary -- who is above all women -- to all Christians and Muslims for us, for humanity and for our future. This call can be a single word: peace, peace, peace. Mutual respect and love should be our only prayer," the patriarch said.

Bartholomew also wished Muslim a happy Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr. "May God accept your fasts," he added.

Cyprus welcomes US reaction to Turkey's threats

The United States' reaction to Turkey's threats as regards drilling in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shows that the Republic of Cyprus operates on the basis of international law, said Friday, Cypriot Government Spokesman Stephanos Stephanou.

Called upon to say whether Cyprus has an understanding with Israel and Greece, he repeated that when it comes to drilling for natural resources or developing them, Cyprus acts on the basis of international law, adding that this is the case as regards Cyprus' cooperation with other countries.

US company 'Noble Energy' received on October 2008 a concession from the government of the Republic of Cyprus to explore for hydrocarbons in Block 12, located in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone, which borders reserve-rich 'Leviathan' in Israel's EEZ.

The US administration said on Wednesday that it is aware of Turkey's position on the issue. However it strongly supports all countries' plans of securing energy supplies through better energy diversity, it added.

Meanwhile, President Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu met again on Tuesday, August 23, in the framework of direct talks for a Cyprus solution, following a brief summer break.

14 - 15 SEPTEMBER Riverland Field Days

The annual Riverland Field Days will be held on 14 and 15 September at its permanent site near Barmera.

Speaking to the Greek Tribune, the event coordinator Mr Tim Grieger said this year's event will be bigger and better featuring new exhibitions and activities for everyone.

"The 2011 Riverland Field Days has more for business promotion and marketing – more for the home, recreation and leisure – more for the youth – more for the whole family".

New features this year include:-
* The Telstra Tech Hub' – with presentations on what's new in information systems, information technology and services.

* The Grain Lane' – focusing on the exhibits, machinery and services specifically for the dry land farmer.

"The Wine and Food section is there again, presenting some of the region's finest", he said.

"In the Irrigation Avenue, Grundfos pumps have displays and presentations on both domestic and irrigation pumps; discussing technological advances in this area.

"The caravans, campers and camping display will be the largest seen at the field days – including a wide range of sizes and styles.

"The cooking demonstrations will have emphasis on healthy cooking = healthy eating = healthy life style.

"The Riverland Field Days committee has worked the whole year round to bring you the interest, the fun and the enjoyment that the field days has to offer. Come and share in the experience", Mr Grieger said.

The Field Days, which attracts tens of thousands of people every year, also features a wide range of exhibitions, including farm machinery, cars, boats, four wheel drives, and much more.

Multicultural food and drinks will be available. Gates open 9 – 5 each day.

Multicultural communities invited to comment on Cultural Policy

Arts Minister Simon Crean today invited Australia's multicultural communities to comment on a discussion paper for the country's first National Cultural Policy in almost two decades.

Mr Crean said the development of the cultural policy was an opportunity for Australians from all backgrounds to have their say on how more people can experience and be inspired by art and culture.

"Since 1945, Australia has welcomed more than 7 million migrants to our shores, significantly broadening our social and cultural profile," Mr Crean said.

"The new cultural policy will be a 10-year vision for how arts and creativity is supported, developed and ushered into the public domain.

"The Australian community is uniquely diverse and it is important to hear the stories of our migrants and appreciate their history and heritage, as part of what it means to be Australian.

"That's why the new cultural policy will reflect and respond to our diverse communities.

"We will continue to work with arts organisations, cultural partners and local authorities to identify and build audiences."

Mr Crean said the arts were fundamental to our way of life and not just for their entertainment value.

"More than 15 million Australian adults attend at least one cultural event or performance every year – not including cinema – and our preferences for what we attend are changing," Mr Crean said.

"Today, more than half of all 15 to 24 year olds use the internet to research, view or create some kind of music, writing or artistic performance – and there is a broader audience for multicultural arts.

"We want to keep up with change and ensure all Australians – no matter who they are or where they live – can access arts and culture in all its many forms, particularly in regional areas.

"The National Cultural Policy is fundamental, because the creative arts empower the individual and underpins expression, tolerance and inclusion.

"That's why they will be included in the new national curriculum, to ensure young Australians have access to learning in the creative arts.

"Labor firmly believes that a creative nation is a productive nation, which is why we invest over \$740 million each year directly on the arts and other cultural activities.

"But 17 years after the Keating Government released its comprehensive cultural policy statement – Creative Nation – it's timely that we reassess and more effectively connect the arts and creative industries into the public domain for all Australians.

"A renewed National Cultural Policy will ensure Australia doesn't miss important opportunities to tell our stories, educate and skill our workforce and enable our culture to connect with the rest of the world.

Mr Crean said feedback on the discussion paper would be encouraged around four proposed goals:

- * Ensure what the

Government supports – and how this support is provided – reflects the diversity of a 21st century Australia, and protects and supports Indigenous culture;

* Encourage the use of emerging technologies and new ideas that support the development of new artworks and the creative industries in ways which enable more people to access and participate in arts and culture;

* Support excellence and world-class endeavour and strengthen the role that the arts play in telling Australian stories both here and overseas;

* Increase and strengthen the capacity of the arts to contribute to our society and economy.

Mr Crean said first, second and third generation Australians were encouraged to participate in the national discussion to form our new National Cultural Policy.

"The multicultural character of our country is central to our nation's story and to our shared future," he said.

"This is a major undertaking and we want to hear the views of the community to achieve the best possible result."

The discussion paper has drawn on comments and issues identified during initial public consultation by former Arts Minister Peter Garrett in 2009-10.

The opportunity to provide feedback will be open for 10 weeks until 21 October and will be used to help develop the National Cultural Policy for release early next year.

The discussion paper and information about how to provide feedback is available at www.culture.arts.gov.au