

Bar staff hail smoking limits

As new data showed that more than eight out of 10 bar and cafe workers are in favor of an imminent ban on smoking in closed public places, President Karolos Papoulias became the first Greek citizen to sign a "charter for the rights and obligations of all for a smoke-free environment."

According to statistics made public yesterday by Yiannis Tountas, a professor of social medicine at Athens University, 86 percent of staff at the country's bars and restaurants are looking forward to the imposition of severe restrictions on smoking in public places on July 1 that will bring Greece into line with European

Union standards on curbing the risks posed by passive smoking. Tountas's research showed that many non-smoking staff suffered because of their smoky work conditions, with 25 percent developing a cough and 36.5 percent shortness of breath. It is hoped that this situation will improve after June 31, the deadline for bar and restaurant employers to create separate smoking sections. According to the Health Ministry's legal spokesman Polykarpos Adamidis, these smoking sections should account for between 20 percent and 40 percent of the premises, unless the establishment is smaller than 70 square meters, in which case, the bar or

restaurant owner must decide whether to declare the establishment exclusively smoking or nonsmoking. The ministry has asked the Central Union of Municipalities and Communities of Greece (KEDKE) to provide it with a list of all cafes, bars and restaurants with surface areas of less than 70 square meters, along with notes as to how many of these establishments have chosen to permit smoking.

Meanwhile, Papoulias signed a new charter designed to sensitize the public to the importance of averting passive smoking. Papoulias described smoking as "one of the great ills of Greek society."



EDUCATION WEEK 2009

THANK YOUR FAVOURITE TEACHER

Premier Nathan Rees announced that a new web service will be developed to allow former students to thank their most inspirational teachers while encouraging parents, teachers and students to make the most of Education Week 2009.

"School is our home away from home and teachers play a pivotal role in shaping our lives," Mr Rees said during a recent visit to his old school - Northmead High.

"Inspirational teachers are always part of any conversation I have about quality education. "I hope that people take the time every now then to consider the significant input our teachers have in preparing us for our careers and adulthood. "Getting in touch with some of my former teachers and thanking them for their guidance and encouragement has been very rewarding.

"I have asked the Minister for Education and the department to explore ways for former students to pay respect to their teachers through a special website.

"At the same time teachers will be able find out about their student's further studies or careers.

"I hope to see many of the 60,000 year six and around 39,000 year 12 students who graduate each year, use the service when it is established later this year.

"Key education experts including teachers, students and parent groups will be asked how to best design the service while protecting privacy at the same time.

"NSW is already leading the way in sharing information with parents and school communities and this new dimension will re-enforce the amazing work of teachers and the invaluable debt we all owe to them," Mr Rees said.

Education Week 2009 runs from 24 May to 31 May.

Absolutely Kebabulous



TOP: Fez-tival of dance... Demetrios and Lagi performed last night.

BOTTOM LEFT: My Big Fat Kiss ... Dec watches as Demetrios gives son Lagi a peck after performing



CHUBBY father and son duo Stavros Flatley last night danced their way into the BGT final.

Stavros Flatley - Greek Cypriot Demetrios Demetriou, 40, and his son Lagi, 12, - dreamt up their routines to entertain guests at their family restaurant.

They brought down the house last night as they performed to Zorba The Greek - each in a fez, white skirt, and black shoes with red bobbles. Their backing dancers were family pals who also used to work at the eatery.

Simon told them: "It is rubbish but brilliant. It is incredibly infectious. The final would be a worse place without you."

Amanda added: "I just love, love, love, love, love you. It is everything this show should be about."

The duo will now join fellow finalists including singing sensation Susan Boyle in the showdown finale this Saturday.

George Doucas' Balcano

Date: Sat 30 May - **Time:** 8.30pm - **Venue:** Eastside Music Cafe, 395 Oxford St, Paddington - **Cost:** Full \$23, Concession \$20, Cafe carnivale members \$17 - **Contact:** Musica Viva Box Office - 1800 688 482 - (Mon - Fri 9.00 am. - 5.00 pm.)- www.cafecarnivale.com.au

George Doukas is a favourite of the Australian Greek music scene. His virtuosic guitar and bouzouki playing has mesmerised and excited audiences from intimate venues and tavernas to Greek festivals and larger concerts alongside Sakellariou, Doukissa, Floriniotis and Dalaras. Balcano is an exciting fusion of Greek, Serbian and Balkan Gypsy music.