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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thousands protest across Australia



Thousands of people across Australia and from across the political spectrum rallied last week, marching through the streets of capital cities.

Groups protesting for Indigenous sovereignty marched through city streets voicing their opposition to racism and anti-immigration views.

At the same time, a collection of groups holding various anti-government and anti-immigration views formed their own protests in capital cities, with demonstrators draped in Australian flags.

The planned rallies saw the deployment of heavy police lines in many cities, with authorities separating groups of protesters in Melbourne.

In Melbourne, an Indigenous Sovereignty protest saw demonstrators draped in Aboriginal and Palestinian flags gath-

er at Flinders Street Station in the CBD.

Organisers said the event was held in response to the violent attack on a First Nations camp in Kings Domain almost two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, on the steps of Parliament House, demonstrators with a range of right-wing views gave speeches, featuring claims of government corruption and anti-renewable energy stances.

One speaker called for justice for fugitive alleged gunman Dezi Freeman, who remains on the run after being accused of shooting two police officers.

Several hundred people gathered at Victoria Square in Adelaide's CBD on Saturday morning to protest against racism.

The event started with a traditional smoking ceremony and saw people waving flags and signs.

Greece ranks third in Economic Deprivation in the EU

According to Eurostat figures released on Monday, Greece recorded the third-highest percentage of its population (14%) living in a state of severe material and social deprivation among EU member states last year, with Romania ranking first (17.2%) and Bulgaria second (16.6%).

These were the only three EU countries where more than 10% of the population faced such conditions in 2024, while the EU average stood at 6.4%, down from 6.8% in 2023. Although that share of the population dropped significantly in Romania and Bulgaria in

2024, it rose in Greece, up from 13.5% in 2023.

On the other hand, the countries with the lowest percentages of the population in material and social deprivation in 2024 were Slovenia (1.8%), Croatia (2%), Poland (2.3%), Luxembourg (2.3%), and Cyprus (2.5%).

In a report earlier this year, Eurostat found that more than one in four Greeks or 26.9% of Greece's population is on the threshold of poverty or social exclusion. In absolute numbers, this translates to 2,740,051 people in a country of 10.4 million.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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The deadly honey bee parasite varroa mite is here

The deadly honey bee parasite, varroa mite, has been detected in South Australia for the first time.

The state was the fifth jurisdiction to detect the pest after a discovery was made in the Riverland during routine surveillance this week.

Farmers are concerned its spread could wipe out wild bee colonies and impact agricultural industries that rely on bee pollination.

Varroa mites are 1 to 2-millimetre-long parasites that attach to the bodies of honey bees — then eat them alive — and also feed on bee larvae.

After weakening their host, they will transfer to another bee or to another part of the colony they've invaded.

The mites take over a colony when female varroa mites lay eggs in the honey bee colony's brood cells and male mites stay in the larvae-rich brood cell to mate — literally eating a new generation.

When host bees travel, the mites take over multiple colonies and can transfer to a bee from a separate colony.

The pest spreads at least

five debilitating bee viruses, including the deformed wing virus, further weakening the colonies it invades.

Australia was the last continent to be free of the parasite, before it was again detected in New South Wales in 2022.

Varroa mite has since been found in Victoria, Queensland, and the ACT.

This week, an infested hive found in Pooginook, in South Australia's Riverland, was part of a consignment from Queensland and was not sourced from an area of a known outbreak.

A widespread varroa mite outbreak would have a devastating effect on Australia's agricultural industry.

In the United States, 30 per cent of commercial honey bee hives collapsed after varroa mites became established.

In the United Kingdom, 90 per cent of feral honey bee hives — colonies of non-native honey bees established independently to beekeepers — collapsed due to the mite.

Similarly, in New Zealand,



Ian Cass says farmers had known varroa mite would eventually reach South Australia - ABC photo

90 per cent of the feral bee colonies disappeared because of the mites not being managed.

The South Australian government says the almond industry has advised that without access to interstate pollination this season, production worth up to \$100 million could be at risk.

SA's Minister for Primary Industries Clare Scriven said authorities are working to monitor the situation and control the spread.

"What we're asking people to do is if they see anything that looks like it might be [varroa mite] ... if their hives are not in good condition, they're seeing anything that looks like it might be suspect, that they do contact the department and then they can get additional advice on what to do," she said.

The department would be acting to control the parasite in accordance with the national varroa mite plan, which includes strict border control.

Mount Gambier MP steps down amid guilty verdicts

Former South Australian MP Troy Bell, who was previously found guilty of serious fraud charges, is also facing a raft of deception allegations, it can be revealed.

As reported by the ABC last week, a suppression order has been lifted in court and it can now be reported Bell is facing another 52 deception charges in relation to the alleged misuse of the Country Members Accommodation Allowance.

It was alleged he collected more than \$50,000 between 2015 and 2020 by deceiving staff at South Australia's parliament -- who approved the payment of the allowance — "by falsely claiming he was entitled to be paid".

The former Mount Gambier MP has strongly denied these charges.

A District Court jury last year found Bell guilty of 20 counts of theft and five counts of dishonest dealings with documents while working for the Department for Education.

The suppression order on the allowance-related charges was in place to protect the integrity of the District Court trial.

Last week, Troy Bell announced he would be stepping down as the Mount Gambier MP after the Court of Appeal dismissed his appeal against the jury's guilty verdicts.

He formally resigned from parliament on Tuesday.

The charges relating to the Country Members Accommodation Allowance are expected to come before the Adelaide Magistrates



Court again once Bell is sentenced in the District Court for the fraud offending next month.

The allowance is a nightly payment available to regional MPs who need to be in the city overnight for work, and whose usual place of residence is more than 75 kilo-

metres from Adelaide.

The independent MP strongly denied the deception charges in 2021 and said he was aware "similar allegations" were levelled against other country MPs, "some of whom have since admitted to incorrectly claiming travel allowances".

Odyssey Festival to kick off

Adelaide's Hellenic Cultural Festival ODYSSEY of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc. (GOCSA) opens up again with a series of exciting arts and cultural events starting with the launch of the Art Prize on October the 3rd, 2025 at 6.30pm at the Olympic Hall.

Some of the main features of the Odyssey are:

Dr George Vassilacopoulos, a Senior Lecturer at La Trobe University, Melbourne, will present a seminar on the history of the Greek Community in both Greek and English.

His research explores the Greek diaspora in the country, focusing on how they engage with both Indigenous lands and

Community Life



the broader history of Australian multiculturalism.

The lecture will take place on Sunday 5 October at the Olympic Hall at 2.30pm.

Also a lecture on the history of Cypriot migration to Australia will be presented in English by

Flinders University historian, Professor Andrekos Varnava on Sunday 12 October 2025 at 2.00pm at the Cyprus club.

On Saturday 11 October a special Tribute to Stelios Kazantzidis will take place at the Olympic Hall. Performed by

a 7-piece Adelaide band, including vocals by Tasso Bouyessis and Vasilis Ioannides with songs from the 1960s and 70s.

Tickets available at GOCSA office for \$60.00 incl. three course meal (call 8231 4307)

The 30th Greek Film Festival (GFF) returns, celebrating three decades of Greek cinema. Running at the NOVA PALACE, Prospect from 16 – 19 October 2025, this year's program promises an unforgettable lineup of new feature films and a curated retrospective of iconic films from the Festival's 30-year history.

The Odyssey Festival will also auspice several cooking classes. Please get your copy of the ODYSSEY 2025 booklet from the GOCSA office (phone: 82314307) or visit the GOCSA website and FB.



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



LEFT: The multicultural radio station 5EBI FM, in Adelaide, which has been serving the needs of all ethnic groups in our city for half a century, including the Greek community, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Dance at the Chian Brotherhood Hall on August 31, 2025. In the photo are members of the Greek Community Radio, former President Manolis Koutelas, EBI General Manager Director Patti Marinos Todorovic and many supporters.

Health advise to locals amid algal bloom crisis

Authorities have told a group of residents living near a metropolitan Adelaide beach to close their doors and windows to prevent symptoms related to South Australia's ongoing algal bloom.

Chief Public Health Officer Nicola Spurrier told a press conference on Thursday that she had spoken to residents at Henley Beach who "can't move away from the beach" about actions they could take to avoid feeling the impact of algae aerosols.

She said everyone was in a "slightly different situation" and ruled out further changes to health advice as she addressed journalists at the weekly algal bloom task force update.

"Surfers totally addicted to surfing, they're not going to stay out of the water ... they're going to be totally fine and wash it off and go back in tomorrow," Professor Spurrier said.

"Some of the other groups of people we've been talking to, I had a good conversation with some local residents at Henley, they can't move away from the beach ... their house

is there.

"We've given additional advice to those people about keeping the windows and doors closed, particularly if there's an onshore breeze."

Speaking to ABC last week, a SA Health spokesperson said "from time to time" strong winds and wave action may cause people living near affected beaches to experience eye, skin or respiratory symptoms.

"If this happens, stay indoors with windows closed until conditions change or symptoms resolve," it said in a statement.

"Some people may find using an air purifier to be helpful."

Professor Spurrier said SA Health had provided standard advice "that you would if there's another allergen in the air" such as irritants like pollen.

"We've given out exactly what needs to be done," she said.

Some locals living along the state's coastal regions have been reporting flu-like symptoms since the harmful algal bloom was first detected in March.



Foam appeared on Henley Beach in August. Photo ABC

Large amounts of foam washed up last week in Adelaide's south, including at Port Noarlunga, covering the shore and shocking beachgoers.

Premier Peter Malinauskas warned the metropolitan coastline was currently "most adversely affected" by the bloom and made note of the impact along southern beaches.

He said onshore winds were expected to whip up more foam in the coming days. "It is most likely we will see

a strong presence of foam on many of our metropolitan beaches, and that is worthy of people being conscious of," Mr Malinauskas said.

Authorities said there was still no intention to close impacted beaches as the state government committed to releasing summer management plans by next month.

Professor Spurrier instead encouraged people to make informed decisions about going to the beach, noting it was a "dynamic situation" which was constantly changing.

Changes to Cabinet as Susan Close and Stephen Mullighan depart

Kyam Maher MLC has been elected Deputy Leader of South Australia's Parliamentary Labor Party.

Senior Labor Minister Tom Koutsantonis has been appointed South Australian Treasurer. The Member for Adelaide Lucy Hood and Member for King Rhiannon Pearce have been elected to Cabinet roles, while the Member for Elder Nadia Clancy will serve as an Assistant Minister.

The Deputy Premier Susan Close and Treasurer Stephen Mullighan stood aside from State Cabinet, after each informed the Premier of their intention to retire from State Parliament at the March election.

The two ministers have each held senior frontbench portfolios for more than a decade, delivering significant leadership and results for South Australians.

Susan Close has served as Deputy Leader of the South Australian Labor Party for

seven and a half years and Deputy Premier for three and a half years, working in close partnership with Peter Malinauskas throughout.

Dr Close has been Minister for Climate, Environment and Water and Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science since March 2022. She has also served Minister for Workforce and Population Strategy since April 2024.

First elected to the seat of Port Adelaide in 2012, Dr Close served in a variety of ministerial roles in the Weatherill Government, including Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Education and Child Development, and Minister for Higher Education.

Stephen Mullighan has served as Treasurer since 2022, returning the budget to surplus and keeping it there, improving the state's credit rating outlook, delivering the nation's best performing economy and winning business endorsement as the best state



Two Ministers resign ahead of March State election

in which to operate.

Mr Mullighan has also served as Minister for Defence and Space Industries and Minister for Police since January. First elected as the Member for Lee in 2014, Stephen Mullighan became only the second Labor MP in history to immediately enter Cabinet, serving as Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and also later Minister for Housing and

Urban Development in the Weatherill Government.

In addition to funding the state's biggest ever infrastructure project in a non-stop South Road, Mr Mullighan also played a crucial role in delivering previous major projects including the Torrens to Torrens, Darlington, and Northern Connector projects, along with the O-Bahn city access project and city tram extension.

Man charged with murder after bones found

A man has been charged in connection with the suspected 2002 murder of Port Lincoln woman Susan Goodwin.

A breakthrough in the cold case was made last week after Ms Goodwin's remains, were found buried in the backyard of a Port Lincoln house.

A 64-year-old man from Port Lincoln has been charged with murder and will appear in Port Lincoln Magistrates Court on Thursday.

An anthropologist from Forensic Science SA and additional resources from SAPOL's Forensic Response Section and Major Crime Investigation Branch have travelled to Port Lincoln.

Their examination has confirmed the remains are human.

Police began digging at the vacant Pamir Court property at about 9am this morning and made the discovery just before 10am.

Ms Goodwin was reported missing on

Friday, July 19 2002, from her home address in Moonta Crescent at Port Lincoln.

She was last seen at about lunchtime that day after shopping at Coles and Woolworths in Port Lincoln.

At about 4:45pm Ms Goodwin's vehicle was found in the driveway of her home.

Major Crime Investigation Branch Acting Detective Superintendent Andrew Macrae said last week's breakthrough followed an ongoing review of the cold case and all available evidence.

"It does not matter how old the case is — we will continue to review all available evidence and look for opportunities to resolve the matter," he said.

"This investigation is 23 years old and should provide reassurance to the family and friends of other victims that Major Crime Investigation Branch continues to investigate cold case homicides."

Turkey Warns of "Dangerous Consequences" as Cyprus Strengthens Air Defense

Turkey warned on Thursday that Cyprus's ongoing efforts to bolster its air defense with systems from Israel could have "dangerous consequences" and are being "closely monitored."

"We would like to once again remind that ongoing armament efforts and activities that may undermine peace and stability on the island could have dangerous consequences," Defense Ministry sources were quoted by Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency as saying on Thursday.

"Every attempt aimed at disturbing the balance on the island is being closely monitored, and all necessary measures are being taken for the security and peace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," the ministry said, referring to the occupied north of the island, which is recognized only by Turkey.

The Turkish ministry's comments came after Cyprus took delivery earlier this week of its second Barak MX air defense system from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), a move critics in Ankara say is a "direct threat" to Turkish national security. Cyprus placed its order for the Barak MX in 2021. The first shipment arrived in December 2024, with the final components following recently.

The Israeli-made Barak MX is regarded as



one of the most capable anti-aircraft systems currently in operation. Its modular design offers significant flexibility, and its range extends to the Turkish coast.

The system consists of an Elta multi-mission radar, a fire control center, and launchers, all mounted on Tatra vehicles for the National Guard. The AESA technology radar can detect threats at distances of over 450 kilometers (280 miles). In addition to its anti-aircraft capabilities, the Barak MX can also counter ballistic missiles and detect ground-based fire launch sites.

The National Guard reportedly acquired the MR and LR versions of the system, with ranges of 35 (21 miles) and 70 kilometers (43 miles), respectively. There is also an ER (extended range) version available with a 150-kilometer (93-mile) radius, which could effectively impose a no-fly zone across the entire Nicosia FIR.