

PROFESSOR STEPHEN G. MILLER

Your invitation is very tempting I would love to visit Australia



Professor Stephen Miller replied to our Editor's invitation to visit Australia, positively! George Hatzivasilis, of "O Kosmos" invited on behalf of the Greek paroikia Professor Stephen G. Miller to visit Australia. The Professor found the invitation very tempting, especially since his wife who used to work for Qantas had wonderful things to say about Australia. Currently, he is dealing with a medical problem which should first be resolved before he visits Australia. Professor Stephen G. Miller is in Greece at the moment and will return to California in late January. Once his health issue is resolved he will try to visit Australia during that time.

Record one million calls for interpreting services

A record one million calls were made to the Australian Government's Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) in the 2008-09 financial year.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, Laurie Ferguson, said today it was a milestone in the provider's 36-year history.

TIS National is a Department of Immigration and Citizenship interpreting service for people who do not speak English, and for English speakers who need to communicate with them.

"The Department's recent launch of a business

card-sized I Need an Interpreter card, which has an 'I speak' space for clients to include their native tongue, has raised awareness among communities of the service," Mr Ferguson said.

"Never before have so many people contacted TIS National for interpreting assistance," Mr Ferguson said. "In 2008-09, TIS National has provided 17 per cent more telephone interpreting services than in the previous year.

"This achievement speaks volumes about the Government's Access and Equity Strategy. It affirms that this strategy is working for culturally and linguistically diverse members of

Australian community."

"It is encouraging that more private enterprises now realise that going the extra distance to assist non-English speaking people is not only the right thing to do but it can also boost their business.

The Melbourne-based TIS National Contact Centre (131 450) services all of Australia and provides phone interpreting around the clock in more than 160 languages and dialects.

Mr Ferguson said a growing number of non-English speakers are now more confident about using this TIS National interpreting service.

"TIS National helps non-English speakers commu-

nicate with government departments, private businesses, emergency services and community-based organisations," Mr Ferguson said. "In many ways, interpreters help non-English speakers to participate more fully in Australian social and economic life."

The highest demand languages in 2008-09 are (in order): Mandarin, Arabic, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Korean, Persian, Turkish, Spanish, Greek and Russian. On-site interpreting is also available by appointment.

Further information about TIS National is available on the DIAC website at: www.immi.gov.au/tis



FINAL SHOWS ON SALE NOW at The Enmore Theatre on Sat August 1 and Sunday August 2

After a sold out season at The Factory Theatre, Alex and Eve The Wedding have left everyone wanting more! Well, we have listened to your cries, and are moving to a new venue, the historic Enmore Theatre. Don't miss your absolute last chance to see this hilarious cross-cultural play as it goes into it's final run.

They're back and they're getting married.. or at least that is the plan

Fresh off the back of three sold out seasons, this hilarious cross-cultural journey continues as Alex and Eve try to prepare for an Orthodox-Muslim wedding. With neither family giving an inch, strap in for an uproarious car-crash!!!

Come and join Alex and Eve as they embark on the most important chapter of their lives... their wedding. The big question is WILL IT HAPPEN?

Written by Alex Lykos - directed by Michael Block

Book tickets at
www.enmoretheatre.com.au
or phone 9550 3666



Family...
Chris (left)
and John
Liberiou at
Gianni of
Double Bay.
Photo:
Domino
Postiglione

Bay city restaurateurs

Is the tide finally starting to turn for Double Bay? After a lacklustre few years of closures and complaints about customers decamping to Bondi Junction, Chris Liberiou has taken a punt that the suburb is back on the up, opening Gianni Of Double Bay last week with his father, John.

"I think it has bottomed out here. There's

big investment in luxury apartments; things are improving," says Chris, the one-time managing director of Rivkin Finance.

Gianni has taken up residence in the Knox Street site where Max Brenner pulled the pin. It's too early for the critics to tour, but the menu sweeps from Italy to Central Europe.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF GREECE IN SYDNEY

The Greek Government offers \$180000 to the victims of the Victoria bushfires

The Greek Government has offered the amount of \$180,000 to the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, in support of those affected by the recent Victoria bushfires.

Greece, being a country that has experienced time and again the devastation caused by wildfires, offers this symbolic assistance to help the people of Victoria to recover from the unthinkable disaster and to rebuild their communities. This donation is also a token of appreciation for the generous support the Australian government and people have unreservedly offered to Greek wildfire victims in the past. The long-standing and close relations between Greece and Australia are best reflected, among other things, in the assistance offered to each other in times of need.

The President of the Hellenic Republic Mr Karolos Papoulias, as well as the Prime Minister Mr Kostas Karamanlis and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Dora Bakoyannis were among the first foreign political leaders to express their sympathy and support and offer their wholehearted condolences to the government and the people of Australia, but also to those directly affected by the Victorian bushfires.