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Maccas employee latest victim as Swine Flu tally soars

One of Melbourne's eight new cases of swine flu diagnosed overnight worked at McDonalds in the Epping Plaza shopping centre.

The Neil Mitchell program has confirmed the teen had worked at the store after contracting symptoms of the virus, which have since been diagnosed as those of swine flu.

The boy's diagnoses along with seven others overnight has taken Victoria's total to 32 - almost half of all cases known in Australia.

Fourteen people from the cruise ship Pacific

Dawn have tested positive after dozens of people were allowed to leave the ship after docking and go their separate ways. These include a five-year-old boy who flew from Sydney to Melbourne on a Jetstar flight on Monday afternoon, and five people who returned to Queensland on a Virgin Blue flight.

Victorian authorities are now tracking 36 Victorians from the ship who either had flu-like symptoms, or was in contact with someone who had symptoms.

The number of Victorians who tested positive for Swine Flu doubled in Melbourne yesterday with a pregnant woman among those infected. Of the 32 cases most are children and most are in the north and western suburbs.

So far three Victorian schools have been closed - Mill Park Secondary College, Thornbury High School and Clifton Hill Primary School. Many children are also staying home from Australian International Academy in Coburg North after a pupil was diagnosed last week.

Dead girl's home was 'turbulent'

THE father of a girl who allegedly starved to death had a long history of substance abuse and had been addicted to Valium since he was 18, a Supreme Court jury has been told.

A doctor told the court in East Maitland yesterday that the girl's home situation was "turbulent and chaotic" and described her parents as battlers with a number of physical and mental health problems.

The girl, aged seven, was found dead in the family's Hawks Nest home on November 3, 2007. Her father, 47, and mother, 35, cannot be named for legal reasons. They have pleaded not guilty to murder.

The court heard from two general practitioners who saw the girl and her parents while they were living in Sydney between 2001 and 2007.

Stamatios Ktenas said he first saw the girl when she was 12 months old. She was "very thin, emaciated and gaunt".

He said the girl weighed 5.2kg, below the average 9.2kg for that age. At a consultation six months later she weighed 7kg when the average weight was 12kg.

The doctor referred her to a pediatrician and recommended weekly weighing.

Asked by the Crown Prosecutor, Peter Barnett, if the child was brought back by the parents for weekly weighing Dr Ktenas replied: "No."

The girl was referred to and seen by a number of specialists and was later diagnosed as being autistic.

Dr Ktenas said the father was addicted to diazepam, which had the trade name Valium, suffered from agoraphobia, anxiety disorder and panic attacks.

The mother was being treated for chronic back pain after slipping in a supermarket, had irritable bowel syndrome, facial neuralgia and asthma.

Dr Kinga Novak, who worked at the same surgery, said she had also treated both parents, and on one occasion the girl. The trial continues.

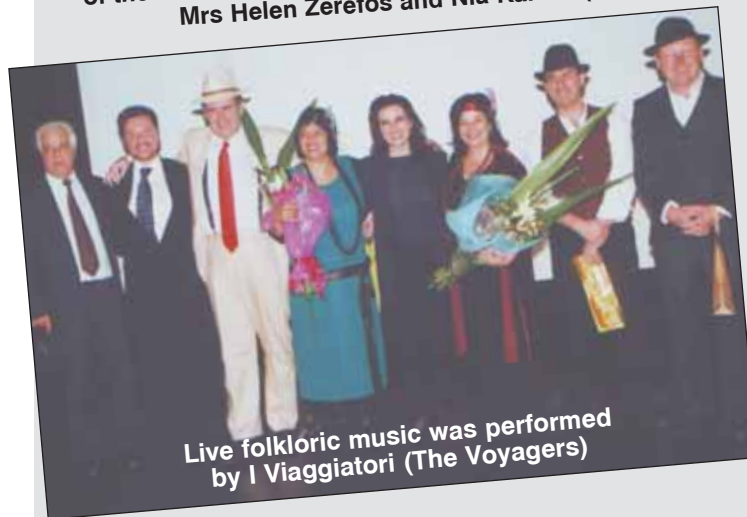
Dall'Italia All'Australia



From left to right: The secretary of the Greek Orthodox Community Michael Tsilimos, Mrs Anastasia Constantinou, the Hon. John Hatzistergos, president of the Greek Orthodox Community Harry Danalis, his wife Mrs Alexandra, Mrs Helen Zerefos and Nia Karteri (festival co-ordinator).



Dr Panayiotis Diamantis interviewing Mrs Despina Tourva



Live folkloric music was performed by I Viaggiatori (The Voyagers)

Dall'Italia all'Australia (From Italy to Australia) is the cinematographic record of the voyage of the SS Regina d'Italia (Queen of Italy). In September 1924, this vessel brought 504 migrants from southern Europe to the South Seas. The passengers included some 130 Hellenes, mostly from Kythera, Castellorizo and Cyprus. It was first screened in Milan in 1925, only to disappear into a vault for the next eight decades. Live folkloric music was performed by I Viaggiatori (The Voyagers) Aria Award winning musicians Kavisha Mazzella, Irine Vela, Dave De Santi with Mark Holder Keeping and introduced by historian/journalist Tony De Bolfo. Dr Panayiotis Diamadis presented the historic context of the migrant voyage recorded in the film. This screening was the first time Dall'Italia all'Australia was shown to an Australian Hellenic audience.

Reject the recession: Advertise your small business for free!

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This offer also promises to really help take the pain out of internet advertising for those that have never had a presence online before, as a Yahoo! certified local specialist will be fully managing each small business campaign at no cost - and helping you to beat any recession budget blues! For more info go to bigbang.yahoo.com.au