



January 2018

GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

SA sporting clubs share nearly \$700,000

Sporting clubs in the Murrumbidgee and Riverland regions have received an early Christmas present, with \$19,322 allocated through the latest round of the State Government's Active Club grant program.

The funding will be shared by five clubs to support sporting programs and help buy equipment.

- \$4,500 – Barmera Clay Target Club Inc.
- \$3,000 – Mannum Cricket Club Incorporated
- \$3,672 – Renmark Basketball Club Inc.
- \$4,000 – Renmark Hockey Club Incorporated
- \$4,150 – Vitor Renmark Amateur Swimming Club Incorporated.

The Active Club program is designed to pump vital funding into grass roots sporting organisations, ensuring all South Australians have access to state-of-the-art sport and recreation facilities across the State.

The grants program supports the State Government's priority to increase the proportion of South Australians participating in sport or physical recreation at least once per week, to 50 per cent by 2020.

Active Club grant program has allocated \$2.75 million to sporting clubs around the State in the past year, including

\$695,000 in this funding round.

State sport and active recreation organisations, industry representative bodies, local government, schools, community groups, incorporated sport or active recreation clubs which do not hold a gaming machine license were eligible to apply.

Recreation and Sport Minister Leon Bignell said he was thrilled to announce nearly \$20,000 in funding for local sporting clubs in the Murrumbidgee and Riverland regions.

"Sporting clubs and associations are at the heart of our suburbs and towns, and grants like this can make all the difference to small clubs. It's great we can provide additional funding in recognition of all they do for the local community", Mr Bignell said.

"Playing sport is a great way to keep fit, make friends and get involved in your local community", he said.

"The State Government is a big supporter of grass roots sport – pumping a record additional \$96 million into sport and recreation across the State" the Minister concluded.

More than 550,000 South Australians participate in sport every week at clubs, ovals and recreation facilities all around the State.

Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.

31 DEC

Let's welcome 2018 the Greek way

7.30PM

WINE 2017 Party

4-COURSE MEAL GREEK BAND

OLYMPIC HALL, 288 FRANKLIN ST, ADELAIDE

For bookings ring us on 82314307

Entry \$50 (includes 4-course meal)
Children between 12 and 17 years-old, \$25
Children under 12, free

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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GREECE

Winter hits refugee camps

More than 13,500 asylum seekers remain trapped on the Greek islands in deplorable conditions as winter begins just before Christmas 2017, Human Rights Watch said Sunday.

Greece, with support from its European Union partners, should urgently transfer thousands of asylum seekers to the Greek mainland, and provide them with adequate accommodations and access to fair and efficient asylum procedures.

The Greek government committed in early December to moving 5,000 asylum seekers from the islands to the mainland as an

emergency measure, before the onset of winter.

Despite the transfer of almost 3,000 people since early December, the hotspots on Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Leros, and Kos still have almost 11,000 people in facilities with a total capacity of just 5,576. More than 1,500 people have arrived to the Greek islands during the same period.

"While Prime Minister Tsipras's decision to move 5,000 asylum seekers from the islands to the mainland is beneficial for those moved, it is still a half measure that leaves thousands others out in the cold," said Eva Cossé, Greece

researcher at Human Rights Watch.

"It's an important start but more is needed, including support from other EU governments, to make sure that no one has to spend the winter in a freezing tent."

Poignant testimonies from the ground provide a gripping look into the dire situation and distress of asylum seekers who are trapped on the Greek islands.

In a campaign that began on December 1, 13 human rights and aid organizations called on Tsipras to end Greece's policy of containing asylum seekers on the islands.



"A common fate unites us all the struggle and hope for a better future"

Yannis Ritsos

The Greek Tribune wishes everyone a happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year!

GOCSA honors volunteers at annual Christmas dinner

The Greek Orthodox Community of S.A has secured a \$65,000 grant towards the Community for further renovations at Olympic Hall.

According to an announcement sent to the Greek Tribune by the General Secretary Dimitri Dimopoulos, Labor Candidate for the Seat of Adelaide Jo Chapley announced the grant on behalf of the Premier of South Australia Hon Jay Weatherill during the Community's Annual Volunteers Christmas dinner on 14 December at Olympic Hall.

This follows a \$200,000 Government grant to the Community which was announced during last year's Christmas Volunteers dinner by the State Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis.

"Our Government feels obliged to help those Communities which strive and make progress while helping the wider community through their services," said Ms Chapley.

President of the GOCSA Bill Gonis said he was grateful to the state government for its show of support and generosity.

Amongst the official guests who attended the Christmas dinner was The Hon Chief Justice Christopher Kourakis, Ms Jo Chapley, Labor Candidate for the Seat of Adelaide on behalf of the Premier of S.A Hon Jay Weatherill and the Minister for Multiculturalism Hon Zoe Bettison, Ms Rachel Sanderson, State Member for Adelaide

and Shadow Minister for Child Protection, Mr Steve Georganas, Member for Hindmarsh, Mrs Irene Pnevmatikos, Candidate Member for the Legislative Council, Mr Peter Ppiros on behalf of the Hon. Grace Portolesi, Chair of the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, Mr John Trainer, Mayor of West Torrens, Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of City of Charles Sturt.

The annual Christmas dinner gets the Community together and expresses its gratitude to its invaluable volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the year for the success and progress of the organisation.

Following a brief introduction by Mc Theo Panagopoulos, the President, Mr Gonis delivered his Christmas message.

Mr Gonis thanked all volunteers for their tireless contribution for the last 12 months and of course their general support throughout the decades.

"This evening is an opportunity for the Committee of Management (who are also volunteers) to formally thank you and to join with you in reflecting upon the achievements of our Community." Mr. Gonis said.

The event continued with The Con Marinos Awards, 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 Stamatina Halikias for her



GOCSA acknowledges the tireless work of volunteers George Leonardos and Vasiliki Kounias

Thesis (Dionysios Solomos: Free Besieged and the Quest from Freedom)

The second award went to Yiannis Matsis for his essay Giannis Ritsos: "Helen", Tragic or Fatal Woman?)

Two of the Community's many volunteers were presented with honorary plaques during the formal part of the night.

Mrs Vasiliki Kounias from the Koimisis Theotokou Church Women's Fellowship and Mr George Leonardos from Sts Constantine & Helen Church Committee both received their awards for their invaluable contribution to the Community.

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

Student Eva Lucas received an award for excellence in Greek and the award was presented by

Mr Paul Demetriou, chair of the GOCSA Schools Committee.

The George Tramountanas "North" Association also presented awards to students Dionysus Frangos, Paraskevi Vossou and George Zaharias respectively for excellency in the Greek language. Ms Denise McEvoy from the George Tramountanas "North" Association presented the awards.

Furthermore, the Greek Women Society of S.A "Taxiarchis" presented Awards to students Sophia Georgakopoulos and Roxani Poulis respectively. Mrs Roula Soumas, President of the Society presented the awards.

The Greek language teachers were also acknowledged on the evening for their hard work and dedication to the preservation of our mother tongue.

Greek Women's society celebrates

On the 29th of November the Greek Women's Society of S.A. O "Taxiarchis" Inc held its customary Christmas party luncheon for its members at the Goodwood Community Centre.

The event gave the organization the opportunity to celebrate its 80th Anniversary with its members many of whom have been members and staunch supporters for years.

The official guests who attended were Mrs Mary Mangos a former President of the Society and member since 1937 and Mr. Bil Gonis President of GOCSA.

Mrs Roula Souma extended a warm welcome to all and wished them a pleasant afternoon.

After lunch it was time to cut the cake which had been prepared for the 80th Anniversary. Mrs Chrisoula Heisler former Secretary of the organization for more than 40 years said a few words mentioning the achievements and highlights of

Community Life



The Executive Committee of the Greek Women's Society of S.A. "Taxiarchis" Inc with the cake for the group's 80th anniversary

the Society during its 80 year history. This was followed by the President Mrs Roula Soumas acknowledging and thanking all the members for their support and contribution over the years. The cake was then cut and served to the members by the members of the Executive Committee.

The free Christmas Lunch has been provided for the Society's members dating back many

years.

The cooking and preparation and the entire organization of the event is carried out by the Executive Committee members as sign of appreciation and recognition for the support received from its members (monetary and in kind) for the Society's philanthropic work. Its aim is to provide recreation for its members and celebrate the

Christmas period sharing Greek customs with the community at large.

The final highlight of the event was the raffle draw which included many prizes all of which had been contributed by the members of organization.

Over the last 80 years, the Greek Women's Society has collaborated side by side with the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, contributing greatly in furthering the Community's objectives, programs and stalwartly supporting the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel, after which the Society is named.

It must be noted that the 80th anniversary was also marked at a ceremony held earlier at the cathedral.

To mark the occasion, the President of GOCSA Bill Gonis, Society President Roula Soumas and veteran member Mary Mangos, unveiled a teak bench with a commemorative plaque in the churchyard of the Church of Archangels Michael and Gabriel "Taxiarchis".

Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



LEFT: Candidate for the seat of Adelaide Jo Chapley and West Torrens Mayor John Trainer at the Greek Community of SA Volunteers Christmas dinner at Olympic Hall on 14 December.



RIGHT: At the same function, were, federal member for Hindmarsh Steve Georganas and Mayor of Charles Sturt Angela Evans.



President of the Greek Community of SA Bill Gonis and member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson at the Volunteers Christmas dinner at Olympic Hall



During last week's visit to the Riverland, State Liberal Leader Steven Marshall and Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone attended the Destination Riverland industry partners launch in Berri. In the photo, also, are Destination Riverland chairman Peter Walker and board member Liz Frankel

AUSTRALIAN FIRST Autism Learning Centre opens in Unley

Children with Asperger Syndrome, a form of high-functioning Autism, now have an Australian-first educational facility specifically designed to meet their needs at Unley, South Australia.

It is a pathway for them to one day become the next Bill Gates, Dan Aykroyd, Bob Dylan, Albert Einstein or TV's The Good Doctor, all of whom have Asperger's Syndrome (AS).

The centre has been established by The Gold Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation made up of volunteers and parents with children with AS who saw an urgent need for social interaction programs which help children cope and connect with the world around them.

The Gold Foundation celebrated its milestone tenth year on Sunday, December 3, with the Official Opening of the learning centre on the site of the former Kirinari School at 18 Trimmer Terrace, Unley at 2:00pm.

The expansion of the successful model for children at the high end of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) was recognised and has been made possible through a grant from the South Australian Government.

Hundreds of children have already benefited from the social skills programs designed by experts in the field and Gold Foundation Chairperson and founder Angie Pangallo says the new facility will enable more families from across the metropolitan area to be involved and receive support.

Angie was inspired to create the unique Foundation by her now 17-year-old son, Connor, who was first diagnosed with AS when he was seven.

In Australia it's estimated one in 100 people have been diagnosed with ASD and the number keeps rising, putting pressure on health and education authorities to better manage the epidemic. Autism, once considered rare. Now it accounts for 31% of NDIS participants, the largest disability



PHOTOS: About 350 people attended the special event on Sunday 3 December. Invited guests included Disabilities Minister Katrina Hildyard, David Pisoni MP, SA BEST leader Nick Xenophon, Sammy D Foundation founder, the Member for Fisher, Nat Cook, and Unley Mayor Lachlan Clyne.

group in the scheme. "Connor was facing challenges adapting to mainstream schooling and mixing with others. He seemed lost and there was nowhere for us to go to get help because at the time, Autism and AS especially, were still misunderstood and largely overlooked by the education system," said Angie, who was named Mitcham's Citizen of the Year in 2014 for her work.

"I didn't want my son, or other children like him falling through the cracks and never having the opportunity to realise their true potential. There was nowhere to go at the time so I formed the first pilot Social Skills Program and during that year a group of us got together at a café and we scribbled our ideas on a paper napkin. That's how

the innovative model for The Gold Foundation began. We still have that paper napkin; it's framed at the entrance of the new Centre at Unley.

"We sourced specialised programs and developed the holistic model ourselves because we knew instinctively what our children needed. With the help of volunteers and the community, we then leased a building and invited families to bring their children.

"Since then we have had hundreds of boys and girls participate in our programs. The results really have been life changing for many of them and their families. Children without any friends have found a place of belonging and lifelong friendships."

Connor is a shining example of the Gold Foundation's

success story. From his uncertain future as a student ten years ago, Connor has just completed a stellar Year 12 at Mercedes College, winning Academic Achievement Awards in every subject.

"I have realised that every individual with Asperger Syndrome has the same level of potential as anyone without it," Connor says.

"Life is more complex than it seems for children with Asperger's and it takes a special group of people to understand that. This is what the Gold Foundation does for us."

"We realised a dream. It has taken a lot of hard work and dedication to get here and the results we see in the faces of the children and their families makes this so worthwhile," said Angie.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER MALCOLM TURNBULL CHRISTMAS 2017

As a season of peace and goodwill, Christmas has special significance for those of Christian faith and for Australians of every background. It is a special time for family, community and love.

It is also a time to redouble our commitments to the less fortunate in our society. I encourage everyone to reach out and assist the many wonderful charities who are working to brighten the lives of others with their generosity at this time of year.

We acknowledge the efforts of those serving our community over the holidays—thank you to our police officers, nurses, fire fighters and transport workers, as well as the troops representing our nation at home and overseas away from

their families. We are grateful for their sacrifice, particularly over the Christmas period.

Above all, Christmas is a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are as Australians to live in a land of hope and opportunity, enriched by the contributions of people from all around the world and our common commitment to peace and mutual respect. We should feel justifiably proud of our many achievements, and grateful for our many blessings.

With these thoughts in mind, Lucy and I wish all Australians a very safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP Prime Minister of Australia
December 2017*

Discover Bonegilla Migrant Centre these summer holidays

If you missed the anniversary celebrations for one of Australia's largest migrant camps, there are still plenty of opportunities to explore the former Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre in its 70th year.

Guided tours of the Bonegilla Migrant Experience will be running every day throughout the holidays.

The Bonegilla by the Weir summer season will run from Wednesday, December 27 to Sunday, January 28 with guided tours held at 11am daily (excluding New Year's Day and Australia Day).

From 1947 to 1971, more than 300,000 migrants passed through the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre.

Today, it is estimated around 1.5 million people are descendants of former residents from the camp. That could include you!

Once made up of 24 blocks, the centre had its own churches, banks, sporting fields, a cinema, hospital, police station and railway platform.

Today, Block 19 is all that remains of the original site, and visitors travel from all over the world to visit Bonegilla Migrant Experience (BME).

Join one of our guided tours, enjoy a self-guided tour or take the suitcase trail.

Bring a picnic, play one of our traditional games and enjoy the surrounds for a little longer.

This is your opportunity to explore, understand and appreciate Wodonga's National Heritage Listed site.

Guided tours are \$11 for adults, \$9 for children and \$25 for a family of four.

For enquiries and bookings, call (02) 6020 6912, and for more information visit www.bonegilla.org.au

High achievement for Connor

One of the highest achievers in the 2017 SACE Year 12 exams is Connor Pangallo, a 17-year-old with a strong Greek heritage.

Connor received an ATAR score of 99.80 and earned two merit awards for English and Modern History, putting him in the top tier of almost 16,000 SACE Year 12 students in South Australia.

Connor completed his studies at Mercedes College, Springfield, where he was also named as the 2017 SACE Dux of the school. His results are even more impressive because he had to deal with Asperger's Syndrome, a high functioning form of Autism.

Connor's grandparents, Con and Vicky Economos, are well known for their work in the South Australian Greek Orthodox Community. Their daughter, Angela, is Connor's mother and ten years ago started the Gold Foundation, an organisation which



provides support to children with Asperger's. His father, Frank, was a leading journalist who worked for the Seven Network and is now a media advisor for Nick Xenophon's political party. There is strong speculation he may also be a candidate for SA-BEST in the March elections.

Connor has this simple but inspirational message to other students: "Never give up and believe in yourself." Congratulations Connor! Or as his grandparents call him, Costaki.