



# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## Group takes legal action over oil drilling in the Bight

A legal challenge against plans to drill for oil in the Great Australian Bight has been launched in the Federal Court.

The Wilderness Society is taking the national regulator — the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) — to court after it granted conditional environmental approval to Norwegian oil company Equinor to conduct drilling. The society alleges Equinor did not consult "important and relevant parties", which it said was required by regulations.

Equinor, which is majority owned by the Norwegian Government, plans to drill its Stromlo-1 exploration well 372 kilometres south of the Nullarbor coastline, off South Australia.

Last month's environmental approval will allow the company to drill 24 hours a day for about 60 days between November and April in either 2020-21 or 2021-22.

Drilling in the Bight has been fiercely opposed by environmental groups concerned about the threat of a catastrophic oil spill.

NOPSEMA's environ-

mental approval process took eight months, with the authority reviewing more than 30,000 submissions and twice requiring Equinor to modify and resubmit its plans.

Equinor plans to use a mobile offshore drilling unit, supported by three ships and two helicopters.

The Wilderness Society is a member of the Great Australian Bight Alliance, a group of environmental organisations along with the Mirning Indigenous people, whose traditional lands cover far south-eastern Western Australia.

At the announcement of its court action in front of the Federal Court building in Adelaide's CBD, the society said Equinor refused to formally consult with it or other environment groups on its plans.

It also accused the oil company of refusing to formally consult with "key indigenous groups and local governments". Present at the launch of the legal action in the CBD, were Sea Shepherd Australia's Jeff Hansen, Mirning elder Bunna Lawrie, the Wilderness Society's Peter Owen and Holdfast Bay Mayor Amanda Wilson.

## A MESSAGE FROM GREECE "Stay Strong Australia!"



A group of Greek volunteers who are working to restore the Athens resorts of Mati and Neos Voutsas, which were nearly destroyed by the deadly fires of July 2018, sent a heartfelt message of solidarity to Australia's bush fire victims last weekend.

The "We4all" group, comprised of volunteers, students and artists who are planting thousands of trees at Mati and Neos Voutsas, dedicated their weekend volunteer session to Australia by hoisting a banner which read "Stay Strong Australia."

The group posted a Facebook message say-

ing "Seventeen months ago everything was burned to the ground here. We lost thousands of our trees, our homes, our stores — but worst of all, we lost 102 of our beloved people.

"We understand you, Australia... We know what it's like to lose it all, to look around you and not recognize anything, to live through this never-ending nightmare.

The We4all group concluded their message by stating "Today, we are planting 1,000 trees as a sign of solidarity... You will rise up and you will be reborn. Stay Strong Australia!"

### GREEK TRIBUNE

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## 26th January marked in many ways

Leading Melbourne's Australia Day parade was a "very emotional, huge honour" for members of the Maccacoota fire brigade who travelled from the fire-devastated far east of the state for the event.

Australia Day celebrations and citizenship ceremonies were held across the country on Saturday, alongside 'Invasion Day' rallies.

The Maccacoota fire truck was at the head of the Melbourne procession, drawing cheers from tens of thousands of people along the route.

The bushfires have destroyed 123 homes in the Maccacoota area so far this fire season.

"It was very emotional, a huge honour, especially seeing the crowd, the appreciation that

came from that and of course the smiles and waves we got from our bosses," Maccacoota fire brigade captain Rod Lewis said.

"For the first time ever I felt really proud.

Around the country, hundreds of people were recognised through the Australia Day honours list for their contribution to the community on a local, state and national scale.

Space to play or pause, M to mute, left and right arrows to seek, up and down arrows for volume.

Eye surgeon James Muecke received the Australian of the Year award for his work preventing blindness.

While many celebrated Australia Day, a significant number of Australians who regard the day



Volunteer fire fighters deserve to be called "heros"

as the beginning of colonial oppression staged protest events.

Tens of thousands of people gathered for Invasion Day rallies in the nation's capital cities including Sydney, where demon-

strators congregated in a packed Hyde Park.

January 26 marks the anniversary of the First Fleet's arrival in Port Jackson, New South Wales.

## Thousands attend the Blessing of the Waters

An unprecedented crowd attended the Blessing of the Waters ceremony and festival at Henley Beach on Sunday January 12th, organised by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia.

Perfect weather conditions and Greek hospitality by the seaside, well, you couldn't ask for a better place to be.

Long queues started forming from as early as 11.00am outside the food stalls as this year's menu featured new enticing items making it a pure Greek food heaven for the festival goers.

The much-anticipated Blessing of the Waters ceremony and the throwing of the cross from Henley jetty drew around 20 swimmers, each one hoping to be the lucky one to retrieve it from the water.

This year the lucky swimmer was 25-year-old Kostas Ninos who literally caught the cross in the air.

"I was practising a lot to be able to do something like that, it was through footy practice really that helped me," said Kostas.

The 25-year-old man was



Record crowd attended the Greek Orthodox Community SA Blessing of the Waters at Henley Beach

presented with a gold cross and a trophy by the Community's President Mr Bill Gonis and Archimandrite Markos Papanagioutou who also gave him his blessings.

During the official part of the festival, the Hon Vickie Chapman MP, Attorney General and Deputy Premier who attended on behalf of the Premier of S.A. Hon Steven Marshall congratulated Kosta for his effort and thanked the Greek community of organising such an important event for Adelaide.

Ms Katrine Hildyard, Member for Reynell and Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Mark Butler, Member

for Hindmarsh and Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt were also in the guest speakers list.

Other official guests that attended the Festival were His Excellency the Hon Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia, The Hon Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, Mr Frank Pangallo MLC, SA Best and Mr Michael Coxon, Mayor of the City of West Torrens

The Festival's grounds took off with some of Adelaide's most popular Greek and multicultural dance groups.

The traditions of Crete and other Greek regions were featured in the Dance Academy of

the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.'s program. Meanwhile the Dance Group of the Pontian Brotherhood of S.A. showcased some of the powerful dances of Pontus.

For those who were trying to stay fit especially after the Xmas period, Opa-Cize, a Greek dance Fitness Group helped burn at least two melomakarona with their dance routines.

Dazzling colours and super energetic dance performances by the Slava Ukrainian Cultural Centre mesmerised the audience.

The Festival continued with live music by Greek band 'Notes' until early evening.

## New Year Celebrations

Almost four hundred Greek community members welcomed 2020 in true Greek fashion at Olympic Hall on Tuesday 31 December 2019. The Cultural Committee made the last night of 2019 literally a memorable one for the guests.

Delicious Greek food for even the most eclectic, dance music by the band Zeus and endless fun in a very family atmosphere gave a positive, festive start to the new year. The New Year's Ball was the last event of the Community for 2019 and was sealed with great success. Theodora Smith was the lucky winner to receive a gold pound on the night's door prize draw.

Meanwhile, the traditional cutting of the New Year's cake was held, Thursday, January 2, 2020 following the custom at the Community Hall in Adelaide, in the presence of clergy, dignitaries and many members of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia (GOCSA). The President of the Commu-

## Community Life



From left, Helen Mermingis, Peter Ppiros, Leader of the Opposition Peter Malinauskas and Bill Gonis during last week's GOCSA - 5EBI Radiothon in aid of the victims of the Australian bushfires, which raised over \$20,000

nity shared cordial wishes for "Happy New Year" to the community members while he warmly thanked the volunteers and members of the Community for their continuous support.

The ladies of the Women's Fellowships brought in the homemade cakes, while the for-

tunate one to find the lucky coin was Mrs Irene Egglezos.

### Cyprus Festival on 8 and 9 February

The Cyprus Community of South Australia will host its annual Cyprus Festival on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 February

at its own premises, 6 - 8 Barppowel St Welland.

The festival will highlight the traditions of Cyprus through a variety of activities including dance, music, delicious food and sweets. It will also cater for the children with games and activities.

The festival will bring from Cyprus, for the second time, the popular singer Chris Anastasiou along with the talented Vasiliki Hadjiadamou and musical sensation Michalis Kouloumis on the violin. They will be performing live at the Cyprus Community Festival 2020 supported by the local Band Kosmos!

The local Cyprus dance group will be one of the main attractions as well as other local dance groups that will perform at the festival. The Greek Orthodox Community SA Dance Academy will appear at the festival on Sunday afternoon at 5.00pm.

Main sponsors of this year's festival are, the Bank of Sydney, Specialty Foods and the South Australian Government.

Entry is free on both days and everyone is welcome!



**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 Greek Orthodox Community of SA celebrated the Blessing of the Waters on 12 January followed by a Greek Festival on Henley Square, attended by thousands of community members. In the photo, are, amongst others, Mark Buttler MP, Minister Vicki Chapman representing Premier Marshall, mayor of Charles Sturt Council Angela Evans and Bill Gonis President of GOCSA.



The Leader of the Opposition Peter Malinauskas at the Henley Square Festival speaking with Greek Community SA volunteers judge Nick Alexandrides and brother Con Alexandrides



In the 5EBI studio during the Greek Community radiothon in support of the Australian Bushfire victims, Minister Assisting the Premier Jing Lee speaking to Peter Ppiros, Bill Gonis and Paul Demetriou



Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas visited Greece and Cyprus early in the new year and discussed current developments with political leaders. In the photo, with Leader of the Opposition in Greece Alexis Tsipras

Almost four hundred community members attended the Greek Community New Year's Eve Dinner Dance at Olympic Hall. In the photo, Father Christmas offering gifts to children



**Cyprus calls Turkey a "pirate state" over illegal drilling**

Cyprus called Turkey a "pirate state" on Sunday after Ankara announced that the Turkish research vessel "Yavuz" will soon conduct a new series of hydrocarbon research and drillings south of the island.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of Turkey Hami Aksoy announced that the Turkish vessel arrived at the broader area south of Cyprus, where it will conduct its third attempt to drill in an area that's already licensed to energy companies Eni of Italy and Total of France.

This would be Turkey's fourth such drilling effort since last July when it dispatched a pair of warship-escorted drill ships to the island's west and east. It would also mark the second time a Turkish ship was drilling in a block licensed to Eni and Total.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus condemned Turkey's newly planned illegal drilling within the Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf of the country.

In a statement issued last week, the Presi-

dency of the Republic pointed out that Turkey provocatively ignores the repeated calls by the international community and the European Union, to terminate its illegal activities in Cyprus' EEZ.

"It is now attempting to carry out new illegal drilling in the southern EEZ/continental shelf of Cyprus, inside exploration block 8, which was duly licensed to the European companies ENI and TOTAL; this new attempted drilling constitutes yet another flagrant violation of the sovereign rights and jurisdiction of the Republic of Cyprus under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea," the Cypriot Presidency noted.

Greece's foreign ministry said in a statement Sunday that Turkey's latest action comes on top of numerous violations of international law in the wider region that aim "to serve expansionist aspirations."

The ministry said in a statement that such breaches of international law won't be made legal no matter how many times they're repeated.

**Volunteers Needed at the Greek Community**

At the Greek Orthodox Community Care Services we are always looking for volunteers for our programs.

If you have some spare time and you want to provide some assistance we offer a variety of volunteer opportunities across our community care programs including:

- Volunteer Drivers to drive the Community bus or their own car
- Assist with activities or in the kitchen at

our Seniors groups

- Assist clients to attend social activities
- Assist clients with shopping
- Accompanying clients to medical appointments
- Assist with Friendly visiting

National Police clearance required. All out of pocket expenses are reimbursed.

For more information please contact Katerina Giannakis - 7088 0500.

**A woman nominated as new President of the Hellenic Republic**

Greek parliamentarians approved overwhelmingly last week the nomination of top judge Katerina Sakellariopoulou as new President of the Hellenic Republic.

With conservative New Democracy, leftist SYRIZA and center-left Movement for Change backing the president of the Council of State, the 63-year-old got 261 votes in the 300-strong assembly.

She would succeed incumbent Prokopis Pavlopoulos, whose term ends on March 13.

Although the office of president is ceremonial, Greek PM's Mitsotakis' choice gives a clear signal that things are changing in Greece regarding gender equality. The selection for the country's highest office "honors both justice and the modern Greek woman," Sakellariopoulou said in her remarks accepting the nomination.

"I accept the proposal and, if elected, will devote all my efforts to serving this high duty, as set out by the constitution," the long-time judge stated.

A survey conducted by Greece's Research Center for Gender Equality (KETHI) in April

of 2019 found that 72 percent of Greeks believe that the country needs more women in politics, and their reluctance to participate is harmful to democracy itself.

However, another survey by the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE) released in October 2019 shows that, with 51.2 out of 100 points, Greece ranks absolutely last in the EU on the Gender Equality Index. Gender inequalities are most pronounced in the domain termed "power" (24.3 points).

Greece went on to improve its Index rankings between 2005 and 2017, but still had a much lower mark than the average EU score throughout the entire period.

The percentage of women holding executive positions in Greece is increasing but it is still well below the European Union average. According to a March, 2019 Eurostat survey, women account for only 32 percent of all managerial positions in Greece, while the EU average is 36 percent.

Women account for less than one tenth of board members at

the EU level, just over one quarter, or 27 percent, of board members are women.

Against this background the choice of Sakellariopoulou as Greece's President is a significant move signaling that gender equality is vital for the future of the nation.

The judge, born in Thessaloniki in 1956, has moved rapidly up the hierarchy of the Greek legal system. She was elected unanimously as the head of the Council of State in October of 2018.

Sakellariopoulou has also served as President of the Hellenic Society for Environmental Law since 2015, and has actively worked on large cases involving the environment, including the diversion of the Acheloos River in Thessaly and the preservation of the historic refugee buildings on Alexandras Avenue in Athens.

Her nomination, and almost certain appointment as the new President of the Hellenic Republic, provides an impetus for Greek women to challenge the near-total male domination in other spheres of society and economy.



President designate of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellariopoulou

The heroines of the Greek War of Independence, such as Laskarina Bouboulina, Manto Mavrogenous, Rallou Karatza and the women of Epirus, as well as the unsung heroines of the Greek-Italian War, clearly showed the tremendous contribution women have made for the defense of Hellenism.

Sakellariopoulou now has a good opportunity to become the champion of contemporary women in their quest to attain equal status in modern Greek society.

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Charter of Aged Care Rights**

I have the right to:

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