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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Adelaide to expect fine weather for Christmas

Predicting if it is going to rain for Christmas lunch this far out is a bit like guessing at your Christmas presents: you might have a pretty good idea, it could even be better than expected, but beware of potential disappointment.

Dean Narramore, senior meteorologist at the BOM, says the first

look at the Christmas forecast suggests showers and thunderstorms will be on the cards for Christmas Day for the north and the east of the country.

Christmas Day in South Australia's south is shaping up to be beautiful, according to Mr Narramore, with temps in the mid to high 20s.

## LETTER

### Encouraging news for Greek language

It is indeed encouraging that the Greek Program at the Latrobe University has been saved for the time being thanks primarily to the mobilisation of the Greek community. The conditions for this survival - community financial support and a steep increase in student enrollment - are clearly very demanding, yet worth the effort in a desperate situation.

But winning a temporary battle with a considerable cost must be only the new beginning for an on going and much broader campaign to win the war for the learning of Greek and other Ethnic Minority languages in the Nation's Schools, starting with the adoption or re-adoption of a well funded National Policy on Languages, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels to reverse the catastrophic decline of the last 20 years. Government claims we are doing very well are just unproven claims.

And this at a time that Australia has never been and will continue to be more multilingual and multicultural and mother languages -not foreign- are used daily by millions of non Anglo Australians. Exiting languages from the publicly funded education system

where the great majority of ethnic minority background students go and mix with whole school population, amounts to gross discrimination, neo racism, a grave violation of human rights and a diminishing use and loss of a most valuable national asset that came to the forth during the current coronavirus epidemic. If migration is good for Australia which most certainly is, so are the cultures and languages of all its people, aborigines, Anglo-Saxons, Italo-Australians, Chinese-Australians, Greek-Australians etc.

To breath easier about the Greek language and its long term future, we need to engage with the other Ethnic minority Communities, their umbrella organisations, teachers and their unions, political parties and all advocates of multiculturalism, a huge reservoir of support. We need a person or persons to work full time for this campaigning for a period.

One thing we cannot afford is to think the temporary Latrobe outcome as operation success and turn the next page. For the next page will take us backward not forward where the answers are.

George Zangalis  
Melbourne, Victoria

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## NEW OUTBREAK IN NSW

# SA closes border to NSW

South Australia will require all arrivals from the greater Sydney area to quarantine for 14 days from midnight tonight, the state's Chief Public Health Officer says.

According to the ABC, they will be required to have a coronavirus test three times — on arrival, on day five and on day 12.

Anyone who has been in Sydney's Northern Beaches area will be barred from South Australia entirely.

People arriving from regional New South Wales will be required to have a test but do not need to isolate.

"My message to South Australians is with this increasing cluster in New South Wales ... you must be very mindful about getting tested," SA Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier said.

Premier Steven Marshall said the new restrictions were being implemented to keep SA safe ahead of Christmas.

"We are trying to make sure that whilst we have a very

merry Christmas here in South Australia, we also have a very safe Christmas," he said.

Border checkpoints have been set up — effective immediately — along the SA-NSW border, at Oodla Wirra, Yamba, Wentworth and Pinnaroo.

Testing stations will also be established at the four border checkpoints.

"We know that this is going to significantly affect Christmas travel plans, so we don't take these decisions lightly," Mr Marshall said.

"But in this instance, we believe this is the best way that we can protect South Australia from any seeding into our state, especially as we lead up to Christmas."

Just under 2,000 tests were taken in South Australia on Saturday.

Professor Spurrier said "extensive testing" was still available across the state for people to get tested.

Testing stations would be re-established in regional areas to "assist with testing people from New South Wales



SA Chief Public Health Officer Professor Spurrier (ABC photo)

as they come across the border".

SA Pathology staff were also at Adelaide Airport to test anybody flying into SA from NSW, starting on Sunday morning.

"We have increasing concern about the situation in New South Wales," Professor Spurrier said.

"But just to reiterate, in terms of the localisation of this, it is mostly in the Northern Beaches local government

area.

"The New South Wales public health team are absolutely gold standard at doing their contact tracing, and I've been updated on a very regular basis and have spoken to them again this morning."

She reiterated that "quarantine does mean quarantine".

"Unfortunately, it will mean that the family will not be able to get together at Christmas, because we cannot take that risk."

## Greece calls for EU to impose sanctions on Turkey

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias made yet another plea for the European Union to impose stiffer measures on the nation of Turkey for its rogue acts in the Mediterranean on Thursday, calling its behavior a "delinquent and provocative policy."

In his remarks, Dendias reiterated once again that "Europe cannot pretend that Turkey is acting as an acceptable player in the region."

In an interview with Bloomberg News on Thursday, the Greek Foreign Minister stated that "Europe must show the limits of (Turkey's) behavior," saying that losing another opportunity to show the nation that its recent provocative behavior

is unacceptable might give its president Recep Tayyip Erdogan the idea that "it can continue its current behavior without any restriction."

There will be another chance for EU leaders to decide on any possible sanctions or other moves against Turkey as a protest over its continued provocations in the Mediterranean during the next European Council meeting.

Continuing in his habitual diplomatic approach, Dendias stated that if Ankara would voluntarily choose to halt its recent pattern of behavior and comply with international law, including the International Law of the Sea, "no one will be happier than Greece."

Dendias additionally reit-

erated his nation's repeated calls for Berlin to halt weapons sales to Turkey. Currently, Turkey is the largest market for German weaponry.

According to the Turkish news website duvarenglish.com, in just the first eight months of 2019, Turkey received weapons from Germany worth a total of 250.4 million euros, making it the largest market for its arms. However, it said in its recent report that "Germany's economic ministry refused to announce the data for the rest of the year 'to protect the producers,' therefore the annual figure remains a mystery."

Dendias protested in his remarks yesterday that "Germany, as the larg-



est country and economy of the EU, has the checks and balances in place to stop the need to export arms to countries that will turn them against two members of the EU," referring to Greece and Cyprus.

### Community Care services training

The Greek Orthodox Community Care Services organised an Annual Volunteer Training and Information Session followed by a Christmas Lunch in honour of the GOCSA Community Care Volunteers on the 9th of December 2020. The event was well attended by approximately 60 Community Care volunteers, who livened up the Olympic Hall with their presence.

The first part of the event, which lasted 3 hours, included the following presentations:

- Manual Handling: presenter Vanessa Girasoli, Occupational Therapist at the Ridleyton Greek Home for the Aged.
- Food Safety – presenter Vicky Kanakaris, Multicultural Learning Development Coordinator, Multicultural Aged Care.
- Information Session about My Aged Care – presenter Marianthi Kosmarikou,

### Community Life



Volunteers of the Greek Orthodox Community SA "Community Care Services", at the close of the Training Session on 9 December

- Infection control information Session – presenter Vicki Kanakaris, Multicultural Learning Development Coordinator, Multicultural Aged Care.
- Information Session about My Aged Care – presenter Marianthi Kosmarikou,

GOCSA Community Care Services.

After the Training and Information Sessions, one of the volunteers, Mrs Koula Tzintzioti, read a poem written by her about the volunteers' valuable contribution to the community.

Then, Mr Vasilius Gonis OAM, President of the Greek Orthodox Community, addressed the audience and expressed his sincere thanks to all our hardworking volunteers. Mr Gonis laid emphasis on the significant support and contribution of the volunteers to the community, even during such a hard period as the past year. The President continued his speech with the wish that 2021 will be a better year than 2020 and that we will all be able to continue working creatively together towards the further growth and improvement of our community. Lastly, Mr Gonis encouraged the audience to face these challenging times with prudence and vigilance.

Mr Gonis' speech was followed by a Christmas lunch in honour of the volunteers. The event concluded in a festive atmosphere with the volunteers' choir and the Community Care Services staff singing the traditional Greek Christmas carols.



## 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



An image from the glorious past!... The Executive Council of the 5EBI FM Greek Community Radio Program in SA, radio presenters and collaborators, at a function of the group in 1978 at the West Adelaide Hellas Club on North Terrace (opposite the Parliament House). Amongst others, the then President of the Greek Radio Emmanuel Koutelas, Vice President George Kokotis, Secretary Andrew Kostopoulos and Treasurer Michael Makestas. A historical photo, published 42 years on, by the Greek Tribune, that will bring back memories to the tireless volunteers of the Greek Radio during the first difficult years of Greek Radio in Adelaide...

(continued from November's edition)

## How is culture learned

### Institutions and culture:

Culture is embedded in the institutions of a nation and serves as a channel through which culture is legitimized and perpetuated. In this regard, national historical events are harnessed and commodified for national consumption. It is used as a way of planting cultural memory in the nation. This memory base is cultivated by the Nation through its social-political apparatus in ways which may serve vested interests the likes of; political ideology, economic systems, and most of all the survival of the nation from real or perceived enemies. The creation and sustenance of a common culture serve to accomplish control and direction over the populous, however, this is not suggesting that the populous is an unwilling partner. Culture feeds on the indoctrinated and the indoctrinated feed on culture, a perfect symbiosis.

So is Greece different from the other nations of the world in the way it cultivates its culture and the apparatus it uses? Clearly, this cannot be the case. The cultural medium used to transmit culture may be different but the culturalizing processes are very similar unless new mediums have emerged which impacted the Greek culture.

The genesis of any new medium emerges from the collective experiences of the Nation in its interaction with its neighbors and its economic associations with the dominant

economic partners in the world. The retention of old mediums serves as either a propellant or an anchor in its cultural evolution. So what are the imprints of the recent and past history within the Greek culture other than the religious ones already addressed? Well here are a few significant ones:

- International relevance: The acknowledgment of the contribution of the classical Greeks by the Western cultures gives rise to a position of some importance internationally. This gives the Greeks a sense of an international identity and an acceptance as a global contributor.

- EEC compliance: The experience from the Ottoman concurrence has developed a sense of subjugation to religion and a sense of nationalism that is a symbiosis of Orthodoxy and Nationhood. And so the average Greek sees his or herself as both Greek and Greek orthodox. This connection is now challenged since the introduction of religious freedoms as a principle requirement for joining/remaining as a member of the European Community.

- Technical rationalism: The experience of the Second World War brought Greece in contact with the Western allies and their strong existentialist based ideology. This resulted in a significant shift from their entrenched theologically based philosophies

inherited from the past 1500 years. This experience brought pressure to bare on the dominance of the church in the affairs of the state and resulted in the separation of church and state sometime in the 1970s.

This exposure to the existentialist rationality of the western powers intensified during the cold war period. In fact, the influence of the church revived during this period because it suited the anti-communist propaganda of that era.

This social political-ideological and economic alliance with the western powers further increased the exposure to the western cultures that were the vanguards of technical rationality. This exposure challenged the religious imprints of religious conformity. It challenged rituals and theological substances as well as the authority of the church and its previously unchallenged place in state politics and direct political power. It also dismissed religious implants of little theological substance the likes of preordainment, predestination, fatalism, theophobia, and the status of priests. This new experience served to foster the importation of the technical rationality within the Greek culture. Technical rationality became the new influence for the development of the educational political social and economic directions of the nation and it served as the driving

social force, which dismantled the old governance to a more representative democratic system. At the same time, technical rationality becomes the means through which capitalism become socially acceptable and provided the infrastructures through which capitalism could thrive.

This experience has resulted in a value system that is based on the Technical rationality and the Existentialist philosophy. This value system is entrenched in the institutions and apparatus of the Greek nation and has diluted the strength of the cultural values of the past 1500 years.

So if this is the case, why is it that the Greeks of today do not behave in the same way as the other existentialist cultures the likes of the English the Germans or others? Why does a person looking in from the outside sees: social chaos, an undisciplined public service system, confusion between freedom and anarchy, evangelical commitment to democracy but intolerance of religious freedoms, indifference to social housekeeping rules from conformity to basic traffic laws and civilized ways of dealing with simple things like catching a bus or lining up for service at a bank, a disregard for the dignity of tourists not to mention a thousand others examples!

The answer to these issues is the essence of the Greek culture and all of the above deductions are mere intellectualisms lacking the obvious evidence in deeds.

Elias Hadjisavvas, ADELAIDE

## Open letter to Maradona



Hi Champion, when I woke up this morning, I was shocked to hear that you had passed on. I didn't want to believe it, but as I scrolled through my social media pages, I soon realised that it was true, the protagonist of my best memories left us way too early.

It seems like yesterday... at the age of five, I discovered who you were when you played for Argentina Juniors. You were sixteen years of age, and everyone was talking about you. You went on to play for Boca Juniors and then Barcelona. All I wanted to do was be a professional player like yourself, wear the number 10 shirt, score free kicks, goals directly from the corner and incredible goals like the ones you scored. I was always up at 4 am in the morning to watch your Champions League matches with Napoli. Napoli became the best team in Italy, and every time you were playing, it was something that I couldn't miss. Your vision, smarts, dribbling skills, free kicks, penalties, assists, Rabona crossing, overhead crossing scissor kicks on goal and leadership was like magic. You were hacked down, kicked intentionally, as it was the only way to stop you. No player would have survived those nasty tackles, but you kept getting up. You took your country onto your shoulders and steered them to the 1986 World Cup winning medal. You gave people sheer happiness but especially the people of your country. When people suffered in Argentina, you would provide them with hope, faith and something to smile and be proud of.

Your life as a footballer was almost perfect, but you had challenges in your life like everyone else. I'm sure that most of the people will remember you as a Legend "El Dios", but unfortunately there will be some who will only remember your mistakes. Therefore, I'm wondering how many people can see the human being behind the soccer star, a hero who also had weaknesses and fears, and without a doubt, the

primary victim of his own mistakes. Today is a day to celebrate your life and the amount of happiness that you brought to the football community. Also, it is a day to think... Why did such a talented player end his life in this condition? When was the first time that the dark shadows started to cover your internal light? How can we improve the path and the future of young sports players?

It's not easy to understand, but let's face it, it happens too often. Great artists, musicians, actors, sports players, many of them go down the wrong path. Alcohol, drugs, gambling, and different kinds of distractions to make up their emptiness. All caused by their lack of education, limiting beliefs, and low self-esteem that makes the wrong people surround you.

Believe me, I deeply understand you. I made mistakes in the past too. Since I was 3 years old, I fell in love with the ball, and I couldn't see the importance of having a balanced life. Above all, our passion was football, but we didn't fulfil ourselves with anything else. I wish that you had the opportunity to face and overcome your fears, and to find a bigger purpose in life as I did.

Today, I promise you that I will continue to inspire my younger students with your legacy, and motivate them to achieve their goals not just in football, but most importantly in their personal life. I learned that what people can see from the outside as success, could merely mean disappointment and failure from the inside.

You made everything look easy on the football field, and I cannot thank you enough for inspiring me to become the best possible footballer that I could be. I hope that wherever you are now, that you are at peace with yourself, and that you remember how much we truly loved you for who you were not just as a footballer, but most importantly, as a very generous human being.

Big hug,  
Con Boutsianis

## EthnicLinks Information Hub Helping older people to access services

There are many services available which support older people to remain living safely and independently in their homes and communities. These include domestic cleaning, home and garden maintenance, transport to GP and other appointments, assistance with meals, social support, personal care and in-home nursing care.

There are also services for those who require more extensive care and can no longer remain living in their homes.

Many older people, and especially those who do not speak English well, struggle to understand what services are available and right for them. Having to register for services can also be confusing and

it is sometimes hard to know where to start.

The EthnicLinks Information Hub at UnitingSA assists older people from different cultural backgrounds to better understand their options so that they can make informed decisions about their care. We will also help you to register with My Aged Care and be there to guide and support you through the process.

The information and support we provide is FREE and we speak your language.

If you or your family member needs help and is over the age of 65 years and lives in metropolitan Adelaide, contact Marijka or Lia at EthnicLinks on 0422 978 161 or ethniclinks@unitingsa.com.au

**ETHNICLINKS INFORMATION HUB**

Connecting older people from diverse cultures with the services they need to live their best lives - all home and in the community.

**How do we help?**  
Our EthnicLinks Information Hub offers free information and support in the person's preferred language to help them:  
- understand the range of services available to them so they can make informed decisions about their care  
- register with My Aged Care  
- navigate the aged care system so they access services which are right for them.

**How is support provided?**  
Information and support is provided face-to-face, over the phone and as information sessions delivered in English and other languages.

**Who can we help?**  
We can help people aged 65 and over who reside in metropolitan Adelaide and are from a non-English speaking background. We also provide information and advice to family, carers and service providers.

**Want to find out more?**  
Contact our friendly Aged Care Navigator on 0422 978 161 or [www.ethniclinks.com.au](http://www.ethniclinks.com.au)

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