

COMMUNITY PULSE

Official newsletter of the Greek Orthodox Community of SA Inc.



IN THIS ISSUE

**COMMEMORATING THE
49TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TURKISH INVASION
OF CYPRUS**

**RECOGNISING OUR
OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEERS**

**IN PICTURES:
SCHOOLS QUIZ NIGHT**

**ODYSSEY ART PRIZE
2023: APPLICATIONS
ARE NOW OPEN**

Message from the President

Time waits for nobody. We have passed the middle mark of 2023! As I write this message, the Administrative Council, GOCSA staff, and volunteers continue to work tirelessly behind the scenes to organise events highlighting our rich culture and heritage. I want to thank all of them for their dedication and hard work and our sponsors for their ongoing support.

Our common goal is to drive this organisation into the future and ensure it is thriving for the next generation. We will do that—one event at a time, one dance at a time, one Greek word at a time.

What is coming up? We are heading into a busy period with many events coming up, including our flagship “Odyssey” festival celebrating its 16th year. We also have the Dormition of Theotokos event in August, followed by our Schools Dance and the Virginia Festival in September and the Odyssey Festival in October.

I encourage you all to support and participate in our events, follow our social media pages for all the updates and don't hesitate to email the Community Pulse media team at media@gocsa.org.au if you have suggestions, ideas or a story to share.

Warm regards,
Peter Gardiakos
President



Joining in the celebrations for Refugee Week

EDITORIAL

Community Pulse is published by the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia Inc.

GOCSA CONTACTS

Editor-in-Chief:
Argyro Vourdoumpa

media@gocsa.org.au

(08) 8231 4307

FOLLOW US



@Greek Orthodox
Community of SA Inc



@greekorthodox
communityofsa

FRONT COVER

Main image: Dancers of GOCSA Dance Academy in the 2023 Antipodes Festival in Melbourne.

Copyright: Antipodes Festival

NEXT PUBLICATION

Next publication date is September 2023.

To subscribe email media@gocsa.org.au



GOCSA VICE PRESIDENTS STEPHANIE SKORDAS AND PETER GONIS WITH HAZARI WOMAN FAHIMA AHMADI.



PETER GONIS WITH FAHIMA AHMADI.

Held since the 1980s, Refugee Week is Australia's peak annual activity to promote greater awareness of refugees, the issues they face and their contributions to the Australian community.

On Monday 19 June, our Vice Presidents Stephanie Skordas and Peter Gonis, attended the SA Refugee Week launch event hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide Dr Jane Lomax-Smith AM and presented by the Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC) in partnership with the City of Adelaide.

Stephanie and Peter had the opportunity to hear stories of strength and resilience like Fahima's.

A Hazara woman, Fahima was a translator for the Australian government in Kabul when the US and Australia pulled out of Afghanistan.

She is safe in Australia, but her family of nine is not. Her parents and siblings are being persecuted in Pakistan.

On Friday, July 7 we invited Fahima to our offices to express our support, to thank her for enriching our country and to let her know that she has a big Greek family to count on, until she can hug her real family again. Vice President, Peter Gonis gifted Fahima a book that outlines GOCSA's history.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR AN IDEA TO SHARE? Contact the Community Pulse team at media@gocsa.org.au

WE DO NOT FORGET

Commemorating the 49th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus with the Cypriot community



L TO R: GOCSA VICE PRESIDENT PETER GONIS, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CYPRUS IN AUSTRALIA ANTONIS SAMMOUTIS, PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS COMMUNITY OF SA ANDREAS EVDOKIOU AND GOCSA BOARD MEMBER SANDRA SIFIS

On Sunday July 16 and Tuesday July 18, Cyprus Community of SA and SEKA SA held a series of events to honour the victims of the Turkish invasion and renew their calls for justice and the reunification of the island.

GOCSA Vice President, Peter Gonis and Board member Sandra were there to express their solidarity, support the people of Cyprus and honour those who fought for freedom and lost their lives in 1974.

"On the 49th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia reaffirms its support to our good friends in the Cyprus Community and to the people who continue to live through the pain of an illegal occupation in their homeland," said GOCSA Vice President Peter Gonis.



MINISTER MICHAELS WITH DEPUTY GOVERNMENT SPOKESWOMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS, DOXA KOMODROMOU



Odyssey Art Prize 2023: Applications for visual artists are now open



The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia's Odyssey Festival celebrates 16 years of presence in Adelaide's cultural scene this year with a diverse program of cultural and artistic events that will take place from Friday 6 October to Sunday November 12, 2023. As part of the Festival, the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia is calling for South Australian artists to apply for the Odyssey Art Prize 2023, which is generously supported by Guardian Insurance.

This year's theme is "Flavours of Greece" and is open to artists who are active in the field of visual arts and more specifically in painting, drawing, sculpture, photo printing, mixed media, digital art and video.

The first prize winning artist will be awarded \$1000 while the second and third prize winning artists will receive \$600 and \$400 respectively.

Works exhibited by the Odyssey Festival may be made available for sale by artists, with exception to the winning artwork which becomes the property of GOCSA.

Deadline for submitting applications is Friday, September 22 2023, 11:59 p.m. The winners will be announced on the festival's opening night which will be held on Friday, 6 October 2023 at the Olympic Hall.

The application form and entry requirements are available on the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia's website at: <https://gocsa.org.au/art-exhibition/>

Supporting the Australian Hellenic Medical Charity to raise funds for Ikaria



MEMBERS OF THE GOCSA ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AT THE AUSTRALIAN HELLENIC MEDICAL CHARITY (AHMCI) ANNUAL FUNDRAISER. PHOTO: AHMCI

On Friday, 2 June the Australian Hellenic Medical Charity Inc (AHMCI) held their annual fundraiser Gala Dinner for the purchase of an Anaesthetic Medical Unit and 15 medical beds for the Ikaria Hospital.

Members of our Administrative Council were there to support the cause and we were delighted to hear that \$120,000 was raised on the night.

AHMCI with the assistance of The Greek Fires Appeal committee from GOCSA have successfully delivered an endoscopy unit to the Aglaia Kyriakou Children's hospital.

GOCSA Dance Academy senior dancers participate in Zeibekiko Festival Australia



CHRISTOS SHAKALLIS WITH GOCSA DANCE ACADEMY SENIOR STUDENTS

Our Dance Academy dancers never cease to amaze us with their talent and passion to keep our culture and traditions alive.

On Monday, July 3 a group of our senior students performed in the Taverna Night Show in Adelaide featuring Zeibekiko Master Christos Shakallis and hosted by The Foundation for Hellenic Studies.

The event was a part of the first ever Zeibekiko Festival held in Australia from July 1 - July 10 and was curated by Sophia Ventouris, a Greek Australian dance teacher of 30 years.

National Volunteer Week 2023



Recognising our outstanding volunteers



FEDERAL MEMBER FOR ADELAIDE STEVE GEORGANAS WITH GOCSA PRESIDENT PETER GARDIAKOS, VICE PRESIDENT PETER GONIS AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS.

Here, at the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia we would not be able to do what we do without the contribution of our volunteers.

On Friday June 9, a number of our community members were recognised for their outstanding contribution to our organisation's communities and societies in an event hosted by Federal Member for Adelaide, Steve Georganas MP.

Mr Georganas presented the volunteers with certificates and thanked them for their service.

Big congratulations to Effie Katianos, Chrisoula Heisler, Eugenia Karapetis, Tsambikos Kazonis, John Antoniou and John Ninos who enjoyed a lovely morning with other award recipients.

Also a big thank you to Georgette Psaltis, Denis Andreopoulos, Kosta Salagaras and Vasiliki Salagaras who were unable to attend the event and received their awards later that week.



JOHN ANTONIOU



CHRISOULA HEISLER

“

VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME; THEY JUST HAVE THE HEART

”



EUGENIA KARAPETIS



TSAMBIKOS KAZONIS



EFFIE KATIANOS



JOHN NINOS



In pictures: Schools Quiz Night



Winter nights are for quizzes, friends and delicious food!

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Schools Quiz night and to the School Committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to organize amazing events! Special shout out to our volunteers and generous sponsors.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT

FELLOWSHIP LUNCH ON ST. IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU FEAST DAY

We would like to announce that instead of Tuesday, July 25 the Saint Nicholas Fellowship Lunch will take place after the conclusion of the St. Irene Chrysovalantou procession on Friday, July 28 from 11am - 2pm.

Greek Orthodox Community of S.A.
Saint Nicholas Church

SAINT
Irene

Chrysovalantou **FEAST DAY**
28 July 2023



Thursday 27th July 2023

FROM 6.00PM, THE EVENING VESPER AND BLESSING OF THE FIVE LOAVES

Friday 28th July 2023

FROM 8.00AM GREAT MORNING SERVICE FOLLOWED BY THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY ICON OF ST IRENE CHRYSOVALANTOU



Dormition of the Theotokos Feast Day 2023

Tuesday 15 August

- Great Morning Doxology and procession of the icon of Theotokos, 8.30 - 11:30am
- Lunch & Feast with live music at the Church Hall, from 12pm



The Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church
1A William Street, Croydon, SA 5008

UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP LUNCHES

AUGUST 2023:

TUESDAY 15, Koimisis of
Theotokou (Panagia) Croydon
10am - 1pm

TUESDAY 29, St Nicholas
Thebarton, 10am - 1pm

SEPTEMBER 2023:

TUESDAY 19, Koimisis of
Theotokou (Panagia) Croydon
10am - 1pm



GREEK WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF SA "O TAXIARCHIS"

Join our Greek women's society
for coffee, chat and light
exercise. Everyone is welcome!

EVERY TUESDAY

9.30 am - 10.30 am (Exercise Class)
10.30 am - 12.00 noon (Coffee and Bingo)

Greek Women's Centre

32-34 Rosa St Goodwood, SA 5034

Photo Flashback: Ellinon Homata



On Saturday, May 13, our Dance Academy presented 'Ellinon Homata' to a sold-out crowd at Adelaide's Royalty Theatre. The performance was dedicated to the Hellenic refugees; their stories, songs, music, and dances.

To stay up to date with GOCSA Dance Academy's upcoming events and latest news follow them on Facebook and Instagram.



Preserving culture and family traditions



GOCSA PRESIDENT PETER GARDIAKOS
WITH HIS MOTHER EFSTATHIA

One of the greatest gifts we can pass on from generation to generation is our culture, traditions and family values. Our elders have been passing down stories, recipes, skills and crafts for centuries to keep this knowledge alive and so that it doesn't get lost over time.

Hailing from Kalamata, GOCSA President Peter Gardiakos with his family have been involved in olive harvesting and olive oil making for decades.

"Mum is 87 years old. Olive picking brings back memories and reminds her of her younger years in Greece," Mr Gardiakos said.

"Our parents left their motherland for a better future and we need to respect the sacrifices they made and honour them in any way we can".

Thank you to our supporters

