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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### CEO calls on country mums to have their babies at North Eastern

The new CEO of an Adelaide hospital has called on country mums to have their babies at North Eastern Community Hospital when they are not able to have them at a regional hospital. Mothers-to-be are required to travel to Adelaide to have their babies in certain clinical circumstances, such as premature births, multiple births and other obstetric complications. Ms Smith says that rather than going to one of the large city hospitals, privately insured country women and uninsured woman seeking a private hospital may prefer a small, family-friendly community hospital such as North Eastern.

"We are blessed in SA with high quality public and private hospitals of all sizes," Ms Smith said.

"However, country mums may prefer to have their babies at a smaller community hospital in a family-friendly environment, rather than at one of the major public hospitals.

"In many ways our hospital operates much like a country hospital, in that we are strongly connected to our local community and our staff really get to know our patients."

Ms Smith has extensive experience in country health, serv-

ing as Eyre Far North Regional Director with Country Health SA for 11 years.

About 500 babies are born each year at North Eastern Community Hospital, compared to thousands of babies each year at the large metropolitan hospitals, which Michele Smith says allows North Eastern to provide mums with a very personal experience in a caring environment.

"We really try to create a home away from home for country mums, with family accommodation available on site adjacent the hospital."

The call comes as a newly refurbished nursery for new born babies has been unveiled at North Eastern Community Hospital.

The \$77,000 makeover was undertaken to modernise the existing space and improve comfort and functionality for parents and their babies.

North Eastern Community Hospital offer services in General Surgery, Medical, Obstetrics, Orthopaedics, Laparoscopic Surgery, Gynaecology, Gastroenterology, Dental and Residential Aged Care. The North Eastern Community Hospital complex is community owned, not-for-profit, and is focused on providing quality clinical services to the local community.

## UN supports return of ancient artifacts to owners

Following the discussion of a draft resolution brought to the United Nation's General Assembly by Greece, the body adopted without a vote a resolution for the "return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin" on December 13.

This major development is seen by many as a Greek victory in the long dispute with the United Kingdom over the issue of the Parthenon marbles which were taken by Thomas Bruce, the 7th Earl of Elgin.

The official announcement issued by the UN notes, "by its terms, the Assembly calls upon all relevant bodies, agencies, funds, and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to address the issue of return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin and to provide appropriate

support accordingly".

During the discussion, the Greek representative to the UN, Maria Theofili argued that "the international community shares a common responsibility to protect cultural property", adding that "the past few decades were characterized by an increase in the illicit trafficking of such artifacts".

Theofili also warned that "the conflict in the Middle East is leading to unprecedented destruction, looting and theft" noting that "the text highlights the direct link between such illicit trafficking and terrorism".

The announcement of the UN, mentions that joining Greece's call, the representative of Libya noted that over the past 500 years, his country has been subjected to plundering of its cultural heritage, with Libyan artifacts being on display

around the world, "including pillars that adorn the garden of a certain European royal family". In recent years, widespread theft of ancient artifacts has also occurred in Iraq and Syria.

The Parthenon Marbles, also known as Elgin Marbles are a collection of ancient Greek marble sculptures made under the supervision of the famous architect and sculptor Phidias and his assistants. They were originally part of the Parthenon and other buildings on the Acropolis of Athens but in the early 19th century, Thomas Bruce, the 7th Earl of Elgin removed nearly half of the Parthenon sculptures, as well as sculptures from the Propylaea and Erechtheum temples of the Acropolis. The Marbles were transported by sea to Britain and are now exhibited in the British Museum of London.

## Extreme heatwave

Extreme heatwaves are forecast to sweep through parts of Australia over the Christmas and New Year period, with some locations set to swelter in the 40s for days on average temperatures up to 12 degrees higher than usual.

It is part of a sustained heatwave affecting parts of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

In the days after Christmas, the mercury will push 46 degrees Celsius at Coober Pedy in South Australia, Mildura in Victoria and Hay in New South Wales.

It will be the first time that Mildura, on the Murray River in Victoria's north-west, has had six consecutive December days above 40C, with the previous record of five days set in 1931. Adelaide has reached 41C on Thursday and Sunday.

Sarah Fitton, an extreme weather meteorologist with the Bureau of Meteorology, said heat had been building up through central parts of Western Australia.

"No cold fronts to flush that hot air away in WA and it will start to increase even further over the south-eastern states," she said.

## Australian Water Ministers agree on Murray-Darling Basin Plan

Delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan has been secured with state and federal governments agreeing to terms about how environmental water will be returned to rivers.

Up to 450 gigalitres will be returned to the environment, provided it does not have a negative socio-economic impact on river communities, based on criteria agreed to by the states.

Federal Water Minister David Littleproud said today's agreement, with state water ministers, would provide certainty for the 2 million Australians who live within the Basin.

"For the first time since Federation, all the basin states and the Commonwealth have agreed on the management of the Murray-Darling Basin system," Mr Littleproud said.

"We've reached an agreement on the 450 gigalitres and the socio-economic test, one that respects the parameters of the legislation that was put in 2012, that's all we've done."

The criteria, yet to be released, will allow up to 450 gigalitres to be returned to the environment, in addition to the original 2750 gigalitres under the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

Victorian Water Minister Lisa Neville said the same socio-economic test would apply across the states.

"That does give certainty to communities to know that we've got their backs, we want to make sure that they are thriving businesses and thriving communities and we are also delivering for the environment."

As part of the agreement,

SA Water Minister David Speirs secured federal funding for environmental projects in the Coorong and Adelaide's desalination plant.

Mr Speirs said he had "reached out to his fellow ministers, to negotiate with them, not to roll over, but negotiate in a robust and respectful way and the agreement we have reached today is truly historic".

NSW used today's meeting in Melbourne to call for the decentralisation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

"You can't implement or monitor a plan like this from a high-rise tower in Canberra, you need to have people on the ground within the Murray-Darling Basin," NSW Water Minister Niall Blair said.

The ministers also agreed to expand the board of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to include



indigenous representation. Earlier, hundreds of protesters had gathered outside calling for the deal to protect their community and the environment.

Shelley Scoullar, from community group Speak UP, said environmental water could not be delivered at the detriment of communities.

"The ministers are in there now making a decision that if they do not get this right, they are going to decimate rural communities, decimate farmers and we don't want that," Ms Scoullar said.

## Community sector condemns social security cuts for migrants

The Australian Council of Social Service has today condemned the Parliament's decision to cut \$1.2 billion from social security for recent migrants.

"This decision will hurt people and their children trying to build a life in Australia. Our social security system should be built on equality," said Dr Cassandra Goldie, ACSSS CEO.

"We know that migrants make a huge contribution to the community. The Government's legislation that passed the Parliament last night,

with the support of the Australian Labor Party, One Nation, Derryn Hinch, Brian Burston and David Leyonhjelm, says to migrants that you are not as valued as the rest of us. This policy will hurt people for a long time to come.

"Instead of making life harder for people, our Parliament should focus on how to reduce poverty and inequality to ensure all of us can thrive. Our Parliament should focus on reducing division in our communities, and develop policies based on compassion and respect."

## GOCSA's response to joint celebration

Confusion was recently created by an inaccurate report in an interstate newspaper on the position of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA in regards to the call by the South Australian Chief Justice Chris Kourakis for a joint celebration of the National Day of Greece by GOCSA and Archdiocese under the auspices of the Greek Consul. The Greek Tribune urges the Chief Justice to get an accurate translation of recent interstate (Neos Kosmos 6/12/2018) report, in which he appears to be criticizing GOCSA's response. To clarify the matter, the Greek Tribune publishes below the letter sent by GOCSA's President Bill Gonis to the Chief Justice Chris Kourakis:

"In response to your letter of 28 May 2018, GOCSA has consulted widely beyond our Community. Our challenge is to assist the Consul-General in SA to apply the secular polity of Australia and that of the European Union of which Greece is a member.

During the Greek National Day celebrations conducted in Australia, the Hellenic Republic should separate the secular and Church services with Australian law taking precedence over Greek law. This includes noting the Autocephalous Church has since 1976 held equivalent recognition as a denomination with the Archdiocese of Australia. The Church of Greece has no

## Community Life



For many decades, all major Greek anniversaries are remembered at the memorial outside the Greek Cathedral on Franklin street and attended by State officials including the Governor, Premiers and Mayors

such standing in Australia. Nor is it able to pursue any Church practice of Greece in Australia or confer/extend that Church's constitutional rights to the Archdiocese of Australia via the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Archdiocese rejects your view that they do not exercise any civil authority over public spaces in Australia, as demonstrated in 2017 when it usurped the conduct of the National Day Celebration at the War Memorial. Despite the SA Consul-General's pre-emptive registration in 2018 to conduct a secular War Memorial service, the Archdiocese in defiance conducted a religious service at the Cross of Remembrance.

The Consul-General has the onus to make a determination of not permitting any religious service at the secular state

event by upholding the view that: "Ecclesiastical authorities do not exercise any civil authority over public spaces in Australia."

The Trisagion religious service can be performed in the respective Church precincts of the Archdiocese and Autocephalous Churches and not at the War Memorial. By accepting each Church as equivalent under Australian law, the Consul-General in SA simultaneously safeguards GOCSA's independent authority under its Constitution.

The Archdiocese and Autocephalous Church are to conduct the religious Trisagion service in their respective Churches prior to the commencement of the Hellenic Republic's secular War Memorial Service. Clerics from the Archdiocese and Autocephalous Churches may attend the secular

service as observers.

The Greek National Day is to be celebrated as a Greek State event in accord with Australian secular protocol. GOCSA and the Archdiocese are to respect the Consul General's sole leadership role during a secular Greek State event.

GOCSA welcomes the opportunity to assist the Consul General in SA to achieve a mutually satisfactory outcome for the broader Greek community".

Readers are reminded that a joint celebration at North Terrace memorial was tried in the 80's but it didn't succeed because religious differences were brought into it - certainly not by GOCSA.

If a joint celebration is to ever succeed in the future, people must accept the fact that there are two separate, legitimate Greek church authorities in Adelaide and that's not going to change. We all need to try and understand pluralism and multiculturalism and learn to accept and respect other people's cultural, religious and political beliefs. The bottom line is, we are all part of a free democratic society and we are all equal.

There are many different Christian denominations within the Australian society. Does that cause a problem to Australia Day or ANZAC Day celebrations? Absolutely not! Then, let's just learn to live like the rest of Australians, be tolerant to everyone and most importantly keep religious beliefs completely out of secular life.

## GREEK COMMUNITY 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



**RIGHT:** The Greek Orthodox Community of SA held its annual Christmas volunteers dinner on 13 December attracting over 300 people. In the photo, are, Frank Pangallo MLC with wife Angela and Martha Ioannides.

Former Speaker Michael Atkinson with Ellie Speis and Maria Gazecimeon at the GOCSA Christmas dinner



GOCSA President Bill Gonis and new committee members with Assistant Minister Jing Lee and Charles Sturt Mayor Angela Evans at the GOCSA Christmas Dinner



Assistant Minister Jing Lee with husband Eddie, Dora Koutroukiois and Barbara Diakos at the GOCSA Christmas Dinner



An election was held on 9 December at the Greek Orthodox Community of SA for a new administrative council for a two year term. While most Greek and non Greek community associations in SA are struggling to attract new committee members, at the GOCSA there was no shortage of candidates. A total of 34 contested the election for a seat on the 15 member committee and almost 500 members voted on election day. Bill Gonis was re-elected President and Paul Demetriou is the new Vice President. Peter Ppiros is now the General Secretary of GOCSA and Peter Gardiakos has been elected as the new Treasurer. In the photo, the new committee together with the electoral committee and the Supervisory Committee.

**FAMILY EVENT!**

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Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.

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**2018**

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@ OLYMPIC HALL, 288 Franklin St, Adelaide

ENTRY \$50 INCLUDING 4 COURSE MEAL. AGES 12-17 \$25. KIDS UNDER 12 FREE.

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## Australian campaign encourages communities to anonymously report drug dealing activity

Australian's are being asked to help Crime Stoppers and the Australian Police Service disrupt the manufacture and supply of drugs in the local area by reporting anything they know about drugdealing offences.

The Dob in a Dealer campaign is a nation-wide program funded by the Federal Government to stop Australia's supply chain of illicit drugs including methylamphetamine (ice), cocaine, MDMA, heroin and cannabis.

Crime Stoppers National Executive Officer, Lillian Montague said, "Crime Stoppers is an inclusive organisation and a trusted service that is independent of the Australian Federal Police Service.

"We are a natural partner for community safety and crime prevention and rely on the general public to anonymously report suspicious criminal activity, so we can work with Australia's law enforcement to help keep our communities safe," she said.

Every year, Crime Stoppers launches national and state-based initiatives to raise awareness of specific crimes taking place within Australia's communities to increase the information being reported by the general public.

Crime Stoppers Dob in a Dealer campaign encourages public support to help police intervene with criminals and organised crime

gangs responsible for the manufacture and supply of these drugs and alleviate the cost to Australian communities.

"Criminal drug related activity is not only costing millions of dollars in healthcare and law enforcement, but it is tragically and unnecessarily costing human lives," Mrs Montague said.

"Through Dob in a Dealer, we're not asking you to dob in your mates. We're asking you to be a mate, and look after the welfare for friends, family and colleagues by reporting to Crime Stoppers

anything you have seen or heard that could relate to the import, manufacture or supply of illicit drugs. You don't have to have the complete story. Your small piece of information could be the missing piece of the puzzle."

Community events are being held around the nation to raise awareness for the Dob in a Dealer campaign.

The last Dob in a Dealer campaign which ran from February 2016 to March 2017 saw a 95 percent increase in the number of reports made concerning drug related activity and contributed to the seizure of more than \$860,000 worth of drugs.

If you have any information about someone who is manufacturing or dealing drugs, you can call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au). You can remain anonymous.

## Melbourne Film Makers with Big Plans

Stella Dimadis, George Donikian and Naomi Lisner are not just great film makers are also great friends. They meet up on a regular basis to discuss upcoming projects. How are they all connected?

In 2011 Stella cast Naomi to be in her short film Just a Memory and again the following year on her next project a short film called The Interview. Stella has certainly been keeping busy making award winning documentaries. Recently she completed the successful Migrants Stories and her next project is another documentary called The Art of Healing.

George and Naomi met in 2013 when they were both cast in the comedy Caravans for Refugees along with Helen Kapalos. Like with Stella, they became instant friends. George and Naomi have since worked several times together. In 2017 George played a news reader in the feature film Tracy that Naomi co-produced and was directed by her business partner Derek Erskine. George has a role as a Greek committee member in another Derek Erskine feature Heart of Fury. The film is about the last few years of Lord Byron's life and the Greek war of Independence.

George has just returned from Europe where he was making a documentary on Armenia. George produced and directed with a talented local crew.

Naomi was in Spain when George was in Armenia. Naomi picked up a special award for her short film called Hannah Rosenthal at the 30th Girona film festival. The film has been winning awards around the world and attracted an international distribution deal with Intellect Pictures.

At the moment, Naomi is making another short film that she wrote called L'Chaim, with the hopes of returning to Spain for the 31st Girona film festival with her cast. Meanwhile, Lisner has won awards internationally her writing including best female writer at the West Field screen writing awards in New York, for her comedy feature The Imbalance.

Like Stella, Naomi is passionate about the imbalance in the film industry and addresses it with humour. The comedy is about two actresses over 50 after divorce trying to get work in a male dominated industry that idolises youth. When she approached George and asked if he was interested in being in the show, there was an enthusiastic yes. Will they all work together on a project? Let's hope so.