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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Ethnic Communities express concerns over racism

The peak body representing multicultural communities in NSW, the Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW (ECCNSW), expressed grave concerns over increased racism and hate speech directed towards minority communities.

ECCNSW Chair Peter Doukas OAM said he was concerned that frustrations over COVID-19 were being directed towards minorities, particularly Asian-Australians.

"It's understandable

to feel anxious right now, but there is no excuse for racism," Mr Doukas said.

"This is a time when Australians should be pulling together, not harassing and abusing minorities.

"If you see a racist attack, call it out and report it. You have a responsibility to act."

The ECCNSW condemns racist behaviour and hate speech and stands by those minority groups which have been targeted during this difficult time.

West Beach shooting victim will have leg amputated

A fisherman who was chased into the water and shot in the leg at Adelaide's West Beach in February 2019 has told a court his leg needs to be amputated and he will never "walk on his own two feet again". William Cowling, 37, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault causing serious harm with intent and several firearms offences.

The District Court of South Australia heard Cowling had consumed large quantities of alcohol before he challenged Theo Papadopoulos — a fellow fisherman — to a fight at West Beach in

February 2019.

Mr Papadopoulos refused but Cowling later returned wearing a mask and gloves, chased Mr Papadopoulos into the water and shot him.

In a victim impact statement read to the court, Theo Papadopoulos said he had been living in a hospital gown since the incident as he required numerous surgeries and regular hospital visits.

The court heard his leg now needed to be amputated above the knee. Cowling has been in custody since February 2019. He will be sentenced next month.

Banks defer repayment of 429,000 mortgages

Banks have deferred the repayments of one in fourteen mortgages totalling more than \$150 billion to assist Australians who can't make payments due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The Australian Banking Association last week released new figures which showed 429,000 mortgages had been deferred totalling \$153.5 billion. The figures take the total number of loans deferred to 703,000, worth a value of \$211 billion.

Banks have also hired 1500 new staff and redeployed over 2200 staff to frontline areas such as call centres to help meet the historic surge in demand for support over the last few months.

Australian Banking Association CEO Anna Bligh said that banks stood shoulder to

shoulder with Australians who were suffering as a result of the COVID-19 health and economic crisis.

"Banks are here to support customers throughout the crisis and help the economy on the other side as we recover from the devastating effects of this pandemic," Ms Bligh said.

"Since this crisis started banks have deferred the mortgage repayments of 429,000 Australian families or a staggering one in fourteen of all home loans.

"Australian families who are financially affected by this crisis have had the breathing space they need with a six month deferral on their home loan repayment while they chart a path through to the other side of this downturn," she said.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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COVID19 CRISIS

Unemployment surges

More than 40,000 South Australians lost their jobs in April amid government-imposed coronavirus restrictions and shutdown measures.

The latest figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) show that about 40,800 South Australians lost their jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis.

About half of the jobs that disappeared - 20,100 - were full-time positions.

The state's unemployment rate rose from 6.3 per cent in March to 7.2 per cent — the highest rate of any state or territory in the country.

It is also the highest rate since a peak in August last year.

Only 5,600 of those who lost their jobs joined the JobSeeker queues.

The other 35,200 left the labour force altogether and stopped looking for work, meaning they are excluded from the ABS's definition of the unemployment rate.

The SA Council of Social Service's (SACOSS) executive director Ross Womersley said the April jobs figures were "particularly horrifying".

"They confirm some of our worst fears, that huge numbers of people have lost employment," he said.

"And if they haven't lost their job entirely, huge numbers of people have lost work and are experiencing hardship as a result.

"It may be 12 months ... before the opportunity to resume employment emerges for many people, so in that period of time, they're going to be experiencing enormous reductions in their financial capacity.

"That's going to cause hardship when the bills start to stack up."

He called on the South Australian Government to increase the number of financial counsellors in the state.

In response to the figures, SA Premier Steven Marshall said "we've got two problems in South Australia".

"We have got 40,000 people who have lost their jobs, but we also have massive underemployment in South Australia," he said.

"These figures were taken four weeks ago, and we hope there is increased consumer confidence and business confidence [now] ...



Long cues are experienced in recent times outside Centrelink offices

and that we can start to see more hours being worked," he said.

"But it's very tough times right across the country and, in this situation, right across the globe."

SA Minister for Innovation and Skills David Pisoni said the State Government was responding quickly to the crisis.

"This is the greatest economic challenge of our time, which is why the Government is responding swiftly and decisively to ensure as many businesses and jobs as possible make it through

to the other side," Mr Pisoni said.

South Australia was not the only state to record significant job losses amid the coronavirus crisis — a total of 594,300 jobs were lost across Australia in April.

The largest hit was recorded in New South Wales with 221,400 jobs lost, followed by Queensland with 129,600 lost.

Overall, the ABS estimates that 2.7 million people across Australia either lost their job or had their hours reduced between March and April.

Turkey illegally occupies Greek part of Evros River

About 35 Turkish soldiers have reportedly marched onto a floodplain site on the east bank of the River Evros near the town of Feres on the disputed border between Turkey and Greece.

Special forces and infantry set up a camp with a small Turkish flag flying from a tree and rejected Greek demands to withdraw.

Longstanding disputes over the position of the border arise from the fact the Evros River, which marks it out, often shifts its course.

The movement leaves land that is technically part of Greece to the river's east, and land that is technically part of Turkey to its West.

The incursion took place on Friday and was reportedly a response to a Greek army survey

of the 1.6-hectare site as part of plans to build additional border fences.

Turkey currently hosts more than four million refugees from Syria and other countries affected by conflict in the region. "In spite of our warnings and proposals of cooperation, Greece initiated land-leveling activities on May 13, 2020, and violated our contractual land border. This violation was immediately intercepted by our relevant authorities through the necessary measures," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Ankara has informed Greece that the riverbed "has significantly changed due to natural and artificial reasons" since 1926 when the border was established and that technical coordination was

needed for a solution.

The Turkish ministry added that the dispute could be resolved through talks between the two countries.

Athens says that the boundaries have been clearly defined by the international treaties of 1923 and 1926 and their delineation cannot be disputed.

It also says that, in a provocative move, members of Turkey's police special forces have had a presence in the area of Melissokomeio, near the southern part of the Evros River in recent weeks, blocking the work of the Hellenic Army's geographical service in view of the expansion of a border fence.

Greece wants to expand the border fence in order to avoid a repeat of the scenes in March

when thousands of migrants amassed at the border trying to cross into Greece.

Speaking on Sunday at Skai TV, Greek Foreign Affairs Minister Nikos Dendias explained what happened:

"Greece began preparatory works — measurements, in reality — to build an extension of the Evros border fence. Turkey demanded through a note to be informed of this fence's construction coordinates, and Greece responded negatively, as it ought to. We told the Turks the fence is being constructed on Greek territory and therefore we have no reason to inform it of anything."

Dendias noted that no Greek government has the constitutional right to concede even a square centimeter of territory."

Church Name Day celebrated

For the first time in almost two months, members of the general public were allowed to enter the Sts Constantine and Helen Greek Church in Goodwood for the church's name day on May 21st.

It was the first time the church celebrated its name day amid a pandemic but it was also the first of the Community's churches which welcomed members of the public after all places of worship were forced to shut down because of COVID-19.

The usually popular religious feast which draws hundreds of people from the Greek community and many local Members of Parliament at the church service and the Goodwood Greek Festival, yesterday only had a handful of faithful attending, as per Government's social distancing policies. However, both the Evening

Community Life



Members of the clergy of the Autocephalic Church conduct the Divine Liturgy at the St Constantinos and Eleni Church Name Day on 21 May at Goodwood

Vesper on Wednesday and the Divine Liturgy on Thursday were conducted as per normal with the attendance of all the Community's clergy.

The President of the Greek Orthodox Community Mr Bill Gonis joined the ten people who were allowed to enter the church to attend the service.

"I was so happy to see inside our church some of our church members who were so eager to return to their place of worship with which they have such strong spiritual bonds.

We're expecting with the same zest the reopening of all our churches very soon," said Mr Gonis.

After almost two months in self-isolation the volunteers of the church of Saints Constantine and Helen returned to their familiar spots and territories for the first time.

Mr Gonis took the opportunity to thank them all as this coincided with National Volunteers Week, from the 18th until the 24th of May 2020.

For those who were unable to enter the church to attend the celebrative service due to restrictions in numbers of attendees, a live online link offered the opportunity to watch the services though the Community's social media.



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



IMAGES FROM YESTER YEAR

The photo, left, was taken in the late 80's during the start of the construction of the Ridleyton Greek Home for the Aged. In the photo are, amongst others, the then President of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Nick Niarchos, Vice President Con Marinos (deceased), General Secretary Vangelis Bogias, Treasurer Vasilis Roubanis, Nick Hodge of the Association for the Care of the Elderly and Stathis Tsakalos (deceased).

Bishop ex-communicates PM Mitsotakis!

One of the most hardcore bishops of the Greek Orthodox Church, Amvrosios, ex-communicated the Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Education & Religious Affairs Minister Niki Kerameos as well as the head of the Civil Protection Nikos Hardalias over the dispute whether the faithful can get infected with the coronavirus through the Holy Communion. Bishop Amvrosios read the severe "punishment" on the first day churches in Greece were allowed to liturgise after two months of coronavirus lockdown.

After the Sunday Mass was concluded, bishop Amvrosios read the so-called "Great Excommunication" on PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Minister Niki Kerameos and Deputy Minister Nikos Hardalias.

While Amvrosios was reading his text, the handful of faithful in attendance started leaving the church one after the other, local media reported.

With a post on his personal blog a few days ago, the former Bishop of Kalavryta

and Aigialeia had threatened that he will excommunicate Minister Kerameos after she said that the coronavirus is transmitted through the saliva.

Amvrosios considered the minister's statement as an exhortation to the faithful to refrain from participating in the holy communion, where the symbolic "blood and body of Jesus Christ" is shared with a common spoon among the congregation.

He described the Minister's statement as "blasphemous" and called on the Minister "to publicly apologize for this indescribable crime".

He also referred to an alleged conversation between PM Mitsotakis and the head of the Civil Protection Mr Hardalias on the issue. The conversation was "fake news" posted on social media, but Amvrosios claimed the conversation was real as the two had not dismissed it.

The action of ex-communication is a punishment for a "great sin" and officially excludes the "sinful" person from participation in the

sacraments and worship services of the Greek Orthodox Church.

By the Greek Orthodox faith, the punishment can only be lifted either by the priest who imposed it or by the Holy Synod.

It must be noted that due to the Greek State's tangled

ties with the Greek Church, which go back many years, the clergymen are considered to be public servants and are still on the Government's payroll. The Church receives additional hand outs and their multi billion business and assets are exempt from any Government tax.



Greek clergyman Amvrosios, during last Sunday's mass ex-communicated PM Mitsotakis and two of his Ministers

Celebration of Mother goes back to ancient Greece

According to an article written by Phillip Chrysopoulos on the "Greek Reporter", ancient Greeks celebrated the mother as the life-giver, centuries before Mother's Day was celebrated in the West.

"Mother Earth (Gaia), wife of Uranus, was the personification of nature that gives birth to everything and she was worshipped as the ultimate deity. Her worship then passed to her daughter Rhea, wife, and sister of Cronus, who gave birth to several deities in Greek mythology.

Rhea was worshipped as the 'Mother of Gods' and ancient Greeks used to celebrate their annual spring festival to honor Rhea, the goddess of nature and fertility.

Ancient Romans also celebrated a spring festival by the name of Hilaria in honor of mother goddess Cybele, some 250 years before Christ was born.

Later, Christian Greece honored the mother associated with the feast of Ypapanti (Feb. 2). The Orthodox Church celebrates the day the Virgin Mary, with Joseph, took the 40-day-old



Jesus to the temple to be blessed.

However, in the 1960s, the celebration of Ypapanti lost its popularity, and Greeks started honoring the mother on the second Sunday of May as the rest of the West, even though the Church insists on the old day of celebration.

The modern celebration of Mother's Day was established

in the 20th century and comes from the American women's movement.

Ann Maria Reeves Jarvis organized for the first time in 1865 the Mothers' Friendship Day movement and meetings called Mothers' Day Meetings, where mothers exchanged views and experiences.

In 1870 Julia Ward Howe organized an event of mothers

gathering under the slogan 'peace and motherhood' to prevent children from being sent to war.

Today, millions of people across the globe take the day as an opportunity to honor their mothers, thank them for their efforts in giving them life, raising them, and being their constant support and well-wisher", the story ends.

LETTER

Petition to Eradicate Period Poverty in SA

Dear Editors and Contributors of the Greek Tribune,

We write to you today about the issue of Period Poverty in South Australia.

In late 2019, The Commissioner for Children and Young People released a report titled "Leave No One Behind", highlighting the effects of period poverty on students in South Australia. The report emphasized the challenges young women and girls are confronted with at school when it comes to the affordability of sanitary products and the anxiety associated with menstrual hygiene management.

74% of schools surveyed in the report believed access to sanitary products was an issue for their students and 20% of schools reported that teachers are purchasing products for students out of their own money.

Together, we have been working to address period poverty through the parliament. We recently passed the 'Free Menstrual Hygiene Products Pilot Program Bill 2020' in the Upper House. The Bill will soon be introduced in the Lower House.

Periods don't stop for pandemics. The lack of

mobility due to self-isolation, panic buying and loss in income for families as a result of the coronavirus pandemic has created even more barriers to students who need to access these essential items.

We encourage you to support our campaign through sharing the attached poster and petition in common places, with your networks and individual supporters.

Please return completed petition pages to EndPeriodPovertySA@gmail.com. You can also track progress of the petition on <https://www.facebook.com/End-Period-Poverty-in-SA102655804808402>.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate our offices. We would also be happy to come along to upcoming meetings to discuss the campaign in detail.

Yours sincerely,

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Adelaide hospital offering free accommodation to country patients

North Eastern Community Hospital (NECH) in Adelaide has decided to roll out the red carpet to country patients, by offering free accommodation to those receiving treatment from any of their specialists.

The offer means that country families referred to visiting NECH specialists for surgery or to have a baby will be able to stay free of charge in accommodation directly adjacent to the hospital, subject to availability.

NECH CEO Michele Smith said the hospital has a long history of welcoming patients from the country.

"North Eastern has long been a hospital of choice for country patients," she said.

"We think that's because country patients may prefer to receive treatment at a small, family-friendly hospital with a community feel, where staff really get to know their patients.

"We also know that it's not easy to travel long distances to Adelaide for surgery or to have a baby and then have to find accommodation.

"Country patients already have to incur so many extra costs in terms of travel and other expenses, so we really want to be able to make things easier for them when they get here.

"Of course the best place for country patients to receive their healthcare

is as close to home as possible, however for some surgeries and higher risk pregnancies country people at times have to travel further afield.

"We have some of the best specialists in South Australia treating patients at North Eastern, supported by an excellent group of close-knit, experienced, long-serving nurses and midwives.

"The accommodation, which is owned by the hospital, is literally right next door, which means patients only have to travel a very short distance to receive their treatment, and can easily and quickly return to the privacy of their accommodation once they are discharged."

If patients require treatment they are encouraged to ask their GP for a referral to a NECH specialist. More information is available at northeasternhospital.com.au/country-patients or by contacting the hospital on 8366 8111.

North Eastern Community Hospital is a not-for-profit, community-owned private hospital in Campbelltown, Adelaide.

We offer services in Maternity, Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Gastroenterology, Oral Surgery, Plastic Surgery and General Surgery. Choice of specialist, wonderful nurses, a friendly atmosphere and free parking are just some of the reasons patients choose us over and over.