

GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

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MEDIA RELEASE

Henley beach and Henley Square put on their Greek colours, on Sunday 8th of January as the Greek Orthodox Community celebrated the Feast of the Holy Theophany, incorporating the Blessing of the Waters Festival.

Blues skies, crystal clear waters and those Hellenic culinary aromas at Henley Square, touched by the sea spray and kissed by the South Australian sun made the perfect community event, the first for 2023.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Tourism, the Hon Zoe Bettison, who represented the South Australian Premier Hon Peter Malinauskas at the official opening, said it was great the community celebrated together the Epiphany Day.

“Such a significant occasion for our Greek Community here in South Australia, but how great it is that they invite the wider community to come and join,” the Minister said

As beachgoers flocked to the end of the jetty for the Blessing of the Waters ceremony, around 30 young men and women made their way into to the water, waiting for the throwing of the cross.

Amongst them, a 36-year-old man was the lucky one who managed to retrieve it.

Fotis Likouras from Torrensville was the fastest to get to the cross, securing his win and a blessed year ahead.

“This is my second successful attempt, so, I feel blessed, and I must admit, I had a lucky year when I first retrieved the cross ten years ago,” Fotis said.

The lucky swimmer was presented with a gold cross by Archimandrite Mark Papan also receiving his blessings for a good and lucky year ahead.

The Community’s newly elected President Mr Peter Gardiakos presented young Fotis with a trophy for his successful attempt and wished him best of luck and success for 2023.

Back onshore, cooking stations, grills and BBQs were on full swing, as a team of volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure demand was met.

Everyone’s favourite ‘souvlaki’ (Greek skewers) and popular ‘loukoumades’ (honey puffs) were on high demand, with queues forming outside the food stalls.

Culturally ready, the Festival featured dance groups from the Pontian Brotherhood of South Australia and the Community’s own Dance Academy.

Live Greek music and dancing were also on the menu, with band ‘Floga’ playing popular dance hits, putting on a true ‘panigiri’ (Greek funfair) until early evening.

Other dignitaries attending the event included the Hon Terry Stephens, President of the Legislative Council, representing the Leader of the Opposition in South Australia the Hon David Speirs, the Hon Irene Pnevmatikos MLC, the Hon Frank Pangallo MLC, Mr Matt Cowdry, Member for Colton, Ms Jayne Stinson, Member for Badcoe, Mr Reinhard Struve representing the Chair of SAMC Mrs Adriana Christopoulos, and the Mayor of the City of Charles Sturt Ms Angela Evans.

GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL OF ARCHANGELS
MICHAEL & GABRIEL

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF Ss. CONSTANTINE & HELEN

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF SAINT NICHOLAS

RIDLEYTON GREEK HOME
FOR THE AGED

COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

GREEK LANGUAGE SCHOOLS

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GREEK COMMUNITY
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CHOIR

HELLENIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL
"ODYSSEY"

For the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia

Smaro Skordas
General Secretary