



# GREEK TRIBUNE

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GREEK TRIBUNE - ADELAIDE - Mobile: 04 0886 5004 - Email: info@greektribune.com.au

## Tonnes of hail damaged fruit rotting on the ground

A month after a freak hailstorm that ripped through South Australia's Riverland, farmers are now dealing with the risk of a fruit fly outbreak due to the abundance of damaged fruit.



Instead of harvesting his eight-hectare apricot farm, grower Greg Pilgrim has been shaking scarred fruit from his trees and mulching the ruined produce.

"Hail leaves a big hole or a scar, and it becomes unsaleable."

In less than half an hour, the November hail storm that hit Barmera, Monash, Glossop, and parts of Renmark shredded grape vines and potholed stone fruit, citrus, and nut crops.

Around 130 growers

were affected, with SA State Government figures estimating the value of crop losses to be over \$23 million.

On top of dealing with the financial burden of the hail storm, Riverland farmers had to clean up all the damaged fruit on the ground to avoid a potential fruit fly outbreak, which could devastate the industry. Travellers are reminded that taking fruit or veg in the Riverland area, could result in fines of up to \$375.

## UPON HIS RETURN FROM HAWAII Scott Morrison accepts criticisms and apologises for any upset caused

Prime Minister Scott Morrison has conceded he caused "great anxiety in Australia" by taking a family holiday in Hawaii as bushfires burned across Australia, saying with the benefit of hindsight he would have made a different decision.

Mr Morrison on Friday announced he would cut his trip short, after the deaths of two volunteer firefighters in New South Wales.

He landed in Sydney last Saturday on a Hawaiian Airlines flight from Honolulu.

The marketing man behind Australia's "Where the bloody hell are you?" tourism campaign has soiled his own brand by jetting abroad as Australia burns, writes Andrew Probyn.

The period of leave was not formally announced, and the Prime Minister's Office refused to confirm the location or dates of leave, citing security concerns.

According to the ABC Mr Morrison spent Sunday morning receiving a briefing on the fire situation in New South Wales from fire chiefs and emergency service personnel at Rural Fire Service (RFS) headquarters.

At a press conference, he said he accepted the criticism about his holiday, and apologised for any upset caused.

"I have returned from leave and I know that [my holiday] has caused some great anxiety in Australia, and Jenny and I acknowledge that," he said.

Mr Morrison has also copped criticism for the way his office handled his trip. Opposition Leader Anthony Albanese has said while he did not have an issue with Mr Morrison taking a pre-Christmas break, there had been a lack of transparency throughout the process.

During the press conference, Mr Morrison also declared the Government would not change its climate change policies, rejecting calls for a more ambitious response as fires raged through Australia.

The Government has been under pressure to develop a stronger emissions reduction target, beyond the promised 26 per cent cut by 2030.

But Mr Morrison defended the Government's policies on the issue, ruling out an immediate change. "People can expect my Government to do what it promised to do, what we took to the last election," he said.

## Unprecedented devastation in SA

The number of homes destroyed in the Cudlee Creek bushfire in the Adelaide Hills has shot up to 72, according to the ABC network.

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall has also confirmed that 404 "outbuildings" on properties and 227 vehicles have been destroyed.

At least one house has been destroyed by fires on Kangaroo Island.

Charleston man Ron Selth, 69, was found dead at his property on Saturday and several dozen people remain injured, but there have been no further injuries or loss of life.

"Ron was a loving, optimistic and generous man, who valued his relationships with family and friends more than anything else," his family said in a statement.

The fires broke out during catastrophic conditions on Friday.

Mr Marshall said it was a "very sad day" with "scenes of absolute devastation" as families returned to their homes to find

only rubble.

Mr Marshall said a crash at Lameroo, in the Murraylands, was the cause of a bushfire in the area. A 24-year-old Queensland man died at the scene.

### Huge crop losses

Primary Industries and Regions South Australia deputy chief executive Mehdi Doroudi said wine grape growers in the Hills had been most affected by the fire, followed by apple and pear growers.

He said it was too early to tell how significant livestock losses would be in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island.

"Some areas have been more impacted than others," he said.

"There could be some property owners that have lost everything; there could be some property owners that have only been impacted partially."

Tilbrook Estate Wines was destroyed in the fire.

The few individual bottles and



A house totally destroyed by fire in the Hills (ABC photo)

cases that survived were auctioned off to help the owners, the Tilbrook family recover, raising \$12,000.

Co-owner Annabelle Tilbrook's colleagues at Novita stunned the crowd with a bid of \$5,000 for one case before immediately donating it back for an upcoming online auction.

The Bureau of Meteorology said nine South Australian locations experienced their hottest

day on record yesterday, including 48.1 degrees Celsius in Murray Bridge and 47.7C in Naracoorte.

Renmark hit 49C on Friday 20 December, its highest ever. While Riverland growers are still counting the losses from last month's hailstorm, the unprecedented hot weather has given the local growers the final blow. Most crops would have cooked on the trees and vines.

## GOCSA honors volunteers at annual Christmas dinner

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia said a 'big thank you' to its volunteers as it held its annual Christmas Dinner in their honour.

According to a press release by the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, the dinner was held on Thursday 12th of December at Olympic Hall, celebrating the backbone of the Community, its volunteers who offer unconditionally their services and devotion to the Organisation.

From the churches' Fellowships, to the Community's committee members, to the events volunteers, everyone was there.

"This organisation wouldn't be possible to exist with you," said President Mr Bill Gonis

"The truth is we can never thank you enough"

Some of the official guests who attended the Christmas Dinner was the Hon Irene Pnevmatikos MLC representing the State Leader of the Opposition Mr Peter Malinauskas, the Hon

Connie Bonaros Member MLC from SA Best, Mr Steve Georganas, Federal Member for Adelaide, Her Worship Mayor Angela Evans, City of Charles Sturt, His Worship Mayor Michael Coxon, City of West Torrens and Ms Andriana Christopoulos, Member of the SAMEAC

"Our communities wouldn't be able to enjoy our festivities and celebrations without the tireless help of our dedicated and trusted volunteers," said Ms Pnevmatikos

More speeches followed by official guests during the formal part of the event which started around 7.30pm.

Christmas lights, decorations and Christmas trees combined with the Community's hospitality made the perfect festive atmosphere.

Dinner was once again to be praised as 2 Bros Catering offered a variety of delicious and generous platters to please all tastes.



A section of the crowd in attendance at the Greek Orthodox Community SA Volunteers dinner on 12 December

Meanwhile Greek band Zorbas entertained guests with live music throughout the night.

The formal part of the event concluded with Student Award Presentations to high-achieving students.

The winning students were selected from all Greek Lan-

guage Levels, beginning from Reception all the way to Year 12.

We would like to thank Olympic Industries, The Greek Women's Society of S.A. "Taxiarchis", Mr Paul Demetriou and Mr Peter Gardiakos for donating the cash prizes towards the Student Awards.

## 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



Members of the Pan Rhodian Society "Kolossos" singing the carols. Seated at the front, President Emannuel Frangoulis

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.

## Port Adelaide church up in flames

The repair cost from the fire that ravaged the Greek Orthodox Church of the Nativity of Christ in the area of Port Adelaide two weeks ago is expected to exceed the \$1 mil-

lion mark, but parishioners are hopeful it will be rebuilt as it had full insurance cover.

The firemen were forced to break the door to enter the church and save the building from complete destruction.

"We built this church 60 years ago, and we can definitely build it again. This is our history, part of our migration story, that we now have to pass to our children," said Alexandra Vakitsidou who has been a member of the parish for decades.

This is the second Greek Orthodox Church of the Archdiocese in Adelaide, following St Panteleimon Church in Glenelg, to go up in flames in less than two years and suffer severe damage from fire.

Although, the church has insurance to cover what is expected to be a \$1million repair bill, it is likely to take many months or even more than a year to restore Port Adelaide's church.

### GREEK TRIBUNE

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**RIGHT:** The Greek Orthodox Community of SA held its annual Christmas volunteers dinner on 12 December at the Olympic Hall, attracting over 300 people.

In the photo, are, amongst others, Irene Pnevmatikos MLC from the ALP, Bill Gonis President of GOCSA, John Kapiris, major GOCSA sponsor, Andriana Christopoulos of SAMEAC and Connie Bonnaros MLC from SA Best.



Mayor of West Torrens Council Michael Coxon and Mayor of Charles Sturt Angela Evans attended the GOCSA Christmas party at the Olympic Hall



At the GOCSA Christmas Volunteers party were, Emmanuel Koutelas President of the GOCSA Supervisory Committee and Federal Member for Adelaide Steve Georganas

**Clayton Community surrenders property title in return for ecclesiastical canonicity**

The Greek Community of Clayton in Melbourne is now under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

A meeting of the parishioners of the St Spyridon church, held in October 2019, had accepted a demand by the new leader of the Greek Archdiocese of Australia, to hand over the land title where the church is situated to the archdiocesan property trust.

That was the main condition set by Archbishop Makarios in return for ecclesiastical canonicity under the auspices of the ecumenical patriarchate which is based in Istanbul, Turkey.

Makarios officiated over a ceremony held at the St Spyridon church in Clayton on 12 December, where he officially welcomed the local parishioners in the Archdiocese, including the president of the Community - Parish, Athanasios Mandalos, and priest George Athanasiadis - who had previously served under the Autocephalic Church as a priest at the Adelaide Croydon Koimissis church.

According to an announcement by the parish, at the end of the church liturgy on 12 December, Makarios held a prayer for the forgiveness of all those who had passed away and were given "uncanonical" funerals.

At the end, Makarios sealed the "spiritual victory", by the unveiling of a memorial plaque placed at the entrance of the Clayton Church.

Addressing the faithful, Archbishop Makarios said that "you have succeeded, despite the difficulties, the hatreds and the selfishness, to leave the schism and the division and come to the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church."

"The Archdiocese today welcomes the beautiful souls, who make us all richer", he said.

Under the new arrangement, the archdiocese will have the ownership of the property title, however the local parish committee will have the responsibility to raise the funds through various activities to pay the priest (usually the salary stands around \$75,000), cover all the costs for the running of the property such as insurance, power, candles etc as well as pay for on going maintenance costs.

**Turkey deploys drones to be based in occupied Cyprus**

Turkey has reportedly deployed unmanned aerial vehicles over the occupied territories of northern Cyprus which will shadow ships drilling for oil and gas in the seas off the island.

The self-declared Turkish-Cypriot government, recognized which is not recognised by any other country except Turkey had approved the use of drones just as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ignored repeated international calls to stop drilling in the area.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones, both unarmed and armed, will begin taking off from the Lefkoniko Airport, according to a report by Reuters news agency, a move that could cause further tension and fears of a conflict.

The airport is located near the eastern coastal city of Famagusta.

Turkey began seeking oil and gas off the coast of Cyprus earlier this year, dispatching two drill ships and an exploration vessel with UAVs escorting them for monitoring and protection, along with warships dispatched to the region.

Cyprus denounced the drilling and formally requested that the United Nations intervene, but their pleas were ignored.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has been trying to reboot the collapsed unity talks that he had overseen and which fell apart in July of 2017 at the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana.

**TENSION WITH GREECE**  
Greece responded with anger over a joint Turkish-Libyan agreement to discuss a new delineation of Turkey's maritime borders which includes waters off the Greek island of Crete.

According to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, his country's sovereign waters extend eastward from Libya and include a portion of waters off Crete!

**Australia names Canberra's new ambassador to Greece**

Australia's new Ambassador to Greece will be Arthur Spyrou, according to a press release from the country's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade which was released on Monday.

Spyrou will also be accredited to Bulgaria and Romania, since the Australian Embassy in Athens covers these two nations as well.

Marise Payne, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, noted in her statement that the

two nations of Australia and Greece have an enduring relationship "built on strong people-to-people links and bonds forged during both world wars."

Spyrou had served until now as Australia's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates.

He is a senior career officer with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and holds a Masters degree in Foreign Affairs and Trade from Monash University.

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- 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.