



GREEK TRIBUNE

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Police raid nets more than \$300 million worth of ecstasy drugs

Australian Federal Police have helped uncover a 700 kilogram haul of MDMA in the Netherlands allegedly bound for Queensland.

The drugs were intercepted in the Dutch city of Rotterdam three months ago — part of an international police operation that has led to arrests in three countries.

It is understood the 700kg of MDMA was found in cans of tomatoes in a shipping container.

The AFP said the entire haul had an estimated street value of \$301 million.

"We believe that this criminal network would

have been able to produce thousands of kilos of MDMA — equivalent to tens of millions of pills which was likely destined for Australia," Commissioner Reece Kershaw said.

Eleven people were charged in relation to the seizure including a 48-year-old woman from Bass Hill in New South Wales who was extradited to Brisbane.

She will face court next month charged with attempting to possess a commercial quantity of border controlled drugs.

Two other Australians are also under investigation.

Greece and Cyprus rescue refugees

The Greek Coast Guard said on Friday that it had rescued 400 refugees and migrants towards the end of last week in ten separate incidents in the seas off the city Alexandroupolis and the islands of Lesbos and Chios.

Authorities also arrested three individuals who are believed to be migrant traffickers.

The number of migrants staying at the Moria refugee reception and identification facility on Lesbos Island has reached 16,023 people, the North Aegean Police Directorate reported on Friday evening.

Meanwhile, two ferries carrying 96 refugees and migrants from the islands of Chios, Leros and Kos arrived at the port of Pireaus on Friday morning, as part of the government's efforts to decongest its migrant camps.

The new arrivals will be sent to different accommodation facilities in the Greek mainland.

In the meantime, Cyprus authorities have also rescued 120 Syrian migrants from a boat adrift off the island's southeastern coast, police said on Friday.

The boat was spotted on Thursday and the migrants — including 20 children, 14 of them unaccompanied minors, and three women — were taken to a reception centre outside the capital Nicosia.

The migrants told police they had crossed the Syria-Turkey border and the boat sailed from



Syrian refugee boats crossing from Turkey on to the island of Lesbos

Mersin in Turkey, a route previously used by people smugglers. Those on board said they had

paid \$4,000 each for the journey to the smugglers, who managed to get away.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Catastrophic fire conditions as temperature hits 48 degrees

The Country Fire Service (CFS) battled more than 45 fires across South Australia on Wednesday in catastrophic conditions and record November heat, with reports of at least one home lost on the lower Yorke Peninsula.

The CFS held a watch in Yorketown as a fire was posing a threat to people directly in its path.

Several other fires on Wednesday reached emergency warning levels — including near Angaston in the Barossa Valley and near Port Wakefield — before being downgraded as a result of firefighting efforts.

The SA Department for Education closed 111 schools and kindergartens as a safety measure during catastrophic fire danger conditions on Wednesday.

A team was on the way to Yorke Peninsula to assess losses from the Yorketown fire which, according to an incident controller, has blackened about 4,000 hectares.

Yorke Peninsula Mayor Darren Braund said at least one house had already been lost in the fire, adding he had spoken to the owner of the property.

Temperatures soared across South Australia, with more than a dozen locations recording November temperature records of up to 48 degrees.

Strong winds also led to catastrophic conditions being declared in several regions including the Mid North, Kangaroo Island and the Mount Lofty Ranges.

CFS spokeswoman Ali Martin earlier said resources had been directed to protect properties near Yorketown.

"There are assets under threat, either homes or sheds under threat, so our firebombing and ground resources are working to save those," she said.

More than 6,000 properties across the state remain without power — including almost 600 customers on the Yorke Peninsula.

Paul Roberts from SA Power Networks said it could take considerable time before crews could get back into the area.

"We're going to be looking at an extended outage really, we are not out of the catastrophic conditions yet," he said.

The CFS says it responded to at least 45 fires across South Australia on Wednesday.

CFS acting deputy chief Rob Sandford praised volunteer firefighters for an "amazing" effort.

"We've seen some 45 different fires across the state that the CFS has responded to," he said.

Hail storm causes huge losses to SA growers

Riverland growers are assessing the damage to crops after a sudden hailstorm cut through the region two weeks ago.

Properties hardest hit were in Barmera, Monash, Glossop, and parts of Renmark and crops damaged included grapes, stone fruit, nuts, and grain.

According to ABC Riverland, three years ago, a devastating hailstorm hit properties from Taylorville to Yamba and had an estimated combined damage bill of \$100 million.

Renmark stone fruit grower Chris Pavlomanolakos speaking to the Greek Tribune, said his property was in the path of the storm destroying the majority of his crop in a matter of minutes.

"It's not a viable option to select and pack the non damaged fruit as most of the apricots have been marked by the hail. The market does not want marked fruit. Even if I can find a market to send my fruit as second grade, we won't be able to recover the huge costs for picking, packing and transport. It's a huge catastrophe," he said.

Mr Pavlomanolakos said he is not the only affected grower in Renmark.

"There are many more who were in the path of the hail

storm".

There is little growers can do to protect their crops from hail damage and few have insurance due to the uncertainty and cost.

Stone fruit industry representative Tim Grieger has called on the Government to support the industry by making hail insurance more affordable.

"There is insurance out there but it is so cost-prohibitive and unworkable that no grower can get it," he said.

Glossop grower George Simos said the hail hit just minutes after he saw the storm approaching.

"I've lost here probably 80 per cent of my merlot [wine grape] crop, out of 200 tonne," Mr Simos said.

He said the hail damage meant he would not harvest this year but would need to continue to water and spray his vines to maintain them for future crops.

"This has never happened to me before, I'm a bit numb at the moment," he said.

Berri Barmera Mayor Peter Hunt compared the damage to the November 2016 storm.

"For me it looks like a path about a kilometre, two kilometres wide. There are affected areas but it hasn't affected ones right next door," Mr Hunt said.



Glossop grower George Simos accessing the damage on his vineyard (ABC photo)

"It only lasted a few minutes but that's what caused all the damage, the hailstones were ranging from marble size up to close on golf ball size."

He said the storm was the last thing growers needed while already coping with dry conditions and reduced water availability.

Minister for Primary Industries Tim Whetstone said department staff was in the region after the storm assessing the damage.

"Just to know whether we are going to call on the Commonwealth for disaster relief or

whether there's a lower level of help needed," Mr Whetstone said.

He said there were reports already of entire crop losses from stone fruit, grape, and nut properties, as well as scarring and damage in the fruit and vines.

"The damage is quite varied, just as it is in our dryland sector, the farmers out there are in the midst of harvest and we've seen some damage."

Mr Whetstone said the impact on individual growers would vary depending on whether it was their primary source of income or if they had off-farm work.

Henley Beach Greek festival

The Greek Orthodox Community of SA presents the 'Go-Greek Festival' on 12 January at Henley Beach incorporating the 2020 Annual Blessing of the Waters.

If you enjoy traditional Greek food, music, dance and festivals, then come along to wonderful Henley Beach for a Greek celebration for all to enjoy. Free entry all day — great family fun!

The Blessing of the Waters ceremony is an interesting event that everyone enjoys and one which is unique and sacred. The most exciting is where the holy cross is thrown into the waters. As the cross is thrown in by a priest, men plunge into the waters to catch it and try to outrace each other. Whoever manages to be the first and bring it out is believed to be blessed with good luck.

Every year, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most sacred days, the Feast of Epiphany. Epiphany celebrates the Baptism of Jesus Christ in the

Community Life



GOCSA's Dance Academy performed at Scott Theatre on 2 November as part of this year's Odyssey Festival

River Jordan. It is also known as the Feast of Theofania because it is when the Most Holy Trinity is revealed to the world through the Baptism of the Lord. On the Day of Epiphany, the Church blesses the sea, the seashores, the islands and those whose livelihood is dependent upon the sea. Everyone is welcome.

City's Cathedral celebration

Members of GOCSA's Administrative Council as well as hundreds of the Community's members attended a two-day event that marked the name day celebrations for Ade-

elaide's first Greek Orthodox Church, the cathedral of Archangels Michael & Gabriel on Franklin Street, on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 November 2019.

Thursday night the Community's clergy conducted the Great Celebrative Evening Vesper in the presence of the Executive Council members as well as dozens of parishioners.

The two-day event continued on Friday morning as hundreds of parishioners came to the Cathedral to attend the Great Divine Liturgy, including the President Bill Gonis and members of the Administrative Council. The Divine Liturgy concluded with the traditional procession of the holy icon around the church. The morning service was followed by lunch at Olympic Hall featuring all the favourite grilled delicacies whereas the ladies from the Greek Women Society prepared the popular honey puffs 'loukoumades'.

GREEK TRIBUNE

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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



LEFT: The Ladies Auxiliary of the Saint Nicholas church of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, organised a very successful fashion parade on 10 November, in collaboration with the Fashion From Heaven store, situated on Henley Beach Road Lockleys. Around two hundred local women and quite a few men attended the impressive fashion parade at the St Nicholas Thebarton Hall. In the photo, members of the organising team amongst the beautiful models from Heaven



The Greek Womens Society of SA "Taxiarhis", held its annual "Melbourne Cup" get together event at the Goodwood Community Centre on 5 November. In the photo members of the committee amongst other members of the group, exhibiting their Melbourne cup hats.

Archbishop to proceed with controversial plan to develop resort on ancient site

Nicosia: Green Party leader Yiorgos Perdakis and Transport Minister Vasiliki Anastasiadou clashed on Thursday over excavations of an ancient site at Yeroskipou - in Paphos.

The Yeroskipou site belongs to the church and the archbishop wants to develop the area but postponed his plans after the unexpected antiquities' discovery.

Anastasiadou told MPs at a House transport committee meeting that the excavations had been completed. Her comment was contradicted by Perdakis who said he had

contacted Marina Solomidou, head of the antiquities department a few weeks ago.

Solomidou said that she had spoken to the archbishop who gave the green light for the excavations to proceed.

The government is expected to explain how it will assist the archbishop's plans to develop the area after refusing to swap the piece of land for another nearby to protect the site of significant archaeological interest. The plans foresee the construction of a tourist resort of two tower blocks and a hotel.

An Akel-led protest took place in Septem-

ber against the church's plans to build on the archaeological site. Demonstrators argued that cultural heritage belongs to the people and demanded an alternative management of the location by the state.

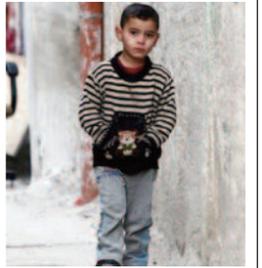
The Cyprus Archdiocese has been investing heavily in the island's hotel industry in the post 1974 era making it the most profitable corporation on the island and the second largest employer after the state. It refuses however to pay the salaries of its priests and insists they continue to be paid by the state at the expense of the tax payer.

Nearly 5,000 Unaccompanied Minors Currently in Greece

Some 4,962 unaccompanied minors currently live in Greece, the National Center of Social Solidarity reported on Wednesday, while only one in four are accommodated in humane conditions.

The main problems these children face concern very limited access to basic housing, food and water, and lack of legal representation, according to refugee support organizations.

"Some 1,117 unaccompanied minors live at the Moria hotspot (Lesvos island), of whom 140 live in long-term accommodation facilities and 350 in slightly better facilities there, yet none of them have access to interpreters, welfare officers or psychologists," said Elina Sarantou of HIAS, a Jewish-American non for profit organization that provides humanitarian aid and assistance to refugees.



"The most shocking data, however," added Gabriel Sakellaris, Greece's Director of Amnesty International, "is that some 1,200 unaccompanied minors have gone missing and are most likely exposed to serious perils, wandering beyond and away of any official protection systems."

Nearly half of all recorded refugee population in 2018 were children, say international humanitarian organisations, while in Greece children continue to account for one third of all migrant arrivals, according to 2019 figures so far.

Greek and Roman ancient cemetery found in Egypt

The Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities announced recently that an ancient Greek and Roman cemetery has been discovered in Ismailia.

According to reports, the cemetery has multiple levels. The upper levels date back to ancient Greek and Roman times, while the lower are from Egypt's pre-dynastic eras.

The Ministry of Antiquities' mission working in Ismailia, called the Hassan Dawood archaeological area, has unearthed a part of a multi-layered cemetery

"dating back to the Roman, Greek, and pre-dynastic eras," the statement of the country's Ministry noted on Thursday.

Nadia Khadr, the head of the Central Department of Nile Delta Antiquities, said that the first layer contains both mass graves and individual graves.

These were made of mud bricks and date back to Greek and Roman times.

Ismailia, a city in northeastern Egypt, is also known as the "City of Beauty and Enchantment."

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Charter of Aged Care Rights

- I have the right to:
- safe and high quality care and services
 - be treated with dignity and respect
 - have my identity, culture and diversity valued and supported
 - live without abuse and neglect
 - be informed about my care and services in a way I understand
 - access all information about myself, including information about my rights, care and services
 - have control over and make choices about my care, and personal and social life, including where the choices involve personal risk
 - have control over, and make decisions about, the personal aspects of my daily life, financial affairs and possessions
 - my independence
 - be listened to and understood
 - have a person of my choice, including an aged care advocate, support me or speak on my behalf
 - complain free from reprisal, and to have my complaints dealt with fairly and promptly
 - personal privacy and to have my personal information protected
 - exercise my rights without it adversely affecting the way I am treated.