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GREEK TRIBUNE

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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Angus Taylor elected new Liberal Leader

Angus Taylor has defeated Sussan Ley for Liberal leader by a hefty margin of 34-17, giving him strong authority to try to improve the fortunes of the debilitated federal opposition.



Ley, the federal Liberals' first female leader, has had only nine months in the leadership but has suffered a devastating decline in the opinion polls.

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor says his mission to save the Liberal Party from extinction will focus on home ownership and shutting out "bad migration", as he pledged to make the party competitive by restoring middle-class wealth and national pride.

Directly addressing disaffected Australian voters jumping ship to One Nation, Mr Taylor said:

"We are going to

do everything in our power to make sure that you see those core Liberal values, those core Liberal priorities, back, front and centre in what we talk about every day, and that includes restoring Australia's standard of living and protecting their way of life because that's what I think Australians want to see."

Recent polling has found One Nation surging in popularity and leapfrogging the Coalition as the second most popular party in Australia after Labor.

Three dead as light plane plunges into ocean

An experienced pilot and his two teenage passengers have been found dead after a light plane on a scenic flight crashed into the ocean off the South Australian coast.

The aircraft crashed into the ocean in Long Bay, near Goolwa South, on 6 February in front of several beachgoers, which sparked a major emergency response.

Police have recovered the bodies of all three men who were on board - 57-year-old pilot Leo Howard and his 18-year-old and 19-year-old passengers.

The trio were on a scenic flight over one of the state's most picturesque places, where the Murray River meets the ocean near the Fleurieu Peninsula town of Goolwa.

Howard was an

experienced pilot in both regular flights and aerobatic flying.

His sister described him as a loved son, father and brother.

The Cessna 210 Centurian involved in the crash is a single-engine aircraft and part of a small fleet operated by local charter and training company Goolwa Air.

The wreckage of the light plane has been brought to shore.

Investigators from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau is now trying to determine what went wrong.

A focus of the investigation will be how Howard appeared to lose all control in the final moments, as well as the 40-year-old aircraft's flight and maintenance history.

A report will also be prepared for the coroner.

South Australian election campaign kicks off

The election countdown has officially begun in South Australia, with both major parties launching their campaigns on the first day. The formal proceedings were set in motion after Lieutenant Governor Richard Harris issued the writs at Government House on Saturday, ending South Australia's 55th Parliament and placing the state government into caretaker mode. While day-to-day business continues under caretaker arrangements, major decisions or contracts that could bind an incoming government are put on hold.

Premier Peter Malinauskas (pictured with Liberal Leader Ashton Hurn) kicked off the campaign with a focus on housing. Traveling by tram from Government House to the former West End Brewery site, he confirmed that property company Commercial & General had been selected as master developer for 1,000 new homes in Southwark.

Mr Malinauskas emphasized a city-wide approach: "We don't have a plan to do a bit of housing here and there, we have a plan to do housing everywhere," aiming to provide more opportunities for young people quickly. On the start of the 28-day campaign, he admitted to mixed feelings: "I'm always a little bit nervous because it's ultimately up to the people to decide, but I'm also confident in the plan."

Meanwhile, SA Liberal leader Ashton Hurn focused on regional healthcare. She outlined reforms to the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme, which subsidizes travel for regional patients. Ms Hurn pledged to increase the accommodation allowance from \$44 to \$110 per night and index it to inflation, aiming to remove the financial and logistical stress of accessing healthcare. "This is a total no-brainer that provides real relief for regional people," she said, describing the campaign ahead as a chance to present



a positive vision.

Recent polls show the Liberals trailing, with One Nation overtaking them in primary support. A Newspoll in The Australian recorded Labor at 44 per cent, One Nation at 24 per cent, and the Liberals at 14 per cent. A YouGov poll in The Advertiser gave Labor 37 per cent, One Nation 22 per cent, and the Liberals 20 per cent, while the SA Greens held 12-13 per cent in both samples. One Nation

lead candidate Cory Bernardi emphasized representing South Australians regardless of seat numbers, noting a strong mood for change and widespread dissatisfaction with both major parties.

As the campaign unfolds over the next four weeks, both the premier and opposition leader have indicated that polling numbers will not define their strategy, keeping the focus on voters' priorities rather than media snapshots.

Police further search for missing Gus Lamont

The latest search at the remote property where four-year-old Gus Lamont vanished has concluded without police finding evidence.

A cadaver dog was brought from interstate to assist in last week's renewed search for the boy, who was last seen by his grandmother playing at the Oak Park Station homestead in South Australia's Mid North on September 27.

The search covered numerous buildings and structures at the station and at several locations adjoining the property.

Officers inspected an out-house with fresh cement and a water tank at a neighbouring property.

"Unfortunately, no evidence was located during the intensive searches."

SA Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said there was likely to be a further search of the area in coming weeks.

"Gus went missing on September 27 and we still don't have clarity as to exactly where Gus might be," he said.

"We didn't simply focus on the search of a missing child on the property," he said.

"We were looking at other possibilities as well. That has been the focus of our investigation from the outset of the notification of Gus's disappearance."

On February 5, police declared Gus's disappearance

ance a major crime and said someone living at the remote station was a suspect in the case and his likely death.

They confirmed the boy's grandparents, his mother and his younger brother were at the property at the time he disappeared but emphasised his parents were not suspects.

Gus's grandparents Josie and Shannon Murray released a brief statement via their lawyers saying they were "absolutely devastated" by the police statements.

Josie Murray was arrested and charged with unrelated firearms offences last week. The 75-year-old will appear in the Peterborough Magistrates Court on May 6.



Gus Lamont - missing

Investigators searched the station homestead on January 14 and 15, seizing items including a vehicle, a motorcycle and electronic devices for forensic testing.

Greek Community celebrates Greek Language!

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia proudly joins Greek communities worldwide in celebrating International Greek Language Day, officially declared by UNESCO and observed annually on 9 February.

UNESCO's recognition of International Greek Language Day acknowledges the Greek language as one of the world's oldest continuously used languages and highlights its profound contribution to global civilisation, education, culture, philosophy, science, and democratic thought. Greek has influenced countless modern languages and remains a foundational pillar of Western intellectual and cultural heritage.

As Education Coordinator of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, I highlight the importance of this international recognition, Ms Himo Tsakalos said.

"UNESCO's declaration of

Community Life



Primary school children from Allenby Gardens celebrate International Greek Language Day. In the photo are the teachers and the Community President, Peter Ppiros.

international Greek Language Day affirms the global significance of the Greek language as a vehicle of culture, knowledge, and human values. It also strengthens our responsibility to preserve and promote Greek language education for future generations, particularly within

multicultural societies such as Australia."

The date 9 February commemorates the anniversary of the death of Dionysios Solomos, Greece's national poet, whose work symbolises the enduring power of language in shaping national identity, freedom, and

cultural expression.

The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia continues to support Greek language education through schools, community programs, and cultural initiatives that connect language with history, faith, and identity. UNESCO's declaration further reinforces the role of Greek as a living language that fosters intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding worldwide.

On this occasion, the Community invites educational institutions, cultural organisations, and the wider public to celebrate international Greek Language Day and to reflect on the value of linguistic diversity and the enduring legacy of the Greek language in Australia and across the globe.

Students at Allenby Gardens Primary School marked the International Greek Language Day and celebrated the Greek language in the presence of the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia, Mr Peter Ppiros and the Education Coordinator Himo Tsakalos.

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At the Cyprus Festival, President Chris Ioannou and at the back from left, Minister for Police Joe Szackacs, Premier Peter Malinauskas, Mayor of West Torrens Michael Coxon and Mayor of Charles Sturt Angela Evans



Also at the Cyprus Festival on 7 February, were, Minister Tom Koutsantonis, Thekla Petrou of the Cyprus Community, Labor candidate for Colton Aria Bolkus and retiring MP Andrea Michaels.

Table grapes: Good news from the export markets

Despite a couple of heatwave events, people who enjoy Australian table grapes across the globe will have access to a good variety and quality of fruit this year.

Picking has begun for the local industry, with the majority of produce to be sent overseas, predominantly to Asia.

Australian Table Grape Association chief executive Jeff Scott said he was optimistic about the season after the first year of full varietal access to Japan.

"It's still early days, but we've done our trade briefings in about five or six countries now in Asia, and the indications are that the demand is going to be very strong again," he said.

Australia previously only exported three varieties of table grapes to Japan – crimson seedless, red globe and Thompson seedless.

But after a successful campaign to remove the unique trade barrier, growers can supply

the market with more than 130 table grape varieties.

"Japan last year increased our exports by 300 per cent," Mr Scott said.

He said exports went from about 3,500 tonnes to nearly 10,000 tonnes.

Australia has a free trade agreement with Japan and first exported table grapes there in 2014.

Mr Scott said he was pleased that the industry group was one of nine horticultural commodity groups included in the federal government's Trade Diversification Network.

At Talia Farms in South Australia's Riverland, one of the country's largest table grape farms, fruit can go from vine to shelf in as little as 48 hours.

From budburst to harvest, the workforce at the 230-hectare property and pack shed grows from 13 permanent employees to a team of almost 80.

Farm manager Bill Avery said it required an around-the-clock



Good quality Riverland table grapes

operation, with some workers starting their day wearing headlamps to pick in the dark.

"We start picking at 3 o'clock in the morning or 2.30, depending on the dew point," he said.

"By 9am the pickers are finished and the pack shed is full.

"We go right through to 6pm, so our fruit is then stored ready for dispatch that night."

Mr Avery said the practices helped ensure the longevity and quality of the fruit.

Mr Avery said it usually took a few weeks to ship table grapes, but the premium paid for fruit ahead of Chinese New Year justified air freight.

"We're looking at 48 hours from dispatch to being in a fruit shop in South-East Asia," he said.

The business, owned by US-based company RPG Capital Management, is on the market, but Mr Avery said the existing management would remain when a new investor took over.

Police and protesters clash during Israeli president visit

Protesters have clashed with police, with some restrained and led away in handcuffs, as tensions flared at a Sydney protest rally against visiting Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

NSW Police said 27 people were arrested, including 10 for assaulting police, and officers deployed pepper spray at the protest attended by thousands at Sydney Town Hall.

Scuffles broke out after officers attempted to disperse protesters.

Assistant Commissioner Peter McKenna said officers were assaulted when police intervened to disperse the crowd when speakers invited those in attendance to march.

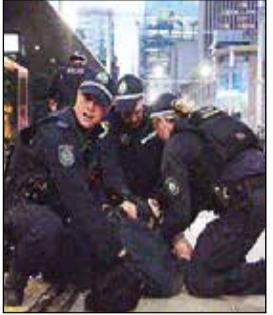
"We did not want conflict, we did not want clashes with protesters," he told a media conference last week.

He said members of Palestine Action Group (PAG), which organised the demonstration, were not cooperative and needed to rebuild trust with NSW Police.

Greens senator for NSW David Shoebridge has shared a video on social media that appears to show a protester being punched multiple times by a group of police.

Assistant Commissioner McKenna said police used powers under both the public assembly restriction declaration and major event declaration.

Attendees carried Palestinian flags and signs criticising Mr



Police officers wrestle a protestor to the ground

Herzog's presence in Australia.

Prior of the visit NSW Police said about 3,000 officers would be stationed across the city during his trip, with 500 in the CBD ahead of the protest.

One rally attendee said she was "worried" about the heightened security.

"I think it would be pretty silly to not look around and feel a bit intimidated by the police presence here," she said.

A United Nations special inquiry found Mr Herzog was among Israeli leaders who incited the commission of genocide in Gaza, and his comments are in South Africa's genocide case against Israel before the International Court of Justice.

The allegation of genocide is rejected by Israel, and Mr Herzog maintains his comments have been taken out of context.

Meanwhile, an open letter signed by more than 1,000 Jewish Australians said Mr Herzog was "not welcome here".

SA Liberals face wipeout not seen since state bank election

By Stephanie Richards

It took one of the most debilitating economic disasters in South Australia's history for the state to record its most one-sided election result.

It was 1993, and SA was still reeling from the collapse of the state bank two years prior.

With debts in the order of \$3 billion and higher unemployment crippling some households, South Australians made their feelings known at the polling booth, ending Labor's 11-year reign in an emphatic election wipe-out that saw the party reduced to just 10 lower house seats.

Having the dishonour of suffering South Australia's worst election defeat is a glaring blemish for a party which has otherwise enjoyed considerable election success in the state.

But Labor is a different party to what it was then.

Off the back of a 2022 landslide win and facing a Liberal opposition still marred by factional in-fighting and recent leadership turmoil, Labor is eyeing off the prospect of relinquishing the electoral wooden spoon.

And, if polling is to be believed, that prospect has every

chance of becoming a reality when South Australians cast their ballots in just five weeks' time.

A Fox and Hedgehog poll of 904 South Australian voters published this week put the Liberal Party's primary vote at just 19 per cent.

The state's official opposition was overtaken by One Nation on 20 per cent, while the Labor Party's primary vote remained steady at 40 per cent.

On a Labor vs Liberal two-party preferred count, it equated to 61 vs 39 per cent — up from 55 vs 45 at the last election.

But even two-party preferred counts are questionable now given One Nation's rise.

Fox and Hedgehog founder Michael Horner said the Liberal Party could hold "somewhere in the realm of five seats" after election day.

It currently holds 13.

"They are in a very difficult position with the federal factors ongoing," said Mr Horner, referring to the ongoing drama surrounding the federal Coalition's break-up and reunification.

"Maybe things will improve in which case they would maybe be able to get more than five seats, but at this stage it's looking doubtful that they'll have a

strong tally."

The impact of the Coalition's split on the state party's brand has not gone unnoticed at Liberal HQ.

Even SA party president and federal senator Leah Blyth acknowledged in a speech on Sunday that she was part of a federal team that was "clouding" the state team's ability to get its message out.

The latest poll was taken from January 31 to February 8, capturing another week of Coalition turmoil and One Nation's unveiling of former Liberal senator Cory Bernardi as its lead upper house candidate.

One Nation's recent primary vote was seven points higher than a similar Fox and Hedgehog poll taken from November 24 to December 5.

Every poll is, of course, laden with caveats.

They only represent a point in time, and the margin of error on the latest one is 3.9 per cent.

Further, applying the projected swing uniformly to all seats would be to ignore the impact of incumbency, which could save some vulnerable Liberal MPs like Stephen Patterson in the coastal seat Morphett or Vincent Tarzia and Jack Batty in the eastern

suburbs seats of Hartley and Bragg respectively.

But at the same time, the polling trend is becoming hard to ignore.

One Nation's rise has been borne out by a series of federal voting intention polls over the last three months, while two state polls taken last year by YouGov and DemosAU already had the SA Liberal Party's primary vote at a dismal 21 per cent.

"The poll's roughly in line with everything we've seen," former ABC chief elections analyst Antony Green told ABC Radio Adelaide on Tuesday.

It is still unclear whether One Nation can translate its polling rise into tangible electoral outcomes.

Mr Horner believes the party will still only win two upper house seats on its current numbers, even though it could be competitive in some regional lower house seats.

Also still unclear is whether the major parties will recalibrate their election strategies facing a potential third political force not seen since former senator Nick Xenophon's largely unsuccessful SA-Best experiment in 2018.

"One Nation has very much been a party of protest — can

they keep this through to the election?" Mr Green said.

"Will the other parties just tend to ignore One Nation or attack them directly?"

"With Nick Xenophon they attacked Nick Xenophon, I'm not sure whether they'll do that with One Nation or just try to ignore them and keep them out of the campaign."

If the Liberals were expecting an electoral wipe-out when they held their campaign launch on Sunday, they were not showing it.

There was a sense of renewed energy at the SkyCity ballroom building up to the arrival of new Liberal leader Ashton Hurn, who was met with a hero's welcome.

As she has before, Ms Hurn told supporters there was a mountain to climb — but she and her team were up to the task, spruiking "a Liberal team that is listening, ready to act and ready to govern".

Afterwards, supporters sought her out to congratulate her on the launch and praise her efforts as leader.

Among those in attendance was former Liberal premier Dean Brown, who led the party to its stunning 1993 landslide win.

source: abc.net.au.