

MEDIA RELEASE

Virginia Judge congratulates Water Wise Strathfield Suburbs

Member for Strathfield, Ms Virginia Judge, today wishes to congratulate residents in the Strathfield electorate for their commitment to making their homes more water efficient.

The latest figures released on household water efficiency programs has ranked Ashfield, Burwood and Strathfield residents as the 2nd, 3rd and 4th best home water savers.

"18% of Ashfield Local Government Area (LGA) residents, 16% of Burwood LGA residents and 14%

of Strathfield LGA residents have taken up Sydney Water's free Do It Yourself water saving kit", Ms Judge said.

The DIY kit includes water efficient showerheads, flow regulators for taps and flush restrictors in single flush toilets, all easily installed by the householder.

"Households account for around 70 per cent of Sydney's water consumption.

"The WaterFix program and the DIY kits are now saving more than 10.6 billion litres a year,

around two per cent of Sydney's Water supply" Mr Rees said.

Virginia Judge said, "It's in everybody's interest for all households to review their water usage and examine ways of saving water. As a Strathfield resident I have had a rainwater tank installed at home for a number of years now and it has significantly reduced my water bill."

Further information about Sydney Water's WaterFix Program and DIY Kits is available at www.sydneywater.com.au

ATHENS (AFP) — Two ancient artefacts illegally removed from Greece decades ago went on display in Athens on Wednesday after a US-based collector was persuaded to repatriate them, the Greek culture ministry said.

The upper part of a marble funerary stele and a bronze krater, or large cup, dated to the 5th and 4th century BCE, were returned by collector Shelby White in August under a deal in which Greece pledged not to legally pursue the matter, it said.

"The culture ministry recognises that the antiquities were acquired by Ms



Visitors at the Athens Archeological museum admire a bronze krater

Greece exhibits two antiquities reclaimed from US collector

White in good faith, and for this reason ... no demands will be raised against (her)," a ministry statement said.

But Greece reserves its legal rights over other potential claims regarding

items in White's collection, it added.

White and her late husband, New York financier and philanthropist Leon Levy, accumulated one of the finest US collections of Roman and Greek antiquities.

The funerary stele depicting a youth and a warrior was found in the early 1960s in Porto Rafti, a coastal resort east of Athens.

Three decades later, a Greek archaeologist identified its missing upper fragment in the White-Levy collection from a New York Metropolitan Museum exhibit catalogue. The Greek state filed a claim for the item last year.

The two fragments will now be reunited at the local Museum of Vravrona for the first time in decades, the ministry said.

The bronze krater, a vessel in which the ancient Greeks mixed wine and water, was likely looted from a royal tomb in the northern region of Pieria, Greek archaeologists believe.

Both items will be temporarily displayed at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens.

A country rich in antiquities targeted by looters for nearly 200 years, Greece has lately stepped up efforts to reclaim items illegally exported abroad, many of which are in private collections or major museums.

"The pillage of antiquities has been particularly traumatic for small countries with rich history such as ours," Greek Culture Minister Michalis Liapis said on Wednesday.

"Hence their repatriation is of great importance to the Greek people."

Greek police arrest four in child porn

Greek police arrested four men, including a high-ranking police officer from the northern city of Thessaloniki, as part of an international crackdown on child pornography, authorities said.

The police, cooperating with authorities in 75 other countries, raided 15 houses in their nationwide sweep.

The four men arrested will be charged with possession and trading in child pornography.

In May, Greek police broke a child pornography ring believed to be part of a European network and charged 21 people with possessing and trading hardcore material on the Internet.

Greece's conservative government passed a law in 2007 which imposes sentences up to life imprisonment for crimes related to child pornography.

On sunny Cyprus, dogs have their day on the beach

NICOSIA, Cyprus -- On Cyprus, every dog can have his day -- on one particular beach. Authorities i

n the southern resort of Ayia Napa are designating 600 meters (2000 feet) of beach for canines and their owners.

Cyprus law bars dogs from beaches, but popular demand compelled the Ayia Napa Municipal Council to act last month, says the resort's beach inspector, Demetris Pateras.

"We are getting calls from all over Cyprus from people wishing to bring their pets here," Pateras said Monday.

He said it was easy for Ayia Napa to choose the stretch of beach: It used to be used by herders to bathe their goats.

SCOPIAN LOBBYING CONTINUES

Scopians from opposite ends of the political spectrum, Peter Ristevski (Liberal Candidate for Liverpool Council) and Bill Saravinovski (Labor Candidate for Rockdale Council) unite in lobbying the Australian Federal Government to recognise the constitutional name of the Republic of "Macedonia" (sic). In a breakfast meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard, both Ristevski and Saravinovski presented the arguments in favor of recognition. "Macedonia has been recognised by over 120 countries and in particular the entire Anglo Saxon world in the USA, Canada, UK and New Zealand all formally recognise the Republic of Macedonia. I don't know what the Australian Government is waiting for. This sends a very negative message to the rest of the world that Australia's Foreign policy can be held to ransom" said Peter Ristevski. According to him, Australia's recognition of Kosovo has already set a legal precedent to have Macedonia recognized. "By Jennie George raising the recognition of "Macedonia" in Parliament has further put pressure on the Government to reverse its current policy on "Macedonia", said Bill Saravinovski. "There will be other Members of Parliament raising the issue of "Macedonia".

The Australia-"Macedonia" Chamber of Commerce has written to a number of Senior ALP Members of Parliament at Ministerial and Parliamentary Secretary levels and is looking to secure meetings.

"In terms of "Macedonian's", the troops are getting restless and looking for answers as to why this issue cannot be addressed by the Rudd Federal Government" said Ristevski. Bill Saravinovski has been re-endorsed by the Labor Party and Peter Ristevski has been nominated by the Liberal Party to stand for Council Elections in September 2008.