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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Citrus fruit to cost more to consumers this season



Prices of citrus such as oranges and mandarines are likely to hurt the hip pocket this winter, according to an ABC report, as citrus growers continue to bear the brunt of labour shortages and the high quarantine costs of Pacific Island workers.

Citrus Australia CEO Nathan Hancock expects the seasonal workers shortage to worsen in winter as the industry hits peak harvest.

Mr Hancock said while governments had established quarantine programs for Pacific Island workers, more needed to be done.

"I think in this region (the Riverland, South Australia), it is close to probably 2,500 to 3,000 workers out there picking fruit per day in the height of harvest and that is really going to draw down on the numbers of available workers here," he said.

About 1,200 Pacific Island workers are scheduled to arrive in South Australia over the next three months under the state government's program, but Mr Hancock said there were currently only 3,000 workers from the Pacific Islands across the whole of Australia.

"There is not enough scheduled workers to come in with the seasonal worker program as it currently is, and there are certainly not enough working holiday makers or students around to make up the shortfall."

### Price rise and crop losses

Mr Hancock expected to see a slow and prolonged harvest and said he wasn't confident all the fruit could be picked.

"There will be certain varieties that will lose shelf life as they sit on the tree and they will just have to be abandoned."

A slow harvest was also expected to lead to some supply issues and lesser amounts of fruit available to be sent to markets across the country.

"When we have a situation that supply is short that can drive prices up," Mr Hancock said.

He said the price rises would likely be "noticeable but not astronomical".

Chair of Citrus SA and grower Mark Doecke said he couldn't guarantee the region's fruit would be picked in time.

"We have our Pacific Island program in place ... that is a fair chunk of our labour need, but I suppose we always like more options. I mean we have to see how we go," Mr Doecke said.

He has called for a quarantine-free travel bubble to be established between Australia and the Pacific Islands to secure an affordable harvest workforce in the long term.

In South Australia, approved employers for the Pacific Island seasonal worker program must contribute \$2,500.

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# US President Joe Biden recognises Armenian genocide

On its 106th anniversary, US President Joe Biden has recognised the Armenian genocide, a historic declaration that has infuriated Turkey and further strained frayed ties between the NATO allies.

Beginning from April 24, 1915, swathes of Armenians living in the former Ottoman Empire were forcibly removed from their homes as part of mass deportations in eastern Anatolia, which is now modern Turkey.

Thousands were marched south through deserts towards Syria and Mesopotamia, with many killed by starvation, disease, or dehydration. Others were brutally massacred en route by Ottoman forces.

The total death toll from the genocide remains disputed. The International Association of Genocide Scholars puts the toll at more than a million, while Armenians put the number at 1.5 million.

"The American people honour all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today," Mr Biden said in a statement.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Turkey "entirely rejects" the US decision which he said was based "solely on populism".

Turkey's foreign ministry said it summoned the US Ambassador to Ankara over Mr Biden's announcement.

In a statement, the ministry said Mr Biden's announcement had no legal basis and that Ankara "rejected it, found it unacceptable and condemned in the strongest terms".

It said the statement had caused a "wound in ties that will be hard to repair".

Throughout its modern history Turkey has always denied there was a systematic Ottoman campaign to annihilate Armenians, though it does accept that many Christian



US President Joe Biden recognises Armenian genocide by Turkey in 1916.

Armenians living in the empire were killed in clashes with local forces.

Armenia's Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan welcomed the US's recognition in a letter to Mr Biden, published on his website on Saturday.

With the US's inclusion, a

total of 30 countries now recognise the Armenian genocide.

Australia is not one of them. However, the parliaments of New South Wales and South Australia, and two local councils in Sydney, have passed motions recognising the genocide.

## More Covid cases recorded in South Australia

South Australia has recorded a significant jump in coronavirus cases, with 14 new cases uncovered in one day, all of them in hotel quarantine.

SA Health said the new active cases from Monday included two girls and two boys, a man and woman in their 20s, four women in their 30s and a man in his 40s.

It said an additional three cases — a child, and a man and a woman in their 30s — were considered historical but were being added to the state's case tally, which now stands at 719 since the pandemic began.

All of the new cases acquired COVID-19 overseas and have been in medi-hotel quarantine since their arrivals.

In all, there are 32 active cases of COVID-19 in SA.

Only 285 vaccinations were administered in South Australia on Sunday.

Another three cases were recorded last week, with nine on Thursday — prompting Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier to remark that health authorities were "on edge".

"We need to make sure that all of our processes in our quarantine stream and our medi-hotel are as tight as possible," Professor Spurrier said on Thursday.

One person remains in hospital, but a man who was at one stage fighting for his



SA Health has urged people with symptoms to continue getting tested. (ABC Photo)

life in the Royal Adelaide Hospital has now been discharged.

SA Health earlier this month revealed the man was in a critical condition in the intensive care unit, but confirmed on Saturday he was no longer in hospital.

Professor Spurrier last week said the high number of active cases in the state meant the Tom's Court medi-hotel in Adelaide's CBD — which has been set aside for all confirmed COVID-19 cases — was nearing capacity.

## Greek Community Bicentenary Concert

A concert to mark the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence, will be staged on 28th May at the Adelaide Hall.

The concert will be featuring 'Tsitsanis, Hatzidakis, Xarchakos, Theodorakis' with songs of revolution, liberation and empowerment created over several decades by four great composers of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: Vassilis Tsitsanis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Xarchakos and Mikis Theodorakis.

The concert will feature, as soloist, international artist Dimitris Basis, together with a Greek band and a symphony orchestra under the direction of conductor George Ellis.

Dimitris Basis will bring these great composers' music to life in the grandeur of concert

## Community Life



Dimitris Basis

halls throughout Australia. The concert will be performed in six Australian cities during the months of May and June, kick-

ing off in Perth on the 7th of May, before travelling to Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Darwin.

Dimitris Basis said, "I feel very lucky to be able to once again travel to Australia, especially in a year that is so important for Greek people. To be able to celebrate 200 years of freedom through the music of these incredible composers is truly humbling."

Australian audiences have embraced Dimitris Basis warmly in the past and there is great anticipation for these performances.

These concerts champions works written by some of Greece's greatest composers while celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Greek Revolution. This event is presented under

the auspices of the Greece 2021 Committee.

Friday 7 May Perth Concert Hall | Perth (08) 9231 9999.

Friday 14 May City Recital Hall | Sydney (02) 8256 2222

Friday 28 May Adelaide Town Hall | Adelaide (08) 8203 7590

Saturday 29 May Melbourne Recital Centre | Melbourne (03) 9699 3333

Friday 4 June QPAC | Brisbane (07) 3842 9505

Wednesday 9 June Darwin Entertainment Centre | Darwin (08) 8980 3333

The Adelaide concert is proudly presented by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia and is scheduled for Friday the 28th of May at Adelaide Town Hall at 7.00pm.

Tickets are \$80 for A Reserve, \$55 general admission and \$30 for under 30 years-old. Ticket bookings are available through BASS www.bass.net.au or by phone on 131 246



## 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

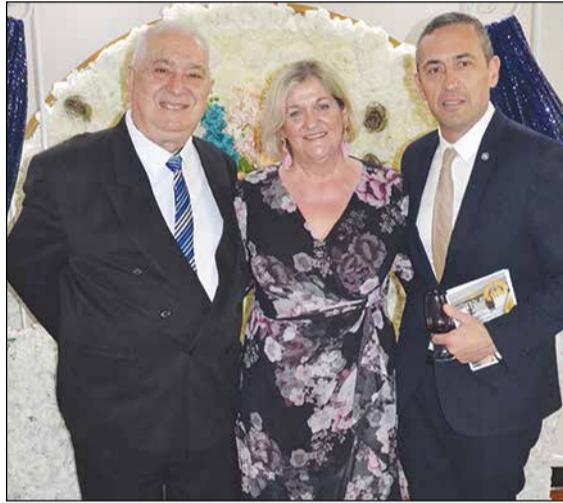


**LEFT:** About 200 people attended the APOKRIES celebrations held the previous month at the Cyprus Community of SA. In attendance were the High Commissioner of Cyprus, Mrs Martha Mavromatis, the assistant minister to the premier, Mrs Jing Lee and Mrs Adriana Christopoulos, member of the South Australian multicultural and ethnic affairs commission. Also in the photo, members of the Cyprus Community including the President Andreas Evdokiou, Loukas Mina, Thekla Petrou and Peter Ppiros.

**BELOW:** Member for West Torrens Tom Koutsantonis with Bill and Stavroulla Brinias, at the Reception held by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA at the Olympic Hall to Celebrate the 200 years since the start of the Greek Revolution and the 90 years of GOCSA.



**ABOVE:** At the State Reception held on 25 March at Parliament House were amongst others, Mary Kouros Deputy Mayor of Adelaide, Chris Despotakis, Connie Bonaros MLC, Andriana Christopoulos of SAMEAC, Mrs Jelena Psiachas and Con Dallas.



## US President Joe Biden recognises the Armenian Genocide

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route by Ottoman forces.

The total death toll from the genocide remains disputed. The International Association of Genocide Scholars puts the toll at more than a million, while Armenians put the number at 1.5 million.

"The American people honour all those Armenians who perished in the genocide that began 106 years ago today," Mr Biden said in a statement.

"We honour their story. We see that pain. We affirm the history. We do this not to cast blame but to ensure that what happened is never repeated."

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Turkey "entirely rejects" the US

decision which he said was based "solely on populism".

In recent years, ties between the US and Turkey have soured, as Turkey — a fellow NATO member — purchased Russian military hardware. Turkey's main ambition is to become a major military power in the region in order to be a key player in the competition for more control over the Eastern Mediterranean gas exploration.

Turkey's foreign ministry said it summoned the US Ambassador to Ankara over Mr Biden's announcement.

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## WORKING IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SA COTA SA's Strength for Life Program

COTA SA is the peak body representing 633,000 South Australians over the age of 50; we offer a wide range of programs and services designed for, with and by older people.

One of the programs is Strength for Life physical activity program for people over 50, currently held in over 100 centres across South Australia. This program concentrates on strength, fitness and balance exercises within a social setting. Every person has their own tailored program with a fitness professional, but the exercise takes place in a group.

The benefits people gain through the Strength for Life program include more energy, better sleep, less stress, greater social connections and increased confidence. Regular exercise can also control weight, reduce the risk of chronic conditions, prevent falls and increase muscle strength and joint movement.

Information about Strength for Life can be found on COTA SA's website [www.cotasa.org.au](http://www.cotasa.org.au)

At COTA SA we are working to ensure that the Strength for Life Program is within reach of every South Australian, regardless of their cultural background and that it is delivered in a culturally responsive way.



The photo is from the Program Strength For Life, COTA SA - Photo supplied

For further information about Strength for Life please contact Clara Tait at COTA SA. Interpreter services are available through TIS (131 450).

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## Covid cases expected to spike in Greece after Easter

Infectious disease experts fear that after Easter, when the country will begin the process of reopening after months of lockdown, cases of Covid-19 could spike in Greece.

Greek doctor and researcher Giorgos Pavlakis expressed his concern over a possible jump in cases after Easter.

He stressed that the timeline of the country's planned re-opening, in which restaurants and cafes, along with schools, will operate again after Easter, with tourism following shortly after, could lead to a sizeable increase in cases.

"Greece can't stay closed forever, we all understand that. Easter, by itself, is a difficult time for restrictions, and together with the re-opening of the retail sector, the service

industry, and schools, it could become an explosive mix," Pavlakis stated.

He continued that the current covid-19 numbers are still elevated in Greece, and that, due to the decision to open the country, there will certainly be "victims" of the virus, and Greece must focus on simply "reducing the number of victims" through anti-virus measures.

Other scientists have also urged the Greek public to remain cautious during the Easter period, as many may chose to gather at homes across the country to celebrate the holiday.

Greece has recorded over 10,000 Covid deaths so far. In the last week, the Greece has been recording up to 4000 cases of Covid every day.



## CONSULATE OF GREECE IN S.A. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Consulate-General of Greece in Adelaide is pleased to announce that it now offers the possibility to serve the public, for certain cases, by video conference, thanks to the new online platform myConsulLive, in order to avoid the unnecessary inconvenience of visiting our Offices.

Services provided through the online platform myConsulLive are: 1. Issuance of a Certificate of Permanent Residence Abroad 2. Certificate of marital status or birth 3. Certificate of residency 4. Copy or extract of a civil registry 5. Declarations of beneficiaries of pension

In order to be granted access to the application, those interested will need to enter their TAXISnet username and password codes, assuming they already have them.

To book your digital appointment you will need to input: Your name, father's and mother's names, Your email address, Your contact phone, Home address (in Australia), Your Greek ID number, or any (Greek or other nationality's) passport number

You may access the platform through the link <http://myconsullive.gov.gr/> where the detailed User Guide is also available..

## Greek Orthodox Community SA

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