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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Many wineries could go under because of Covid19

A third of Australian wineries could go to the wall in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis, according to the industry's peak national body.

"We've got 2,600 wineries at the moment and 30 per cent of that we could lose," said Tony Battaglione, chief executive of Australian Grape and Wine.

On March 30, following an outbreak of coronavirus among international tourists visiting the Barossa Valley, the South Australian government ordered the closure of all winery cellar doors that supply direct to the public.

Those state-based restrictions were relaxed this week to allow takeaway sales of alcohol and food.

While there weren't the same orders in all

other states, the lack of tourism due to travel restrictions and the inability to serve sit-down customers has meant cellar doors everywhere have closed.

In South Australia's McLaren Vale, Hugh Hamilton Wines was closed over Easter, traditionally a very busy time which financially sets up businesses for the winter.

"We are very much a wine business that focuses on selling wine directly to our customers and the cellar door is our lifeblood — that is where they first meet us," said CEO Mary Hamilton.

Ms Hamilton said her business sells wine through the large wine retailers but also directly markets to customers via an online store and wine clubs.

ADELAIDE

A digital "Jesus has Risen" amid Covid 19

It was dubbed the quietest Easter ever in the long history of Orthodoxy and Christianity in general.

The coronavirus restrictions made no exceptions, forcing thousands of Orthodox faithfuls in Adelaide as well as around the world to resort to their laptops, tablets and TV sets to allow the Easter spirit into their homes.

The Passion of Christ or as Greeks call it the 'Divine Drama' walked along the footsteps of the COVID-19 drama throughout the Holy Week, making it a digital revolution for Church and the practising of faith.

This year's reference point for all Easter services for the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia was the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel in the city.

Usually packed out, this year the hymns and chanting by the four priests and the chanters throughout the Holy Week echoed on the walls of the empty cathedral, while all the services were broadcast live on the Community's social media.

Alongside the Cathedral's Vicar Father

John Konidaris, the rest of the Community's clergy, including Archimandrite Mark Papanagioutou, Father Panagiotis Anagnostou and Father Vasilios Apostolou, participated in conducting the services.

The only one "attending" the services was the small camera, installed inside the church to facilitate with the live broadcasting.

Both on Good Friday and Holy Saturday the services were conducted as per normal without the usual procession of Christ's tomb around the block, but with hundreds of people tuning in to YouTube and Facebook to watch the services live.

The Greek Orthodox Community's President Mr Bill Gonis said Easter was very difficult and different for all of us but we were required to go through this to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

"This year due to the circumstances our homes have temporarily become places of worship," Mr Gonis said.

The Community's churches will continue to conduct services behind closed doors and with online links for live broadcast on the internet, until further notice.

CORONA VIRUS RESTRICTIONS Still a fair way to go

The National Cabinet met last Friday to review the progress of the measures in relation to the COVID 19 pandemic and to take further decisions for the coming weeks.

The Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy provided an update on the measures underway, the latest data and medical advice in relation to COVID-19.

There are over 6,670 confirmed cases in Australia and sadly 78 people have died.

According to a statement sent to the Greek Tribune by the office of Prime Minister Scott Morrison, it is clear that the suppression strategy for the virus is working.

National Cabinet again noted data that confirms the measures put in place to suppress the virus have largely been successful in slowing and reversing the growth of cases in Australia, to ensure our health system has the capability to manage the epidemic.

Australians will have to live with coronavirus restrictions for at least the next few weeks, as

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said earlier, as the Government begins to chart a path out of the measures.

However, Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy at a press conference with Prime Minister Scott Morrison, last Friday, said that social distancing measures did not need to be followed in schools.

"We think the community risk of having children together in a classroom is low," he said.

TRIBUTE TO ANZAC DAY

In the same statement sent to the Greek Tribune, Prime Minister Scott Morrison pays tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives on ANZAC Day.

"Across Australia, there are hundreds of thousands of veterans and servicemen and women who have sacrificed much for our country — and along the walls of the Australian War Memorial are the names of 102,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country".

"While war and pandemic are very different, they both require enormous sacrifices of



Chief Medical Officer Professor Brendan Murphy and Prime Minister Scott Morrison give an update on the coronavirus

citizens" the PM said.

"This Anzac Day, Australia faces the most difficult circumstances since the Second World War. The circumstances before us cause us to look to past generations and ask "how did they do it?" and "what can we learn from them for our own times?"

The PM also made reference to the outbreak of the Spanish Flu here in Australia, only one year after the return

of the Anzacs at the end of the First World War.

"It is estimated that pandemic affected almost 40 per cent of the population in Australia and took 15,000 lives.

At their recent meeting, National Cabinet also passed a motion of condolence to the four Victorian police officers killed in the line of service in Melbourne last week.

National Cabinet will meet again on 1 May 2020.

Greek Community never forgets the immortal 1821

With corona virus wreaking havoc around the globe, disrupting social flow as we know it, the Greek Orthodox Community was left with no choice but to honour Greek Independence Day in a closed ceremony for the first time in history.

The usual formalities of laying wreaths, school children in traditional costumes, members of parliament and hundreds of Hellenes participating in the celebrations, were overshadowed by the ongoing health crisis.

However the sense of national pride and patriotism was just as strong, if not stronger during the very small,

closed ceremony held by the Greek Orthodox Community at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael & Gabriel's cenotaph on Wednesday 25th March.

"Coronavirus has brought the global community to its knees, however, we had the obligation to honour in one way or another this very important day that means so much to all of Hellenism," said Mr Bill Gonis, President of the Greek Community.

The celebrations were initially scheduled for Sunday the 29th of March at the Cathedral but were cancelled due to the spread of the virus and following Government policies on social gatherings, announced

recently.

The closed ceremony only saw the President of the Greek Community Mr Bill Gonis, the General Secretary Mr Peter Ppiros, the Community's Treasurer Mr Peter Gardiakos, Mrs Eleni Mermingis-Kounavelis, member of the Administrative Council and the church's vicar, with no other member of the public or member of parliament allowed to attend.

A short memorial service in memory of the heroes of the 21 Epos and the laying of two wreaths was but a humble tribute towards those men and women whose struggle

ensured Greece's independence.

The church's empty courtyard resonated the Greek National Anthem performed by the small group, giving an eerie feeling in this year's celebration as they concluded.

Greek Independence Day coincides with the Day of Annunciation and for this reason a closed service was conducted inside the church (with doors closed) prior the ceremony outside and was broadcast live on YouTube.

It's worth mentioning that all church services will also be broadcast live online at least until the crisis is over.

Tribute to Joanne Shanahan

The members of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia were shattered by the news of the tragic death last week of a close friend and highly respected member of SA Police, Joanne Shanahan.

Chief Superintendent Shanahan, 55, was one of two people killed in the three-car collision, which happened at the intersection of Cross Road and Fullarton Road, Urrbrae, about 2.00pm on Saturday afternoon.

Her husband, 63-year-old Peter Shanahan, who was behind the wheel of their Holden SUV, was taken to hospital for treatment with minor injuries.

Tania McNeill, aged 53, also died behind the wheel of a silver BMW, while a 20-year-old man who was driving a 4WD Volkswagen is still in the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

According to a witness the Volkswagen 4WD became airborne, crashed into a streetlight and then hit the SUV Holden driven by Mr Shanahan and the BMW which belonged to the

Community Life

second victim, Tania McNeil.

The Administrative Council of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA issued a statement on Monday morning expressing condolences to the families and Police SA on behalf of all the members of the community's peak association.

"On behalf of the President Bill Gonis and the Executive committee of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA (GOCSA), we pay our respects and send our condolences to a wonderful and beautiful person in Detective Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan APM", the statement reads.

GOCSA's statement makes reference to Joanne's elevation to SA Police highest posts and mentions that "last year in the January Australia Day Awards Chief Superintendent Joanne Shanahan received the Australian Police Medal — an award that recognised her distinguished service and hard work".

In 2019 GOCSA invited Joanne as a guest speaker for

International Women's Day.

Here is an extract of Joanne's speech about her life and role within the police force:

"I have been in SAPOL 38 years and it still is exciting as when I first joined. I still enjoy coming to work every day. I was the first Officer in management to have children and still am the only woman in our Executive group with children. I must say that I have been able to do what I have in my personal life and professional life because of my family and friends, they are important. It has been my mother, father and husband that have cared for the children when I have been at work, it has been my friends that have inspired me and kept me going when I have failed and it is the same people that I share the great moments with and laugh with. I thank those people."

Joanne was a proud mother of two children, devoted wife and loving daughter. Her parents long-time, loyal GOCSA members, Mr Nick and Mrs Christina Panayiotou always proud of Joanne.



The late Joanne Shanahan

The Greek Orthodox Community of SA notes that "our thoughts and prayers are with the Shanahan and Panayiotou families over the tragic, heart-breaking loss of Joanne. Together we grieve with the families, friends and the entire South Australian Police family during this most difficult time".

"We also express our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Tania McNeill who also lost her life in the same tragic incident".

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

ABN: 52366840467

Correspondence to: The Editor, BOX 330, FULHAM GARDENS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5024

Phone: 0408 865004

Website: www.greektribune.com.au

E-mail: info@greektribune.com.au



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LEFT: At a closed ceremony on 25 March at the cenotaph of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, Franklin Street Adelaide, the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, celebrated the Greek Revolution of 1821 for Freedom from the oppressive ottoman empire. From left, Eleni Mermingis, fr Ioannis Konidaris, General Secretary Peter Ppiros, President Bill Gonis and Treasurer Peter Gardiakos

Photo: Harri Ppiros

Racist motives behind twin cities relationship severance

On April 14, 2020, in the absence of the mayor, the Municipal Council of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, led by several members, approved a motion to sever the twin cities relationship between the Wagga Wagga and the Chinese city of Kunming.

In a written statement, Kunming city Municipal Government expressed its firm opposition "to a few city councillors of Wagga Wagga who discredited and slandered the Chinese political system, as well as the epidemic prevention and control work".

"Over the years, the friendly exchanges between Kunming and Wagga Wagga have been successful, and non-governmental exchanges have become increasingly intensive.

"On April 16, Mayor Greg Conk of Wagga Wagga wrote a letter to Mayor Wang Xiliang of Kunming city, expressing his apology for approving the motion of severing the twin cities relationship, stating that a new motion will be proposed in the near future to cancel the previous determination.

"In the meanwhile, we have also noticed that the vast majority of the citizens of Wagga Wagga

expressed strong opposition and condemnation to the behaviors of the few councillors, which is consistent with the friendly relationship between the two cities.

"Since the outbreak of the COVID-19, under the strong leadership of the Party Central Committee, China has made remarkable achievements in the prevention and control of the outbreak.

"Kunming, like other cities in the country, has also achieved obvious results in epidemic prevention and control and the production and life of the people have been restored in an orderly manner.

"We believe that the blasphemy of a few people in Wagga Wagga cannot represent mainstream public opinion.

"Kunming hopes that with the joint efforts of Mayor Greg Conkey and the friendly citizens of Wagga Wagga, the two sides will be able to push the friendly and cooperative relations between the two sides back on the right track at an early date".

Wagga Wagga Mayor Greg Conkey, who could not attend the previous council meeting because he was sick, said he

was "distracted" when he found out about the decision.

"You've got to bear in mind it was only three councillors who voted for that decision. There are nine councillors on Wagga City Council and it was only unusual circumstance that allowed this motion to get up," he said.

Mayor Greg Conk wrote to Mayor Wang Xiliang of Kunming city, expressing his apology for the motion, stating that a new motion will be proposed in the near future to reverse it.

Also, one of the three councillors who voted in favor of the move, Tim Koschel, has backflipped on his decision and took to Facebook to apologise.

"I apologize to our sister city of Kunming in China, my fellow councillors, as well as my local community for my actions", he wrote.

Relationship restored

The "damaging" decision of the council to cut ties with China was overturned after widespread community backlash and criticism from the Chinese consul-general in Sydney.

In a new vote taken at a special meeting by the Wagga Wagga Council on 22 April,



Wagga Wagga Mayor Greg Conkey

the Councillors voted in vast majority to restore the twin city relationship and issue an apology.

Nazi flag incident

In another extremist incident in February 2020, a Nazi swastika was seen flying atop a light tower at a public oval in the city of Wagga Wagga. The flag was removed by local council immediately after it was first reported.

Shop safe, buy local and bring your washable bags

• As the big supermarket chains struggle to meet demand, local businesses need our support

• Using washable, reusable bags for produce and bread is now more important than ever

• Wash your produce in the bag you shop with to help stay safe

• Online eco-retailer Onya encourages Aussies to reduce the number of touchpoints their groceries go through by shopping local

Whilst pictures of empty shelves are dominating our social media newsfeeds, many bakeries, butchers and produce stores are able to remain agile and increase operations to meet the current demand.

Sustainability advocate and managing director of Onya, Hayley Clarke is urging Aussies to shop local, support small businesses and most importantly bring their own washable and reusable bags.

Hayley says, "It's never been more important than it is now to be supporting your local bakeries and green grocers. Not only is the produce generally fresher having not sat through hours

of transit and cold storage, but it's also likely to have been touched by far fewer hands than the produce at the bigger supermarket chains.

"We need to be making smarter decisions about the fresh produce we're consuming, examine where it's come from, washing it thoroughly when we get home and also doing as much as we can to extend the life of our fruit and veggies when we get them home to reduce waste.

"As we are being encouraged to use wash our produce, using eco-friendly and washable produce bags makes so much sense. With washable bags, you can keep produce in the same bag from picking up produce in the store, to washing within the bag when you get home.

"It can also be a great way to save water by washing your produce over a bucket, so the water can be used on your garden or indoor plants."

Food waste has a substantial impact on both the planet and our wallets, taking any steps we can to reduce your household's impact is something we should all strive to do every day. Especially



because if we can get more out of our fresh fruit and veg, it should reduce the amount of times we need to leave the house and go to the shops.

Reports now reveal that coronavirus can still be detected on plastic surfaces for up to 72 hours after contamination[1], including plastic bread bags, in-store produce bags and plastic shopping bags. Aussies are being urged to invest in their own reusable products to help slow the spread of the virus and protect themselves and their families.

"Switching to reusable, BPA Free foodsafe bags can eliminate some of the risk, especially if they are washed after each use to further prevent the spread of cross-contamination.

"And it's not just shopping bags that we should be concerned with. By bringing our own produce bags, bread bags or even bulk food bags, we are controlling the surfaces that our food touches. In these uncertain times, feeling even the tiniest bit in control is so important," Hayley said.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP TO GEORGE ZANGALIS Awarded by the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria

Melbourne: The Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria (ECCV) announced the award of Life Membership to George Zangalis, a founding figure in Ethnic Community Broadcasting in Australia.

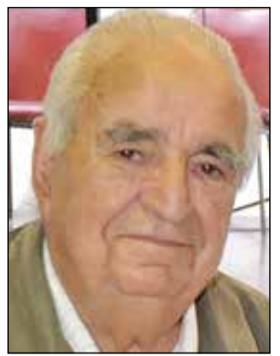
This honour has been awarded to only six other individuals over ECCV's five-decade history.

"I acknowledge and accept with deep appreciation and a sense of profound solidarity the honour of life ECCV membership," George said, upon receiving the award.

George was born in Greece in 1931, the fourth in a family of five children. He grew up during the Resistance of the Greek people against the German occupation and the post World War II Greek civil war. He came to Australia in February 1950. George became immediately involved in the working class and progressive organisations in the Greek community, the wider Australian labour movement, and the fledgling multicultural campaigns, a commitment he keeps to this day.

George has been awarded Life Membership in recognition of his commitment and energetic advocacy on behalf of migrant communities in Australia. He was one of ECCV's foundation members and a leading official with national peak, the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.

He pioneered Ethnic Community Broadcasting, serving on the ABC State and National Advisory Councils and the SBS Board in the early 1980s. George



George Zangalis

is currently a life member and a current affairs broadcaster in Melbourne's ethnic community radio station 3ZZZ. He served for many terms as 3ZZZ President as well as President of the National Ethnic and Multicultural Broadcasters' Council of Australia, the ACTU's Migrant Workers Committee and the Public Transport Union Of Australia (Victoria). He authored the Study Migrant Workers and Ethnic Communities, a Short History of Ethnic Broadcasting in Australia and the Golden Holden.

In 2003, George was awarded the Centenary Medal for his services to Australia and especially the ethnic communities.

"We look forward to an opportunity to celebrate George Zangalis' Life Membership and his lifetime achievements after the current public health crisis has passed", Eddie Micallef, Chairperson of ECCV, said.

"On behalf of our Board, staff and members we thank George for his leadership and service to the ECCV and multicultural communities in Victoria."

PM asked to support temporary visa holders

"An announcement by Minister Alan Tudge for temporary visa holders to either go home when they can't, or dip into their superannuation to survive is reckless", according to the Migrant Workers Centre.

"Most migrant workers on temporary visas do not have enough savings to pay for an airfare home and many do not have superannuation", says the group and accuses the Morrison Government of abandoning 1.1 million temporary visa holders by locking them out of a wage subsidy and welfare, that was announced for every other worker.

The Migrant Workers Centre is calling on the Morrison Government to open up its' Job Keeper wage subsidy and Job Seeker welfare payments to include temporary visa holders.

"Temporary visa holders are doing crucial jobs. They are the lifeblood of the Australian economy. Locking them out of financial assistance and allowing them to fall into destitution is not something we can stand by and watch happen.

"With no access to a social safety net and limited access to healthcare, the Morrison Government is creating an abandoned group of people who will go into poverty and become

homeless.

"By calling on these workers to go home, many businesses will not be able to continue operating and many farms will be unable to have their produce picked.

A survey carried out by unions has found that 50 percent of temporary visa holders are already out of work as a result of COVID-19, another 18 percent have had their hours cut.

One-in-two temporary migrant workers surveyed are living off their savings, but they expect those will run out within two weeks.

A staggering 43 percent of respondents said they were skipping meals regularly as a financial consequence of COVID-19.

"Many of the 1.1 million workers the government is talking about have no way to return to their countries of birth. Borders are closed, flights are cancelled, and many are already living in poverty with no way to buy an airline ticket", Director of Migrant Workers Centre Matt Kunkel said.

"On the one hand, the Morrison government are telling temporary visa holders they are extremely valuable to our country and our economy, while on the other they're excluding them from financial assistance during a crisis and telling them outright to go home when they have no means to do so.