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GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Australian Pontians honor Michael Atkinson

South Australia's Attorney-General, Michael Atkinson, was awarded the "Golden Trantellena" Award by the Federation of Pontian Associations in Adelaide on 17 October. The award is reserved for those who have a proven track record of their dedication to the ideals of Hellenism and it is the highest award the Federation can bestow. The ceremony took place at the annual

dance of the Pontian Brotherhood of South Australia.

Atkinson, a well-known philhellene, was instrumental in having the Pontian genocide recognised by the South Australian parliament in April. Accepting the award Atkinson said how honoured he felt to be called "Trantellena" (thirty times Greek) and expressed his gratitude to the Pontian Federation for giving him

ODYSSEY FESTIVAL Screening of "Dall'Italia all'Australia" a success

Screened on Sunday 11th October 2009, at the Olympic Hall in Adelaide, the film "Dall'Italia all'Australia" was a sell-out, attracting numerous Australians of both Greek and Italian origin with a mutual interest in the history of European migration.

Kastellorizo and Cyprus. The movie was first screened in Milan in 1925, and premiered in our city eight decades later, enhanced by the music of a four piece folkloric live band.

ALEX AND EVE

Comedy smash ALEX AND EVE, a Bulldog Theatre Company production, made its Adelaide debut on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 2009 at the Royalty Theatre.

This sell-out comedy entertained both young and old, bringing to tears an audience of diverse cultural backgrounds as well as official guests including the President of the Community Mr Vassilis Elovaris, and members of the Executive and Supervisory Committees.

The performance had a lasting effect on its audience, leaving people grinning from ear to ear, while many were those who quoted the hilarious lines to family members and friends creating a new wave of laughter and euphoria, hours following the conclusion of the play.

Alex and Eve is a contemporary, funny portrayal of the relationships experienced by young people in multicultural societies, who manage to bridge cultural differences, setting aside the often "conservative" family outlook and allowing themselves to be swept by their emotions and spontaneity.

Sylvia Cassoudakis
General Secretary
Greek Orthodox
Community of SA

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GEORGE PAPANDREOU

Pledge to meet commitments

Addressing a meeting of PASOK National Council, Prime-minister George Papandreou stressed: "Greek people did not give us a mandate only for change of persons in the country's administration but a mandate to change the country's course and radical change in ruling. The message of elections is vaccination against the virus of petty partisanship, arrogance of power and alienation from people.

The prime-minister expressed optimism that Greece could become a model country providing the strengthening of social alliances and citizens' participation along with ideas and the government's willingness. He repeated that the government would proceed to implementation of all pre-election commitments, placing special emphasis on economy.

Mr. Papandreou spoke of a new social alliance of participation and responsibility, whose basic principle is respect for each other and respect of all to society that will be created to change Greece. Together with competent ministers they would soon launch a "road map" on big reforms, accompanied by official dialogue and deliberations with social partners to achieve broad consensus.

The Prime-minister made special reference to the party's role, making clear that the government exercises power but PASOK owes to inspire, instruct and inspect the government. The roles of the party and the government must be different but one should supplement the other. The admit-

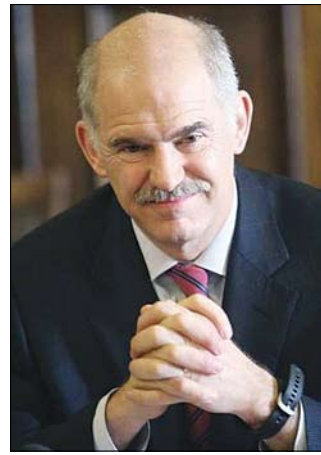
ted mistakes in the past and assured that he would not excuse repetition of the same mistake, transformation of the party into the middle man for completion of transactions with the government and public administration.

The Movement will remain more active and effective, a workshop for production of democracy and participation, a party open and innovative to assist in the government's efforts.

Mr. Papandreou reaffirmed his determination to implement the 100-day program announced in his pre-election campaign regardless of pressures by the EU, reminding that we live in Europe and in an international economic system where neo liberalism views prevail. He also reassured that himself and his government would give a battle against the logic that the weak had always to pay for the crisis to the benefit of the few and the powerful. Furthermore, Mr. Papandreou stressed that the measures to support low and middle incomes was an elementary social solidarity obligation.

Tidying of economy started not because of pressures but due to respect for the Greek people money. He also underlined that the huge state deficit was created by the clientelism practices, wastes and intransparency of the former ND government, adding that the government's top priority was to establish transparency.

He also referred to autonomy in politics, stressing that



New Prime Minister of Greece
George Papandreou

such system places interest of the many above self-interests of the few. Papandreou additionally emphasized the need to curb waste in the public sector, citing the reduction of the state fleet of vehicles or the use of police to guard political figures as examples.

There was also reference to stage employment programs which he labeled as trade of hopes to secure political clientele and stressed that principals of meritocracy and equal opportunities would be implemented in all state job hirings.

Concluding his speech, the prime minister thanked the National Council's outgoing secretary Yiannis Ragoussis, now a member of the cabinet, and announced his proposals for the new secretary and Political Council members, which would not include any members of the government.

From the Editor's Desk

We badly need reasoned discussion on migration issues. Australia is developing and needs migrant workers. That is why 278,000 immigrants arrived in the previous year. About 30,000 also came as tourists and were allowed to settle. In the same period less than 2,000 reached our shores illegally and/or as asylum seekers.

Frequent stories about Asian hordes breaching our northern borders, queue-jumping and the like can be dismissed as crude propaganda or cheap political point-scoring. It is very likely true that some 98% of immigrants arrive by plane, not in old unseaworthy boats.

By all means catch and punish the people smugglers but not their victims. All that refugees want is to settle somewhere peacefully and start working for a living. Australia has generally welcomed immigrant labour. Why start discriminating now amidst so many developmental works underway?

Community Life

There was a flurry of activities in the Greek-Australian communities during October. The October 4th Greek elections, which were covered well enough by community media, created some interest and invited a few heated comments. The elections were won comfortably by the socialist PASOK party of George Papandreou. Not much by way of socialist prosperity is in sight. The new government has inherited a deficit of 12% of GDP, unemployment (10%) and widespread tax evasion and corruption in the public service. Of more concern to expatriate or diaspora Greeks was a pre-election decision to downgrade Greek language teaching programs some of which were also used in Australian schools.

As reported in previous issues, the number of Greek language learners has been decreasing for some time, especially at tertiary level. This means fewer trained teachers at other levels. Several timely initiatives were undertaken in this area during October. One was the day-long seminar at the Notre Dame University (Perth) in support of Greek studies. It was attended by about 300 students, teachers and community leaders. SAE (the Australian Branch of the Council of Greeks Abroad) fully supported this initiative.

SAE, it should be noted, is well-established and an active Greek-Australian institution. It has strong links with community organisations throughout Australia, an active youth network and it is currently busy to ensure the success of the Panhellenic Games in Melbourne. (The



Members of the "Manassis" dance group of Melbourne, performing at the opening of the Glendi 2009.

first games were held in Adelaide.) Cultural and artistic events will also be a feature of these games.

Greek-Australians may be losing their mother tongue so to speak but not their interest in literature and the arts. There have been several "sessions" on the works of the poet Yiannis Ritsos in Melbourne and Sydney while the Brisbane community celebrated the works of Nikos Kazantzakis. The novel The Slap by Christos Tsiolkas will be apparently serialised by the ABC according to one report.

Adelaide's Spring Festivals (reported in the last issues) have proved successful and worth attending. Other community media also commended them favourably. Greek-Australian artists did their best in all performances. Here are

a few snapshots:

In the same weekend of the Glendi Greek Festival held at the highly suitable Wayville Showgrounds, the GOCSA's Odyssey Festival opened with the Nova Cinema Greek Film Festival, with entertainment provided by Bill Mountzouris and students as well as the Meraki 'Wedding' Band.

It was followed by the successful Dall'Italia All'Australia, a viewing of a 1924 movie of the ship SS Regina d'Italia which brought 504 migrants from southern Europe to Australia. Many in attendance were moved to tears as it brought back memories of their emigration to Australia. The live musical accompaniment of Italian music added to the poignant atmosphere.

The comedy theatre production Alex and Eve from

Sydney performed at the Royalty Theatre was another success, for both middle aged parents still holding on to stereotypes of their children 'finding a good Greek girl to marry' and the Australian-born who are trying to come to terms with a cross-cultural reality.

Also featured in Odyssey's Festival was the Odyssey Art Exhibition featuring stunning works by local artists, the comic story-telling cabaret performance Odyssey by award winning Nikki Aitken, and Show Us Your Kefi which displayed inspiring compositional and performance talent of youth at The Promethean.

The Ikarian society featured their second Panegyri this Sunday, 25th October, with lots of tasty food and live music from band Atheras.

This Saturday is the finale of the Odyssey Festival at the University of Adelaide and features virtuoso violinist Niki Vasilakis with the Elder Conservatorium Orchestra and an after-party with the Meraki Big Band.

In the spirit of the celebration of migration and multiculturalism let us close with some translated verses of the rebetika song "I Xenitia" ("The Foreign Land")
"I wander alone in a foreign land
Bitterness and tortures surround me
How unjust to be afflicted by so many worries
Mother, how many times have I thought of you?
I drink my money away to forget
the pain and sorrow of migration".

The Adelaidean

Cultural events, social functions and entertainment

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LEFT: The President of the GLENDI committee, John Chephalachis, Premier Mike Rann with his wife Sasha, Bishop Nikandros of Doryleon and Chair of Ethnic Schools Board of SA, John Kiosoglous at the launch of Glendi.

RIGHT: Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Michael Atkinson was acknowledged by the Pontian Association SA at a recent dance, for his contribution towards recognition of the Pontian genocide. Also in the photo are, Martin Hamilton Smith MP, Vini Ciccarello MP and Harry Tavlaridis



LEFT: Dr Olga Sarantopoulos (right) General Secretary of World SAE and Dr Ellada Mavromatis (left), GC of Federation of Greek Communities of Russia, visited Adelaide and spoke at the Macedonian Cultural Centre on the topic "World Hellenism and Women".



RIGHT: The Leader of the Opposition in SA Mrs Isobele Redmond, the President of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA, Vasily Elovaris, Chloe Kourakis and Vagelis Stathopoulos, at the opening of the Odyssey Festival Arts Exhibition, at gallery "eye2eye" on 2 October.



RIGHT: At the screening of the film "Dall'Italia all'Australia", at the Olympic Hall, are John Apostolakis, Athan Anagnostou, Education Minister Jane Lomax Smith, President of Greek Orthodox Community SA Vasily Elovaris, Consul General of Greece Demetris Hatzopoulos, David Pisoni MP and Vini Ciccarello MP.

Premier Mike Rann launched the Dimitria Greek Festival 2009 at a function at the Old Parliament Chamber on the 23rd of October. In the photo, Mr John Mitroussides accepts on behalf of the festival organisers, a total of \$12,000 from the State Government



RIGHT: The official launch of the Odyssey Festival on 1 October at the Palace Eastend Cinemas, was attended by the Lieutenant-Governor and SAMEAC Chairman Hieu Van Le, Greek Consul General Demetris Hatzopoulos, Federal Minister for Youth Kate Ellis, Greek Orthodox Community SA President Vasily Elovaris, Director of Multicultural SA Simon Forrest, Vini Ciccarello MP, David Pisoni MP, Mayor of West Torrens John Trainer and Mayor of Charles Sturt Harold Anderson.



LEFT: The dancers of the Cypriot Community SA performing at a dance on 17 October to celebrate the official opening of the new clubrooms of the Cypriot Community.

BELOW RIGHT: The Premier of South Australia Mike Rann at the official opening of the new Clubrooms of the Cypriot Community at Welland.

BELOW LEFT: At the launch of the Dimitria Festival at the Old Parliament Chamber, were Ms Vicki Chapman Liberal MP, Steve Georganas federal Labor MP and members of the "Vergina" association



HISTORICAL FACTS

So who was the first Greek?

The first Greek to settle in South Australia was Georgios Tramountanas, who arrived in Port Adelaide in 1842, just 6 years after the colony of S.A was founded.

Georgios worked for a time at Peake's Winery at Clarendon, now known as the Old Clarendon Winery. He also worked on the steamer "The Admella" in 1857 for 12 months, finishing up just before his marriage to Lydia Vosper in 1858.

Before his wedding, he changed his name to George North and both he and Lydia changed religion to Roman Catholic, Lydia from Church of England and George from Greek Orthodox, as he was the first Greek, there was no Greek Orthodox church at that time.

Soon after, George & Lydia moved to Port Lincoln, where they stayed for a short time until they obtained a pastoral lease on a property at Green Patch, just out of Port Lincoln.

Here their 2 sons were born, first George Henry in 1861, then Hero Clare the following year.

In the mid to late 1860's, the family moved to Little Swamp a few kilometres west before moving further north in the early 1870's. George & Lydia, with 2 young sons in tow, drove a team of bullocks across uncharted and roadless territory, to Streaky Bay, where George had found work on a property owned by Mr. W A Hall. George became a Naturalized British Subject in April 1878.

He and his sons were sheep farmers and had properties at Bramfield, Mt Wedge, Collie, Sheringa and Colton. Their son George Henry married Eliza Valkema and Hero Clare married Rosina Boylan, George & Lydia spent their final years at Hero & Rosina's property at Colton, which they called Newland Grange, the homestead still stands today.

Both George Henry & Eliza and Hero Clare & Rosina had 11 children and some of their descendants still live on the West Coast today.

This is a condensed version of a long history of the FIRST GREEK and his families, who were amongst the early pioneers of this state.

This history can only be made available due to the diligent research of the late Mrs. Ellen Purcell and the late Mrs. Evelyn Nelson who were both 4th generation descendants and also Cheryl Elizabeth North, who is a 5th generation descendant of George & Lydia North.

The descendants of George & Lydia North, have formed an association they named the Tramountanas-North Association Inc, to honour the efforts of their ancestors and to support multiculturalism and the Greek - Australian connection.

We have a close relationship with the Greek Orthodox Community of S.A and membership is open to anyone who shares an interest in the Greek/Australian Community and the history of this states FIRST GREEK. Please go to our website for membership details and more information.

<http://au.geocities.com/tramountanas1842/>

"SHOW US YOUR KEFI!"

Nikki Aitken delivers exquisite show

Cabaret performer Nikki Aitken delivered an exquisite show at the Promethean Theatre on Sunday 25th October 2009, delighting the audience with songs and antics of her recent 'journey' to the motherland in search of her Greek roots. The talented singer adapted her award winning performance especially for this year's festival, providing first class entertainment to Greek-Australians. Bubbles and nibbles were offered on arrival to patrons, among which were the President of the Greek Community of SA Mr Vassilis

Elovaris and members of the Executive and Supervisory Committees.

Nikki Aitken's successful performance was followed by 'Show us your Kefi!!!' featuring a night of talented Greek-Australian Youth in conjunction with the SA's youth contingent of SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad). Three young performers from our State, namely Harry Kontopoulos (composer and pianist), Scarlet Cook (vocalist and pianist) and Ravi Hammond (vocalist and guitarist) captivated spectators with their compositions, songs and virtuosity.