



The Sifnos of Tetsis

The island of Sifnos honors the painter Panayotis Tetsis who has lived and loved the place through his art. This part of his oeuvre, works that were inspired by and depict the landscape of the island are on view through the exhibition The Sifnos of Tetsis which is being realized until August 31 at the old school of the Castle of Sifnos.

The exhibition features 14 works of the painter created in Sifnos inspired by its landscape; the corpus includes both oil paintings as well as works in ink which are considered as some of the most important works of the artist.

Job promotions less for pregnant women

Melbourne: Women who take maternity leaves are less likely to be promoted, after they return to work, suggests a new study. During the study, the Australian Public Service Commission looked at female public servants who took maternity leave in 2000-01 and whether they had been promoted by June 2007.

The data showed that 65 percent of women who had taken maternity leave were not promoted in the six years after the leave, compared to 42 percent of women without children, who did not receive a promotion over the same period.

"The latter group (women who did not take maternity leave) is significantly more likely to have been promoted by June 30, 2007," the commission said.

Although the commission did not examine the cause of the disparity but believes that it could be because it was more difficult to find part-time work at more senior levels.

It could also be due to mothers deciding not to seek more senior jobs because of the difficulties of balancing family commitments with the increased demands of more senior positions.

"The figures may also be distorted by the possibility that women having children are at a relatively more senior classification already and simply have less scope for promotion," the commission said.

National Foundation for Australian Women spokeswoman Marie Coleman also agreed that mothers were missing out on promotions because they were unable to be a senior manager and work part-time.

Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency director Anna McPhee said the data documented

what women already knew - "having a child brings a great opportunity cost to their career".

"I think it is certainly concerning that women are being discriminated against because of their family situation," News.com.au quoted her, as saying.

The agency's survey of 800 women found most of them wanted more responsibility at work, greater autonomy and promotion.



MEDIA RELEASE

New flashing lights technology will improve crossing safety for four Strathfield schools

Strathfield MP Ms Virginia Judge announced that Santa Sabina College, Santa Maria Del Monte, Meriden Junior and Meriden Senior Schools shall receive school zone flashing lights. Under a \$46.5 million Iemma Government program these schools will benefit from the improved safety of this technology at their crossing.

"Work to install this new state-of-the-art technology will start as soon as possible – in consultation with the school – and it's expected to be operational by the end of this year," Ms Judge said.

Ms Judge said the NSW Centre for Road Safety had selected the school zone that serviced Santa Sabina College, Santa Maria Del Monte, and Meriden Junior and Senior schools for inclusion in the second year of the Iemma Government's \$46.5 million school zone upgrade.

School zones are chosen using criteria including traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, pedestrian activity and crash history.

"School zones are there to keep our children safe. There is no excuse for speeding, especially through a school zone," Ms Judge said.

NSW Roads Minister Eric Roozendaal said flashing lights are just one component of improving school road safety.

"Other measures to improve school zone safety include pedestrian overbridges, marked foot crossings, wombat crossings, pedestrian refuges, traffic signal-controlled pedestrian crossings or fencing which separates children from traffic and guides children toward a safer crossing facility," Mr Roozendaal said.

Ms Judge said an evaluation of the new-generation flashing lights found the technology is proving to be reliable and is working to slow down drivers in school zones.

"The risks motorists take speeding through school zones can have deadly consequences in the blink of an eye," she said.

"The Iemma Government is delivering on its commitment to improve road safety around schools," Ms Judge stated.

Thousands of people are expected to take advantage of early voting leading up to the 2008 local government elections on Saturday, 13 September. "Postal and pre-poll voting will be very popular this year because there is no absentee voting in local government elections," said NSW Electoral Commissioner Colin Barry. "That means people who will be out of their council area, interstate or overseas on Election Day should arrange for a postal or pre-poll vote so they can exercise their democratic right and to also avoid a fine for not voting." Applications for postal voting will remain open until 5pm on Monday, 8 September. The actual ballot papers must be returned by 6pm on Monday 15 September in order to be counted.

"Electors, particularly those in isolated areas are encouraged to apply as soon as possible in order to avoid any delays in postal delivery that could render their vote invalid," Mr Barry said.

Pre-poll voting commences at pre-poll centres on Monday, 1 September and concludes at 6pm on Friday, 12 September. Election officials will also visit 'declared institutions' such as nursing homes and hospitals in the week preceding the election to assist the elderly or infirmed with early voting. "In order to cast a valid vote, residents or patients must be enrolled in the local government area where the institution is located or make a postal vote if they are enrolled elsewhere."

The NSWEC is reminding postal voters to return their applications directly to a Returning Officer rather than to candidates or political parties who may have sent them a form.

"Only the NSW Electoral Commission can provide ballot papers to electors. The quickest way to receive your ballot paper and postal voting material is to apply for your postal vote directly to your Returning Officer." Information on eligibility for early voting is available at www.elections.nsw.gov.au. Postal vote applications can be obtained from any Australia Post office, local Returning Office or by calling 1300 135 736. Pre-poll centre locations are also available online at the NSWEC website.

**Thousands
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Election
Day**