

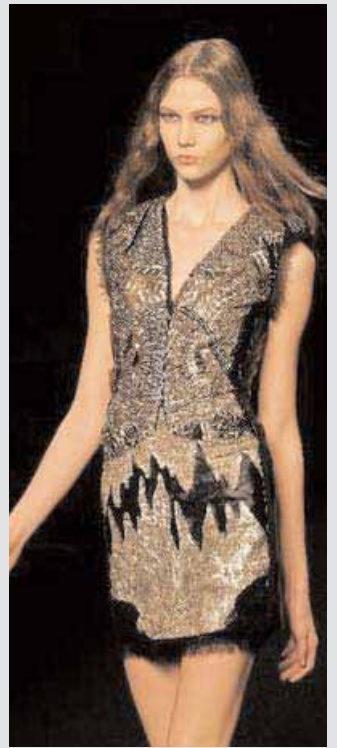
Greek fashion steps gently on French catwalks

Designer Sophia Kokosalaki proved that she can stay true to her style, which never betrayed her in the last 10 years. At the same time, she makes new things – conceptual and unexpected. This is how the world media describes the Greek designer Sophia Kokosalaki, who during the fashion week in Paris celebrated her 10 year presence in the fashion stage. Kokosalaki works with materials, which she knows very well – leather, tulle, stockinet, in order to create new collection for women, who love back, chains, and dresses, which harmonically hold the body. The show of the designer, who dressed Bjork with an eccentric dress, which looked like an ocean for the opening of the Olympic Games during 2004, took place on Saturday, on the fourth day of the fashion show, and presented her vision for the season fall-winter 2009-2010. During the same day, the fashion show of Jean Paul Gautier “the

French fashion bad boy” took place. Sunday was dedicated to the fashion houses Sonia Rykiel, Hussein Chalayan, and Emanuel Ungaro. The eternal Karl Lagerfeld presented “Space Odyssey” with metal ornaments and obvious references to the 80’s. The Sophia Kokosalaki fashion house was both by the owner of Diesel and this is why her 2009 collection makes her dream come true – to create women’s clothes for the everyday living. And so, the 35 year old designer showed her fans a jeans collection – black jeans from a soft, Japanese cloth, which can be found in boutiques from Tokyo to New York.

For her spring collection Sophia says: “I always wear jeans and they are always black.” Her collection consists of few models: jackets, mini skirts, pants and shorts, which all tell simple, everyday stories – from those, which suit the temperament of the young designer.

“I love this name...” is one of the typical comments a person can read in a presentation for Kokosalaki’s collection. The Greek designer’s family name is very hard for foreigners to pronounce but she never changed it. This never caused her any problems. Sophia Kokosalaki has her own signature. Every year, she shows her clothes on the runways in Paris, right next to the world runway dinosaurs and she lives with the satisfaction that her creations are sold in boutiques all around the world. Her new collection is sheer, comfortable, modest and it has something inside, which refers you to London – after all the designer lives and creates in the English capital, where she graduated from Saint Martin’s College. And whether Kokosalaki will limit herself in only creating jeans or she will start making accessories and jewelry, this only the time will show.



Free entertainment and discounts for seniors at the Sydney Royal Easter Show

There will be a host of benefits for Seniors Card members attending the 15th annual Seniors Days on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 April 2009 at the Sydney Royal Easter Show at the Amphitheatre in Sydney Showground, Sydney Olympic Park. Seniors Days provide members with free live entertainment, tea and coffee, and promotional bags to those members that visit the Seniors Card booth each day.

Five hours of free entertainment, including: dance, song, acting and musical theatre are on offer from Entertainment Express, The Performance Studio and The Spaghetti Circus from 10.00am until 3.00pm each day. Over 50 Easter Show exhibitors are offering Seniors Card member discounts and specials on items ranging from orthotics, cosmetics and confectionary, to leather goods and pet products. Card members will also have the opportunity to win some great prizes, including two Gold Service tickets on the Indian Pacific from Sydney to Adelaide and cases of wine.

Members will receive a \$6.50 discount on their Showlink entry/transport ticket to the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Tickets include travel on CityRail trains, the Sydney Olympic Park Major Event Bus services, regular Sydney Buses and Sydney Ferries services. For travel information phone 131 500 or visit www.131500.com.au

For further information on the 2006 Sydney Royal Easter Show, visit www.eastershow.com.au or phone the Easter Show Infoline on (02) 9704 1000.

Contact: Ian Henderson, Manager Seniors Card 02 8270 2481

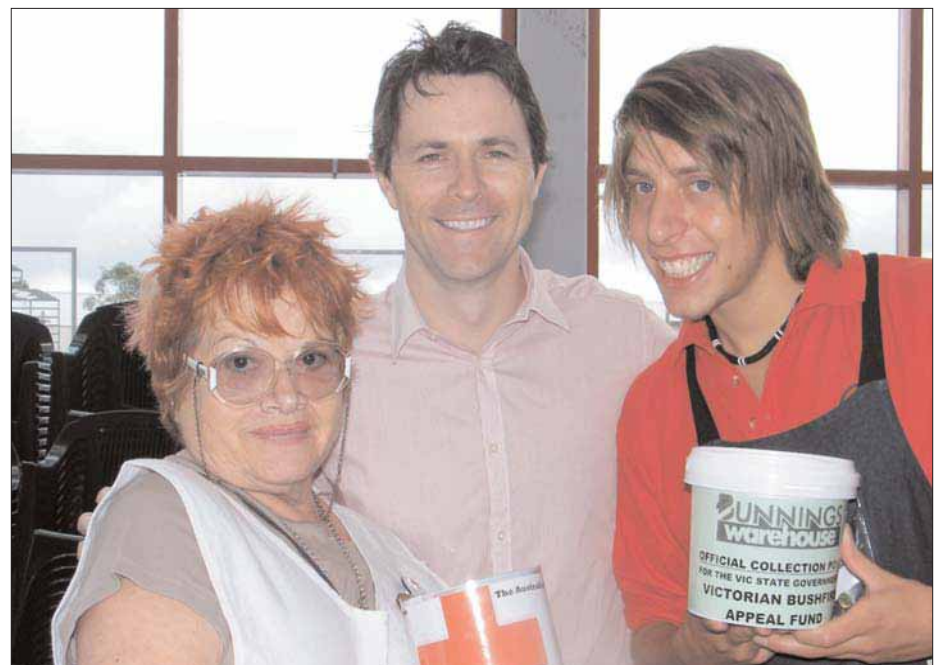
Thank You

Today in Federal Parliament, Jason Clare MP, Member for Blaxland, thanked the schools, businesses and groups in our local community who raised more than \$250,000 to help the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

In Parliament Mr Clare said, “Their generosity is a testament to the character of Western Sydney. Not the Western Sydney you normally read about in the paper or see too often on the TV, but the Western Sydney I know and grew up in.

“Nothing that we do can restore the lives that have been lost, but we can help to rebuild the ones that have been broken.

The people I represent know this is possible. So many of them have fled war, famine and disease in search of a new life, a better life in Australia.



They are proof that we can rebuild, that in the midst of great suffering life can begin again. Their generosity is proof of the unyielding,

ever renewing Australian spirit.”

Every one of the 52 schools in Blaxland raised funds in support of the bushfire victims. Their contributions totalled \$90,735.45.

Many local community groups, clubs and businesses in Blaxland also raised funds for the bushfire victims. They include the Salvation Army, Yagoona and Cabramatta Lions Clubs, the Vietnamese Mutual Support Association, the Bankstown Sports Club, the Cabravale Diggers, Bankstown RSL, Red Cross and Bunnings.

Julio Grutillini, President of the Cabramatta Community Centre, collected money with Mr Clare at Cabramatta Railway Station on his 73rd birthday.

Mr Clare said “He told me, this is the best birthday present ever. The generosity of our local community has filled my heart with joy.”

Jason Clare MP
MEMBER FOR BLALXAND

Tourism slump

The top tourist destination in the EU remains Spain. Eurostat reports overall per night stays in the EU however were down by a little more than one percent in 2008 as compared to 2007.

After Spain came Italy, then Germany, France and the UK. These five countries accounted for more than 70% of the total number of hotel nights in the “EU27.”

The highest increases were recorded in Slovakia, Poland and Latvia. The biggest decreases were in Cyprus (-4.8%), Greece (-4.6%) and the Netherlands (-4.1%).

We suspect the global economic slowdown doesn’t bode well for lifting Greece’s tourism in 2009.

