



# GREEK TRIBUNE

January 2017

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Riverland grape growers kept in the dark on prices

A leading wine industry group in South Australia's Riverland region says members are fed up with "being treated like mushrooms" over prices for the coming 2017 winegrape harvest season.

Riverland Wine Executive Officer Chris Byrne said after years of trust-building initiatives, the lack of certainty provided by the big wineries was causing growers anxiety.

Wineries that are signatories to the Australian Wine Industry Code of Conduct, including Accolade Wines and Pernod-Ricard, are required to provide their Riverland growers with indicative regional prices by December 15 each year.

But Mr Byrne said they should be releasing prices earlier.

"Surely it can't be that difficult to let partners (growers) know what to expect. It's the decent thing to do."

The code was signed in December 2008, and was created to set minimum standards for agreements between growers

and purchasers, and provide a framework for fair and equitable dealings.

"Over the nine years since the code was signed, the same game of 'follow the leader' in the lead up to December 15 has disappointed all those who have worked to build trust and confidence in each other.

"With a current world shortage of bulk wine, some industry insiders are of the view that prices should be on the move in favour of growers".

CEO of the Wine-makers Federation of Australia, Tony Battaglione, conceded there is a problem with indicative pricing.

"We'd all like to see higher prices for wine," said Mr Battaglione.

Mr Battaglione said he understood growers were doing it tough, and wanted to see information get to growers earlier, so they can make informed decisions.

"We all need to hope for better export markets, and that is going to flow through to better prices." Mr Battaglione said.

### Donkey and horse meat for human consumption?

Possum, donkey and horse could be on the menu in South Australia if the definition of game meat is expanded under proposed amendments to food regulations by SA Health.

Goat, rabbit, hare, kangaroo, wallaby and bird are currently listed as game in the state, provided the animals have not been confined or farmed in any way.

The proposed new definition would see the list grow to include buffalo, camel, deer, donkey, hare, horse, pig and possum — bringing SA in line with an updated section of the Australian and New Zealand Food

Standard Code. Adelaide game meat specialist Richard Gunner said "in general" there were some good things about the proposal.

"I don't see any particular market for donkey meat, possum meat and horse meat, but camel meat, yes," he said.

The amendments also included increasing the maximum fees councils can charge for food safety inspections, from \$85.50 in a small business to \$118, and from \$214 in a large business to \$294.

SA Health invited the community to comment on its proposal.

### Duck and quail season for South Australia

South Australia's 2017 duck and quail hunting seasons have been declared open, based on significant environmental assessments and forecasts.

These assessments have resulted in a reduced duck hunting season, with a restricted bag limit of 10 ducks a day per hunter as well as restricted species of duck available to hunt.

A full quail season has been declared in light of favourable climatic conditions for quail. This allows for a full bag of 25 stubble quail a day per hunter, and a two-week extension to the season's length.

The duck season begins on 18 February 2017 and finishes on 25 June, and the quail season will run from 18 February to 13 August.

## Changes to the pensions from 1 January

More than 330,000 Australian age pensioners will have their Age Pension entitlements cut, with at least 100,000 of those affected Australians losing all Age Pension entitlements, taking immediate effect from 1 January 2017.

The higher than predicted numbers is due to some miscalculations by the federal government: it looks like many thousands more will be affected by the January 2017 changes, than first anticipated due to the lower-than expected assets test thresholds.

The news came in a letter

from Centrelink last week, outlining the winners and losers from January 1.

While the family home will remain exempt, ensuring seniors can own million-dollar houses and still claim welfare, the asset test will be tightened.

The largest group of losers is 236,000 part-pensioners who will have their pension reduced by about \$130 a fortnight, on average.

But for 171,500 pensioners there is some good news as they will receive an increase of about \$30 a fortnight under the new rules.

About 50,000 pensioners

currently receiving a part-pension will also start receiving the full pension.

The biggest losers will be offered a health card guaranteeing cheaper prescriptions and bulk-billed GP visits.

Social Services Minister Christian Porter said the crackdown was to ensure Australia could help those seniors who truly needed support.

In South Australia, more than 17,000 pensioners will have their pensions slashed by a fortnightly average of \$130. A further 6000 will lose their part-pensions, while an estimated 5900 recipients

across the state will be removed from the pension altogether, which will result in them also losing some state government concessions.

They will also cease to be eligible for discounted vehicle registration, driver's license fees and ambulance cover.

"These changes are critical to ensure that Australia's pension system remains sustainable into the future," Minister Porter said.

The changes passed Federal Parliament in June 2015 as part of a \$2.4 billion savings measure proposed by the Abbott government and supported by the Greens.

## Community honors volunteers at annual Christmas dinner

The State Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis announced a \$200,000 grant from the South Australian Government would become available to the long standing Community of 86-years, to be used for the renovations of its Olympic Hall.

According to a press release sent to the Greek Tribune by GOCSA's General Secretary Demetri Dimopoulos, Mr Koutsantonis made the announcement during the Community's Annual Volunteers Christmas dinner at Olympic Hall on Thursday evening 15 December 2016.

The Hall dates to the early 1960's where it was the centre of all activities for the Greek Community at large and holds fond memories for all who attended functions at the Hall during those years. The funds will be used to bring the facility up to a more modern standard.

"This is our Government's small gesture to you to say thank you for all the hard work you do", the Treasurer said. Inferring to the great work both past and present that the Community does in meeting the needs of the Greek Community of Adelaide and the suburbs in general.

President of GOCSA Mr Bill Gonis responded by stating "we are most grateful to the Treasurer and State government for their generous contribution, which came as a surprise but a timely surprise as our facility is now in need of an upgrade to meet current building standards".

Amongst the official guests who attended the Christmas dinner was The Hon Chief Justice Christopher Kourakis, The Hon Michael Atkinson MP, Speaker of the House of

Assembly, Mr David Pisoni MP, Ms Vickie Chapman Deputy State Liberal Leader, The Hon. Jennifer Rankine MP, Mr Steve Georganas, Member for Hindmarsh, The Hon. Grace Portolesi, Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr John Trainer, Mayor of West Torrens, Mr Lachlan Clyne, Mayor of City of Unley, Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of City of Charles Sturt.

"The annual Christmas dinner is a small way of showing our appreciation towards our many many volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year to the success and progress of the organisation", the press release says.

The composition of the invitees varied from those who volunteered for working bees throughout the year as well as teaching and admin staff who had contributed over and above the norm, because it is their Community and they dearly want it to succeed.

Olympic Hall was yet again in its usual glory as Christmas decorations and the familiar warmth made justice to its character as the House of Hellenes in South Australia.

The evening commenced with a welcome and introduction by MC Ms Himo Tsakalos followed by the President, Mr Gonis, delivering his Christmas message.

Mr Gonis thanked all volunteers saying they are the backbone and the driving force of the community.

"These volunteers strengthen and support the Greek community and in so doing the South Australian community as



Re-elected GOCSA executive committee members, from left, Peter Ppiros (Vice president) Demetri Dimopoulos (G. Secretary), Elli Speis (Assistant Secretary), State Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis and President Bill Gonis at the recent Christmas dinner.

a whole is much better for it" Mr Gonis said.

The President's message was followed by supper and then with the Con Marinos Awards presentation.

The Con Marinos Awards are presented to students who have achieved excellence in their thesis as well as undergraduate studies in their chosen field of study at Flinders University.

The first Award was presented to Ms Marialena Terzaki for her thesis "The Novel as Textbook: Using Literature as a Teaching Material to Teach Greek as a Foreign Language to Adults".

The second award goes to Mr Ira Herbold from the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences with Flinders University and the essay title for the award is: "Epistemology Wars: Knowledge and cultural

imperialism in the history wars".

And the third prize was presented to Ms. Anne Mignone for her essay "Is offshore processing legal?" Ms Mignone studies at the Faculty of Education, Humanities and Law of Flinders University.

Awards of excellence were also presented to students of the Community's Greek schools.

The George Tramountanas "North" Association presented awards to students Mia Karlis, Fotini Theodorakakos and Vassilios Corolis respectively for excellency in the Greek language.

Furthermore, the Greek Women Society of S.A "Taxiarchis" presented Awards to students Constantine Stathopoulos and Melina Gaffey respectively.

The evening continued with live music by local band.

### Greek Festival on George Street

When Hellenism and multiculturalism come together under one event, the result is an explosive expression of culture that has the town talking.

The 6th George Street Greek Festival at Thebarton, an initiative of the St Nicholas church Fellowship and Church Committee became such place over the weekend, 10 and 11 December 2016 offering the best Greek party in town.

In an announcement sent to the Greek Tribune by GOCSA's Secretary, Mr Demetri Dimopoulos said the two-day event, turned the usually busy George Street into a food, dance and family fun paradise.

For two days, the BBQs worked energetically, filling the area and the surrounding streets with Greek culinary aromas which, in conjunction with Greek music and dancing had everyone partying 'Greek style'!

The official opening of the festival took place on Saturday

## Community Life



Three to four thousand people enjoyed the George street festival

10 December 2016 at 7.00pm with several official guests attending the event.

Guests were welcomed by Mr Bill Gonis OAM President of the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. and included, the Hon Michael Atkinson, Speaker of the House of Assembly and Member for Croydon, the Hon Zoe Bettison, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, The Hon Jing Lee, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs, representing the Leader of the

Opposition Stephen Marshall, the Hon Jennifer Rankine, Member for Wright, Ms Kate Ellis, Federal Member for Adelaide, Mr Steve Georganas, Federal Member for Hindmarsh, Hon Grace Portolesi, Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission and Mr John Trainer, Mayor of City of West Torrens.

"In my next life I would like to come back as Greek," said Ms Portolesi as she delivered her message during the official

opening.

Mr Atkinson also praised the organisers for a successful event reflecting to the Community's 86 year-long history and its vital role in the State's overall cultural movement.

The official part continued with dance performances from the Community's Dance Academy as well as the Lemnos Dance Group, giving guests a treat on traditional Greek dancing.

Both days the dance floor became the centre of attention for the thousands of patrons as a number of dance groups offered the best performances featuring not just Hellenic but other ethnic dances as well.

Live band Enosis on Saturday and party band Zeus on Sunday offered the best live entertainment program, getting dance enthusiasts on the dance floor as they performed all-time favourite old and new songs.

"A heart-felt thank you to all the Community's volunteers who worked tirelessly at the Festival, contributing to its huge success for yet another year", GOCSA's announcement said.

### GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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## Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

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Members of the Greek Community's Dance Academy, performing at the 6th annual George Street Festival at Thebarton, on 10 December



Minister for Multicultural Affairs Zoe Bettison, Speaker of the House of Assembly Michael Atkinson and Jennifer Rankine MP attended the George Street Festival



Steve Georganas, federal member for Hindmarsh and Grace Portolesi, Chair of SAMEAC at the George Street Festival



ABOVE: Paul Demetriou, re-elected member of the Executive Committee and Bill Gonis, re-elected President of GOCSA, with Unley MP David Pisoni, Vickie Chapman, Deputy Leader of SA Liberals and Lachlan Clyne, mayor of Unley attended the GOCSA's annual Christmas party held on 15 December for the community's volunteers.



ABOVE: South Australia's largest Greek community association, GOCSA, held its bi-annual election on 4 December 2016. In the photo, the electoral committee announcing the result and declaring the newly elected 17 member executive committee



ABOVE: West Torrens mayor John Trainer and Greeks of Egypt SA association President John Kefalakis at GOCSA's Christmas party



University of Adelaide vice Chancellor and president Warren Beddington, SA Minister for Health Jack Snelling and federal member for Barker Tony Pasin, launched the \$6 million new Riverland Oral Health Centre in Berri on 7 December. The new clinic has 10 dental chairs. - Photo Christian Longobardi



ABOVE: At the George Street Festival, were from left, the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Bill Gonis, Liberal MLC Jing Lee and partner Eddie and Peter Ppiros re-elected Vice President of GOCSA.

## Greek island couple open their restaurant nightly to cater for refugees

There is a restaurant on Roditses beach of Samos island that has become a haven for refugees, thanks to owner Maria Makrogianni and her husband who always have some food ready for middle eastern refugees who landed on their island.

Every night, "Maria" is full of people, but not full of customers. The people on the tables are refugees who see Maria as their loving mother who is always willing to cater to their needs with a warm smile.

For over a year now, 59-year-old Maria and her husband Michalis offer free plates of food to refugees, migrants and everyone who is needy. She plays Greek music so that the refugees can dance and sing. She wants to give them joy, and especially to the children.

So far she has given thousands of free meals and she is willing to offer thousands more as migrants keep arriving on the island's shores. She says that it is



Restaurant owner Maria Makrogianni second from right

compassion and humanity that drives her to keep giving.

"Many nights I cannot sleep. When you listen to their stories of suffering, you cannot help being moved. Their stories shock me. Their

houses are bombed and they have experienced a lot of pain," Maria said.

"Our faith tells us to feed them. Our humanity tells us to do what we can to help," she said.

Maria Markogianni has received an award from the Samos Council for her charity work. However, she said, her real reward is the love she receives from the people she helps.

## MESSAGE

### From the Hon. Zoe Bettison MP Minister for Multicultural Affairs

I am pleased to announce that applications are now open for the Stronger Families Stronger Communities Grant program, and the Multicultural Infrastructure Grant program.

The South Australian Government understands that existing multicultural grant programs are competitive, and experience a high volume of applications. That is why we have tripled investment in Multicultural Affairs to \$12 million over four years. As part of this significant funding increase, the Multicultural Grant program has been expanded to include the Stronger Families Stronger Communities Grant program, and the Multicultural Infrastructure Grant program.

The Stronger Families Stronger Communities Grant program offers funding of up to \$200,000 for initiatives that address significant challenges within our multicultural communities, including women's safety, leadership and good

governance. Successful applicants will be required to complete their projects over two years, commencing 1 July 2017, and concluding 30 June 2019.

The Multicultural Infrastructure Grant program offers funding of up to \$100,000 for projects that aim to increase accessibility to community facilities, including lifts or disability access ramps. Successful applicants will be required to complete their projects over a 12 month period, commencing 1 July 2017, and concluding 30 June 2018.

I encourage our multicultural communities to apply for funding through the Multicultural SA website. Alternatively, interested parties may call the Multicultural SA Grants Team on 1300 650 985 for advice about eligibility requirement or funding guidelines.

Applications for both grant programs will close by 5pm, Friday 17 February 2017.

## LETTER

### Progressive group to continue its work

Dear Members of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia (GOCSA),

Reflecting on the elections held on Sunday 4 December 2016, the Progressive Team wishes to congratulate the opposition on their re-election to the Executive Committee. We will continue to work with our members in good faith, pledging to provide the freedom of choice to those yearning for a new era and vision for progress. As we venture further into the 21st Century, our community faces challenges to adapt to the ever-changing world around us. Our community must find a way to evolve whilst remaining faithful to our history and our values.

It is timely to remind ourselves that the future of our community lies within our youth and therefore incumbent on the newly elected committee to develop a plan to foster leadership for future generations. It is up to us as members to ensure that we hold the newly elected committee to account on all matters pertaining to GOCSA.

It is also important to reinforce the need for improved transparency and accountability throughout GOCSA, and we support the constitutional right for all members to request information so that they

can be well informed to make the best decisions.

We especially wish to thank the members who voted for us and we are sincerely grateful for your support and belief in us. It is always the members that make GOCSA that special place in our hearts, and so we invite everyone to continue in the life of our community by encouraging others to join.

We have and will continue to listen to our members, and true to our philanthropic spirit as a community, welcome a dialogue of truth, openness and understanding. In doing so, reminding us that irrespective of our views, we are one community that must always stay united. If you have any questions or feedback that you would like to share, please email us at myprogressiveteam@gmail.com

Finally, the Progressive Team wishes the newly elected committee much success over the next term and reminds everyone that we only exist as a community to serve our members. We hope the Executive Committee demonstrates the fair governance and strong leadership that our community needs to prosper.

**Yours Sincerely,  
George Petrallas on  
behalf of the Progressive  
Team - ADELAIDE**

### Cyprus leaders to resume talks in Geneva

The leaders in Cyprus will meet twice early next year before departing for Geneva, to continue settlement talks on January 9, 2017. The President of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades stated on Thursday that the meetings will be held on January 4 and January 7.

Speaking upon his return from a meeting with the Turkish Cypriot leader

Mustafa Akinci, in Nicosia, Anastasiades said that today they were informed by their negotiators about the meetings they had and the discussion on pending issues. Mr Anastasiades spoke of some progress, he made it clear however that no solution will be reached if the Turkish side insists on Turkey's military presence and guarantor rights.