



Greek church refuses burials for cremated individuals

The Orthodox Metropolis of Thiva and Livadia in central Greece earlier this week denounced cremation and threatened to refuse burial services for those opting for the practice.

According to press release by the Metropolis, "it is unthinkable for conscious Orthodox Christians to refuse burial and choose cremation."

Thirteen years after cremation was legalized in Greece, the country's first such facility has recently opened in Ritsona, north of Athens. The delay was mainly due to the vehement objection of

the Orthodox Church.

"Those who choose cremation have alienated themselves from the belief and practice of the Church," the statement reads. It adds that the clergy "cannot agree to carry out funeral services for those who consciously decided to use the method."

The newly-established crematorium was built by a private company at a cost of over four million euros (\$4.4 million), after years of fruitless efforts by municipal authorities to create a similar facility in the cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA Film Festival continues to grow

Greek cinema fans had... 1968 reasons to attend the launch of the 26th Delphi Bank Greek Film Festival at Palace Nova cinemas on Thursday 10th of October.

A cultural event that comprised Greek hospitality, live entertainment and the screening of the opening film "1968" by Tassos Boulmetis, a film that took Greece by storm.

Set in the year 1968, the film takes us back in time telling a story of national exhilaration with the legendary match between AEK and Praga Slavia at its center.

To watch the game, 80,000 people gathered in the stadium (breaking the Guinness World Record for the biggest gathering during a basketball game), with a few more thousands listening in from the outside.

"Prepare to fall in love with stories from and about Greece's rich and ancient culture and peoples, all over again," said Mr Bill Gonis, President of the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.

The prestigious opening of the Festival that tops Adelaide's cultural events calendar drew hundreds of cinema goers, artists and members of the wider community as it showcases the best of the Greek film industry.

But it wasn't just members of the community who flocked to Palace Nova for the opening night.

A number of Members of Parliament also enjoyed the top cultural event.

The list of official guests who attended the event included The Hon Rachel Sanderson, Minister for Child Protection, The Hon Irene Pnevmatikos, Member for the Legislative Council, The Hon Georgios Psiahas, Consul General of Greece in South Australia, Mayor Michael Coxon from the City of West Torrens and Mr John Toutsikos, Delphi Bank Area Manager of South Australia.

The red carpet outside the cinema was the place to be seen and perfect for a photo opportunity.

The pre-drinks and entertainment part of the event started off just after 5.30, featuring light refreshments, plenty of drinks and live music by Con Dalagiorgos and his students.

Around 7.00pm the music and drinks were left behind to give way to the screening of the film at one of Palace Nova's biggest theatres.

In Adelaide, the Greek Film Festival, presented by Delphi Bank Australia-wide, runs from the 10th to the 13th of October, featuring a total of five films.

Russia dominant power inside Syria

Russia sent more military police and dozens of armoured vehicles to Syria under an accord between Ankara and Moscow that has halted Turkey's military incursion into northeast Syria.

The deal, sealed last week by Presidents Tayyip Erdogan and Vladimir Putin, requires that Russian military police and Syrian border guards remove all Kurdish YPG militia from within 30km (19 miles) of the Turkish border by next Tuesday.

The military police, from the southern Russian region of Chechnya, will help with the withdrawal of Kurdish forces and their weapons to 30 km of the Syrian-Turkish border, Interfax news agency reported the defence ministry as saying.

Turkey launched its offensive against the YPG on Oct 9 after President Donald Trump ordered US forces out of northeast Syria. Ankara halted its assault under a US-brokered ceasefire that called

for a YPG withdrawal from the border area. The Putin-Erdogan deal built on and widened that agreement.

The arrival of the Russian police marks a shift in the regional balance of power less than three weeks after Trump began pulling U.S. forces out of northeast Syria.

It has also highlighted a growing security relationship between Russia, a close ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and now the dominant power inside Syria.

But despite deep Western unease over Ankara's actions, diplomats attending a Nato meeting in Brussels told Reuters the alliance had resolved to maintain military support for Turkey due to its geopolitical position.

Turkey's NATO allies fear its operation will cause a fresh humanitarian crisis in Syria and could allow Islamic State prisoners held by the YPG to escape and regroup.



Russia, a close ally of Bashar Al Assad, helps Syrian army to regain control of almost all Syrian territory

Turkey's new offensive in northern Syria is reminiscent in many ways of the invasion of Cyprus in 1974, showing Ankara's expansionist tendencies once again, according to Greek and Cypriot analysts.

Turkey launched its "Operation

Peace Spring" on October 9 in order to clear an area between the towns of Tel Abyad and Ras al Ayn in northeast Syria of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the People's Protection Units (YPG).

Greek Odyssey festival 2019 kicks off 4 October

Arts and culture met under the colours and sounds of Hellenism on Friday 4th of October at Olympic Hall as the Odyssey Festival launched its 14th journey of the senses.

A Festival that takes everyone on a cultural adventure through the Greek arts, bringing the vibe of Greece on our doorstep.

"The President of the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A. Bill Gonis said the Odyssey event serves as an example of our commitment, to both our own community and to multiculturalism in our great State.

We celebrate this year, our 14th Annual Odyssey cultural event with the inspiring theme: "Education Through Greek Arts", he said.

Attending the Odyssey launch, the Hon David Pisoni, Minister for Innovation and Skills, representing the Premier of South Australia The Hon Steven Marshall said the Greek Community has positively changed the way of life in South Australia.

"We are proud of your passion for preserving and sharing your culture and of what you have achieved as a Community", said Minister Pisoni.

The Odyssey launch drew hundreds of artists, friends of the arts, members of the wider community and several members of Parliament.

All mingling and catching up with the latest chatter, enjoying the familiar hospitality of the Greek Community in an artistically decorated Olympic Hall.

With the formal part proceeding, official guests addressed organisers and patrons, thanking the Greek Community for their endless contribution to the State's cultural character.

"South Australia is extremely fortunate to have such a culturally diverse population", said The Hon Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, representing the Leader of the Opposition Mr Peter Malinuskas.

The formal part featured a cultural program perfectly depicting the Festival's character and

purpose as the leading event in the State's arts scene.

The Dance Academy took everyone on a virtual journey to Greece through the dazzling traditional costumes and dance skill they exhibited.

Following the Dance Academy, Greek Band 'Floga' (which translates to "Flame" in English) put the house on fire with their performances and great selection of Greek songs.

The formal part concluded with the Odyssey Art Prize.

Three successful pieces of art, three lucky winners as judged by textile artist Russell Leonard, professional photographer Jane Blackett and artist Joe Felber.

Kathleen Patitsas won the first prize for her work "Yiayia" followed by Nicholas Tsatsaronis and Joanna Kalambogias Vlasopoulos for their work "Ia-Santorini" and "The Lament" respectively.

The Odyssey Art Prize is kindly sponsored by the Greek Workers Educational Association of S.A 'PLATON'.

The list of other official guests who attended the event included His Excellency The Hon Hieu Van Le, Governor of SA, her Excellency the Hon Martha Mavrommati, High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus in Australia, the Hon Connie Bonaros, Member of the Legislative Council, Mr Frank Pangallo, SA Best, Acting Consul General of Greece Mr Athos Marousias on behalf of The Hon Georgios Psiahas, Consul General of Greece in S.A, Councillor Franz Knoll, representing The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor, Mr Michael Coxon, Mayor of West Torrens, Councillor Paul Alexandrides, City of Charles Sturt on behalf of Mayor Angela Evans, Mr Norman Schueler, Chair of SAMEAC and Professor Andreas Evdokiou, President of the Cyprus Community of South Australia

The Odyssey Festival will conclude on the 17th of November with a local theatrical production.

Community honors Greek Resistance

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia (GOCSA) has paid tribute to "OXI" Day on Sunday 27th October 2019, in remembrance of the historic victory of the people of Greece over the forces of Italian dictator Mussolini an ally of the then Nazi Germany. A memorial service was held at the Cathedral Church of the Archangels in Franklin street, Adelaide, in the presence of SA Government and Opposition representatives.

"Morning of the 28th of October 1940. A morning that no Greek shall ever forget. It was the dawn of a dark era for Greece, that was set to change the life and history of our homeland", said the President of GOCSA Bill Gonis in a message to the community.

"Global conflict clouds looked ever so threatening above Europe, ready for the big "storm" to spread all over the world. And that storm, finally hit with vengeance! The Second World War had begun.

Community Life



At the celebration of the 28th of October 1940 at the Cathedral of Archangels Michael and Gabriel, were from left, Nick Frossinakis, Jayne Stinson MP, Speaker Vincent Tarzia, Minister Rachel Sanderson, GOCSA President Bill Gonis, Metropolitan of Adelaide Chrysostomos, Irene Pnevmatikos MLC and Steve Georganas federal MP

"That morning of the 28th of October would be the beginning of a long and painful battle for Greece that would spread sorrow, despair and unprecedented loss

of life amongst its citizens. It would however bring forth all those heroes who displayed unimaginable bravery, putting their lives aside for the freedom of their country,

our homeland.

This year, we celebrate 79 full years from that morning, when the people of Greece, stood firm against fascism and with only one word, that of 'OHI', meaning NO, they changed the course of history of Greece and of Europe in general. National Resistance was the only way!

That single word, the refusal to go under foreign rule, echoed not just in Greece but in war-stricken countries of Europe which fell into the power of the Axis, it echoed all over the globe. Such bravery, fearlessness, and mental strength displayed by the Greeks not just touched the world but empowered bleeding Europe which had been raised to the ground.

What we, as Greeks have inherited from the heroes of the 1940 Epos, is the continuous passion for a free and independent homeland, a nation united, enhanced with strength and bravery as it was shown to us by those fearless fighters who threw themselves in the battle facing the enemy in the blood-soaked mountains of Greece", GOCSA President said.

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LEFT: The Greek Orthodox Community of SA celebrated the 14th annual Odyssey festival, launched at the Olympic Hall on 4 October. The event was attended by the Governor of South Australia Hieu Van Le, Minister David Pisoni on behalf of the Premier Stephen Marshall, Irene Pnevmatikos representing the Leader of the Opposition Peter Malinauskas, the High Commissioner of Cyprus Martha Mavrommatis, West Torrens Mayor Michael Coxon and many more.



The 26th annual Greek Film Festival was launched on 10 October at the Nova Palace Cinema on Rundle Street with the opening film "1968" featuring the history of the AEK sporting club. In the photo a group of local Greek cinema lovers



West Torrens Mayor Michael Coxon and Greek Community President Bill Gonis were amongst members of the local Greek community who attended the official launch of the Greek Film Festival

New Adult Safeguarding Unit opens to take reports of elder abuse

Office for Ageing Well is pleased to announce South Australia's new Adult Safeguarding Unit (ASU) is officially open for business, as of Tuesday 1 October 2019.

The ASU is empowered to act upon reports of abuse or neglect of adults who, through their health, life or other circumstances, may be vulnerable to abuse or neglect.

The ASU will assess all reports of abuse and will then decide on the appropriate action. This could include in-

vestigating the situation further or taking immediate action, depending on the circumstances.

For the first three years, the ASU will respond to reports of abuse of people 65 years and older, or 50 years and older, if the person is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. From October 2022, the Unit will take reports about all adults (regardless of their age) who because of their vulnerability may be experiencing abuse or harm.

The ASU will also focus on the pre-

vention of elder abuse by raising awareness through the community and education.

Members of the public can report abuse, and seek free confidential advice and support, by contacting the Adult Safeguarding Unit through the SA Elder Abuse Prevention Phone Line 1800 372 310.

For more information, go to www.sa-health.sa.gov.au/officeforageingwell and click on the Adult Safeguarding Unit.

A jam-packed Bonegilla Reunion weekend

From writing your family history to guided tours and long lunches, the annual Discover Bonegilla reunion on November 2 and 3 has something for everyone.

Guests will immerse themselves in the sights, sounds, flavours and surrounds of the Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre more than 70 years after it was first established following World War II, when millions of people seeking a new start and peace, departed for Australia.

An army camp at Bonegilla was transformed into a migrant reception and training centre where new arrivals lived while they were processed and allocated jobs.

The annual reunion attracts past Bonegilla camp residents and their family from across the country, as well as general members of the public to enjoy tours, displays, exhibitions, family history writing sessions, food and music.

Come along and listen to historians Bruce Pennay and Howard Jones facilitate a discussion of how people go about writing or recording their family stories of the migrant experience.

They will examine some of the many ways people have traced their migration stories.

There will also be an introduction to writing your family history with the granddaughter of Belgian immigrants, Melissa Justice.

She has an associ-

ate degree in creative writing and the session will include information on how to research and format your family history and how to develop your story into a narrative.

There will be a pop-up booth on both days where staff will be on site to collect stories of Bonegilla.

Guided bus tours will visit the original site of the rail siding where guests can explore the area before visiting the Bonegilla Hall, then enter the now Latchford Army Barracks through the original main entrance to Reception and Training Centre once was before being guided through the old block locations.

Before departing the site, stop at the Theatre to see the grand size and walk the main street where banks and a canteen once stood.

The Bonegilla site will be open from 9am to 4pm on November 2 and 3.

The program will continue on November 4 with several events taking place off site, including the launch of an online 3D virtual tour of Block 19 at Bonegilla Migrant Experience.

The launch will be at The Cube Wodonga from 4pm with drinks at bar prices and nibbles provided.

View the full program here.

https://issuu.com/wodongacouncil/docs/a5_program_2019

Wodonga Council Australia
www.wodonga.vic.gov.au

Odyssey Festival 2019

"BABADES WITH RUM"

A comedy by M. Reppas & A. Papatathanasi

Directed by: Dimitris Avdoulas

Starring: Stella Hellander, Alexandra Poulis, Eleni Exadaktilou, Dimitrios Avdoulas, Dian Taliangis, Kostas Harris

Sunday 17 November 2019

7.00pm

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