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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Unprecedented success for Adelaide's 12th Odyssey Festival

Under the sound of the 'bouzouki' and the timeless beauty of the Greek arts, the 12th Odyssey Festival started its 2017 journey with a spectacular show at Olympic Hall on Friday 6th of October.

The much-anticipated event drew hundreds of people from across the city at Olympic Hall unveiling a rich program for art lovers and the community in general.

The Greek Community became once again the hub of a month-long expression of culture throughout the Festival, reflecting this year's theme "A Journey Through the Arts".

His Excellency The Hon Hieu Van Le, Governor of South Australia who brightened the event with his presence said it always pleased him to witness such vibrant cultural events.

"I always look forward to spending time with our State's Greek community, and I am proud to support this fantastic event," the Governor said.

Opening the formal part of the evening The President of the Greek Orthodox Community Mr Bill Gonis said the Community's goal is to preserve the Hellenic culture and share it with the rest of South Australians.

"The progress and growth of our organisation in South Australia from the time of its incorporation in 1930 to the present represents a journey for us too and one which we are happy to share with you", he said.

Following the formal part of the event, guests were in for a surprise when about 25 bouzouki players appeared on stage as part of a special music presentation.

Soon, all-time classic Greek tunes echoed inside the Hall as the students of the Con Dalagiorgos School of Music literally rocked the venue with their talent and passion for Greek music.

The special music feature was enhanced with dance performances by the Community's Dance Academy.

Meanwhile, the Arts Exhibition at the Hall draw the guests' attention as there was a number

of unique and inspiring pieces of art, three of which were voted as top art competition entries for this year's Odyssey.

The lucky artist who received the top prize during the Art Awards presentation was Ms Maria Sagias for her 3-D work "Metora in Autumn". Ms Despina Maragkozidi and Ms Helen Victoria won the second and third prize respectively.

The Hon Michael Atkinson, Speaker of the House of Assembly and Member for Croydon on behalf of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Hon Zoe Bettison, Mr David Pisoni, Shadow Minister for Transport, Planning and Infrastructure and Member for Unley on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition Mr Stephen Marshall, Ms Joe Chapley, Labor Candidate for the Seat of Adelaide, Ms Jayne Stinson, Labor Candidate for the Seat of Badcoe, Mr Laughlin Clyne, Mayor of the City of Unley and Liberal Candidate for the Seat of Badcoe, Ms Angela Evans, Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt, Mr Andreas Gouras, Consul General of Greece, Mr Chris Christoforou Vice President of the Cyprus Community of SA, representing the President of the Community Mr Andreas Evdokiou and Mr Frank Fursenko, President of the Ukrainian Community of SA were among the official guests who attended the opening night.

The Odyssey Festival opening night marked the beginning of a month-long cultural adventure featuring a number of events for all ages and tastes, inviting all to join the journey through the Arts.

As the Greek Tribune goes to press, Odyssey's finale approaches with a Dance and Song performance by GOCSA's Dance Academy on 28 October at the Elder Hall in the City.

Other cultural activities that were included in this year's Odyssey, was a Bouzoukia night with Con Dalagiorgos' Music School, Greek Theatre, two lectures and a sports day involving hundreds of GOCSA's students.

Anastasiades-Putin reaffirm strong Cyprus-Russia ties

As the Greek Tribune went to press, President Nicos Anastasiades met on Tuesday in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin where they reaffirmed ties between the two countries.

Anastasiades was greeted at the Kremlin by Putin and they held a tete-a-tete ahead of a meeting between the full delegations from both sides to sign a number of bilateral agreements.

The two heads of state signed a joint action programme, while ministers of the Russian and Cypriot governments signed bilateral agreements, a Memorandum of Understanding and a Joint Declaration.

In particular, the corresponding ministers of the two countries signed agreements in Commercial Shipping, International Road Transport, Maritime Transport, Communications

and Information Technology.

Also, a Joint Declaration was signed between the Republic of Cyprus and the Russian Federation to co-operation in the field of modernising the economies.

A Joint Program of Action 2018-2020 was signed by the two presidents.

Welcoming Anastasiades, Putin said relations between Cyprus and Russia were developing positively, noting that ties go back a long way. He said Russia was always in favour of a just solution of the Cyprus problem and added that the Soviet Union was the first country to recognise the independence of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960.

On his part, Anastasiades referred to the historical, cultural, religious ties between Russia and Cyprus, adding that cooperation between the two countries was excellent.

"There is no doubt that we



will see how we can, through our cooperation, serve the best interests of our peoples," he said.

He expressed the gratitude of the Cypriot people and the Cyprus government "for the consistent and stable support of Russia that is based on principles with regard to a solution to the longstanding Cyprus problem."

New austerity measures at the horizon

Talks between the Greek government and the technical staff of the country's creditors began on Thursday, with the focus on fiscal, banking, labor, privatization and energy issues. The discussions will gather pace from Monday, when the chief representatives of the creditors arrive in Athens.

The technical experts visited the State General Accounting Office on Thursday to start sifting through state budget figures and assess whether the primary surplus targets for this year (1.75 percent of gross domestic product) and next (3.5 percent of GDP) can be attained.

The revenue shortfall recorded to date has sent some negative signals to eurozone capitals, and sources from the creditors speak of concerns regarding the course of the next fiscal year. They have not ruled out the discussion of additional measures, although this is clearly the competence of the heads of missions as of next week.

In its 2018 draft budget, the government sees the revenue hole both this year and next being plugged with revenues from superannuation contributions.

Launch of Harmony Alliance - Migrant and Refugee Women's Voice

On the International Day of the Girl declared by the United Nations (UN), over 200 women and men showcased their support at the National Launch of the 'Harmony Alliance: Migrant and Refugee Women for Change.' Minister for Employment and Minister for Women, Senator Michaelia Cash, launched the special occasion at the Adelaide Town Hall, with other VIPs including the Honourable Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for the Status of Women and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Not-for-profits, government service providers, and community and Ethnic leaders attended the launch.

Presented by Senator the Hon Cash, the inaugural recipient of the Harmony Alliance Award was Ms Eugenia Tsoulis OAM, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC), for life long achievement in empowering and supporting migrant and refugee women.

Ms Maria Dimopoulos, will guide the Harmony Alliance as Chairperson, with backing support from the Migration Council Australia (MCA), who will ensure the pivotal work plan of the alliance remains on track and achieves effective outcomes for women during and beyond their settlement process.

The women's alliance, now one of six National Women's Alliances, will consult nationally with women of migrant and



Minister for Employment and Minister for Women, Senator Michaelia Cash, recently launched the Harmony Alliance at a special event held at the Adelaide Town Hall. Amongst other guests was Zoe Bettison MP, Minister for the Status of Women and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Also in the photo, is AMRC CEO Eugenia Tsoulis

refugee backgrounds from a diversity of cultures to inform on issues impacting them and facilitate positive change. The alliance strives to ensure that equal opportunity and access is available to these women in health and wellbeing, justice, safety, employment, social,

cultural and economic participation in Australia. The inaugural Alliance Council will be represented by various community representatives and organisations, who either work and/or represent migrant and refugee women, including not-for-profit agencies.

Greek Film Festival huge success

A well-kept secret of a turbulent past was "revealed" to hundreds of cinema goers at the launch of the 24th Delphi Bank Greek Film Festival on Thursday 12th of October at Palace Nova cinemas.

The Opening Night Gala of the festival which is brought to Adelaide by the Greek Orthodox Community, premiered the blockbuster film 'Rosa of Smyrna' a captivating drama by George Kordellas about an enigmatic old woman from Izmir who carries a dark secret.

The sold-out event drew once again a myriad of cinema fans who flocked to Palace Nova cinema for the latest of Greek film production.

"Despite the financial crisis that has hit Greece, Greek film makers still produce award-winning films," said Mr Andreas Gouras, Consul General of

Community Life



At the launch of 24th Australian Greek Film Festival

Greece at the opening night.

Culture is Greece's heavy artillery," he said.

The opening night kicked off at 6.00pm with pre-drinks and finger food as guests and VIPs took the opportunity to socialise and discuss the cultural month of October.

Opening the formal part, the President of the Community Mr Bill Gonis, said that with what Greece has gone through the past five or more years, film coming from the Hellenic Republic debunks the myth that this is a country on its knees.

"We commend the resilience

of the Greek film industry that provide us with the opportunity to see the world through of a contemporary Hellene," said Mr John Tsoutsikos from Delphi Bank, praising the Greek film makers.

The list of official guests who attended the gala included The Hon. Michael Atkinson MP, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Member for Croydon representing the Premier and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Zoe Bettison, Ms Rachel Sanderson MP, State Member for Adelaide, Ms Jo Chapley, Labor Candidate for Adelaide, Ms Irene Pnevmatikos, Labor Candidate for Legislative Council, the Consul General of Greece Mr Andreas Konstantinos Gouras and Mr John Tsoutsikos, from Delphi Bank, the national sponsor for the Festival.

The festival continued until Sunday, screening a variety of quality films.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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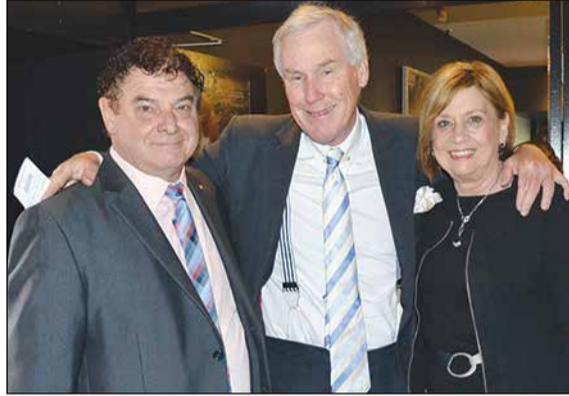
LEFT: The Premier of South Australia Jay Weatherill launched the Dimitria Festival at the old parliament chambers on 10 October. Also in the photo, MC Jayne Stinson and Pan-Macedonian Association President Evan Tsiaparis.

RIGHT: Member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson with guests of the annual Greek Film Festival launched at the Nova Cinemas on 12 October



LEFT: David Pisoni MP, ALP candidate for Adelaide Jo Chapley and President Bill Gonis at the launch of the Odyssey Festival on 6 October.

RIGHT: President Bill Gonis, Speaker of the House of Assembly Michael Atkinson and Jennifer Rankine MP at the launch of GOCSA's Delfi Greek Film Festival



LEFT: At the launch of the Odyssey Greek Festival on 6 October at the Olympic Hall, were from left, the Greek Consul General Andreas Gouras, Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le, Member for Unley David Pisoni and Bill Gonis, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia

RIGHT: Premier Jay Weatherill with Anastasia and Harry Tavlarides at the official launch of the Dimitria Festival on 10 October



ABOVE: Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le with Field Days chairman James Butler and SA Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell at the Riverland Field Days last month.

RIGHT: Member for Chaffey Tim Whetstone announced recently that if SA Liberals win the State Election in March next year, they will restore the 110km/h limit along Brown's Well Highway, between Loxton and Pinnaroo, and Ngarkat Highway, between Pinnaroo and Bordertown.

Photos by: Christian Longobardi, Murray Pioneer



By Alekos Lidorikis
Vassilis was born in Aghios Ioannis and is one of about 10 permanent residents who remain in the village. Aghios Ioannis is part of the Thermo municipality, in the Aitolokarnania region of western Greece. The municipality has a total population of 9,299. Aghios Ioannis is 15 kilometres from Thermo, the area's main town. Vassilis lived in Aghios Ioannis until the age of 20, when he left for Athens to find work. Four decades later, he has retired and returned to the place where he grew up.

At an elevation of 1,000 metres, Aghios Ioannis is set in an idyllic mountain landscape. Vassilis gets emotional when talking about his youth. "In the 1960s, when I was in first grade, the village school had more than 70 students. Among those, nine were my siblings. All the families in the village back then were big. The school was right across the street from my home. After school we would all

Greek villages are vanishing

help with the housework. Then the school closed during the 1970s because there weren't any children left due to families migrating to cities or larger villages. Aghios Ioannis and the neighboring villages started to become deserted," he told me.

I joined Vassilis on his daily walk to the neighboring village of Koniska and we chatted about his life in Aghios Ioannis now and what it was like when he was growing up. "The loneliness is hard. Most of the time when I take this walk, the only companions I have are four dogs that like to come with me. You can count the permanent residents here on your two hands. If this continues, maybe I'll go and live in Agrinio," he said, referring to the largest city in Aitolokarnania.

What was life like in the 1960s when you were growing up here?

Things we now take for granted simply did not exist. We

grew up without electricity. We would study and read under the light of an oil lamp. Our mothers would use an iron heated by coals to press our clothes. The village had one phone. My father was in charge of it. The longer the distance of the call, the harder it was for it to go through. You couldn't simply make a direct phone call. The village phone was in operation until as recently as 1990. Of course there was no TV, but we did have a radio. I remember listening to the announcements about people who'd gone missing that were put out by the Hellenic Red Cross.

Were your parents also from Aghios Ioannis?

No, they were born and raised in Sello, a village that's about a 45-minute walk from here. In the 1950s and 60s more than 80 people lived there, but nobody lives in Sello now. Its residents moved away and by 1989 it had vanished from the map. Wherever there

was arable land, they grew fir trees. Abandoned homes that are still standing are now covered in greenery and a sign on one indicates there was life there as recently as 30 years ago. Those who grew up in these villages walked a lot. Even when electricity arrived in the area, it only did so through their own hard work.

How do you see things now?

The village I live in is kept alive by a grandmother with 16 great-grandchildren who visit at certain times of the year, such as Christmas and Easter. She's one of the many grandmothers who keep many small villages across Greece alive. Overall, though, unless something changes, many more villages will completely die out, just like Sello. As far as we're concerned today, things continue to get harder. We've worked all our lives and managed to get a taste of a dignified retirement. Now all we have to look forward to is more pension cuts.

FEDERAL POLITICS Citizenship to be decided by High court

The High Court of Australia will decide soon whether the 7 Federal politicians allegedly in breach of Article 44 of the Constitution re dual citizenship, will lose their jobs or retain if arguments for mitigating circumstances prevail.

Whilst this addresses the immediate political situation there is another issue of greater significance to Australia that the court needs to give attention to. That is, the constitution, drafted during the infamous White Australia Policy period is in conflict with current laws, enacted by the Howard government in 2002 that legalise the right of Australians to dual citizenship, thus reflecting the immense demographic changes that characterise our nation as an increasingly multicultural one. There are many Australians - indeed the majority, who by virtue of birth or decent (whether British, New Zealand, Greek,

Italian or Chinese) are legally dual citizens and are entitled to vote, in state and federal elections and indeed stand for parliament in many state parliaments, yet they are denied the right to stand for federal parliament unless they have previously renounced their second citizenship, which is an established legal right.

Obviously the conflict between the constitution and the law of the land should be resolved in favour of the law of the land so that all Australians have equal citizenship rights.

For a country like Australia this is fundamental for national unity and cohesion that equality in citizenship underpins. There should not be two classes of Australian citizens. Hopefully the High Court judges will provide an opportunity for this matter to be addressed.

George Zangalis
Melbourne, Victoria

Lisner and Erskine send Tracy feature around the world

Naomi Lisner and Derek Erskine have their feature Tracy completed and it's currently being sent to all the major festivals through the world.

Erskine was interviewed for George Donikian's online entertainment show about the Tracy feature, in which Donikian plays a newsreader.

Lisner was later interviewed discussing all things film and upcoming projects.

Lisner's short film in which she directed, wrote, produced and starred in, Hannah Rosenthal is in the final stages of edit with plans to also send it around the world.

The two have been busy with many projects on the go including Heart of Fury, Terrarium, The Incredible Chronicles of Mr Pasqual, The Imbalance, Apparently So, Lucy Blooms,

Bluebird, Tracy 2, The Evil Born, The Blood Sea, and many more.

Lisner concedes they have a usual approach to film making. We know that sometimes it's more practical to start filming a project and then switch to another project then move back. It can be for a number of reasons, including locations, costumes, weather and availability.

There are times when we plan to shoot one project and for various reasons it is put on hold and something else takes over. We have learned not to question it, instead embrace the madness and know that everything will get sorted when it's meant to.

Tracy is a perfect example of that. In the end it was reworked and extended. Lisner and Erskine are thrilled with the outcome and excited for its future.

(contributed)

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SA COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES KEEPING YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME SAFE

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Police Assistance 131 444

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Call the South Australian Elder Abuse

Prevention Phone Line on 1800 310 374

(Source: KNOWING YOUR RIGHTS, a Guide to the Rights of Older South Australians, Government of South Australia, SA Health)