

Help us to collect myths, legends, bedtime stories and folk lore from around the world



- ✓ Does your child have a favourite bedtime story?
- ✓ Are you willing to share it with the community?

Randwick City Council, in conjunction with Sydney Multicultural Community Services, is calling on all parents and grandparents to be involved in an exciting new project – Tales of Many Cities: myths, legends and fairy stories from around the world.

Randwick City is a multi-cultural hub and its resi-

dents have many stories to tell—from folk lore to myths, legends and bedtime stories. Through Tales of Many Cities, the Council hopes to gather these timeless classics and create a written collection of stories for generations to come.

Once gathered, the contributions will be collated into a book and distributed to local preschools and pri-

mary schools to be read at story time. Submissions close on 1 August 2009. Stories should be no more than one typed or two written pages and be suitable for children aged 4 - 7 years.

To participate visit www.randwick.nsw.gov.au/library or call Regina on 9314 4888 or Yasmine on 9663 3922

Letter from Dr Alfred Vincent to Professor James Donald

Professor James Donald,
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
University of New South Wales

Dear Professor Donald,
[...]

I urge you to support the maintenance and development of a department of Modern Greek studies with an extensive range of language and background courses at the University of New South Wales.

At present Australia is perversely monolingual. It is scandalous that so few students at high school and university study a language other than English. Through our indifference to language learning we have thrown away huge resources of language and cultural knowledge brought here by immigrants and passed on, to some extent, to their children. Our monolingualism puts us at a disadvantage in our dealings with trade and cultural partners in many parts of the world. The present government is aware of the need and intends to address it. In these circumstances it is particularly disappointing that a university appears to be moving to close a language department. Your university could be leading the way towards a future Australia in which language learning will be valued and developed in both quantity and quality.

It seems to me that development of language study would be entirely consistent with the objective and strategies regarding community engagement set out in the University of New South Wales' Blueprint to beyond. It would also contribute to strategies formulated there regarding the student experience objective.

[...]

A knowledge of Modern Greek language and culture can be a valuable asset for a career in business (including the travel industry), medicine, the law, school education, the arts and the media, as well as in various academic disciplines.

The cultural value of studying Greek has, I am sure, been put to you already. I would reiterate, though, that the study of this language offers valuable insights into the structure and lexicon of English and

other languages. It can help significantly to develop the kind of linguistic awareness which Australians generally lack. It also offers an entry into a culture whose history can be traced back continuously to the beginnings of European civilisation.

It may have been argued that teaching of Greek should be concentrated in one or two institutions in each main city. I have considered this view very seriously. However, since Greek is one of the most widely used languages in Australia, I believe that opportunities for studying it should be as widely available as possible. The closure of a department deprives many students of this opportunity. Experience has shown that the loss of a discipline in one university does not necessarily mean that interested students will gravitate towards an institution where that discipline is offered.

There is real potential for Modern Greek at UNSW. Although the department has suffered from, among other things, the recent departure of one lecturer and the retirement of another, such setbacks do not affect its overall viability. It would be possible to develop an extensive series of courses, of high quality, which would be both professionally useful and culturally enriching. UNSW has numerous students of Greek background, representing a considerable potential demand. Courses should be made available and publicised to students in all Faculties, who may be able to take them as subsidiary or Gen. Ed. type units. It has also been pointed out that there is an unmet demand for postgraduate diploma or similar courses. I would personally be happy to act as a consultant in developing such a program. As for research, I believe that the record of teachers and postgraduates over recent years – including the two PhDs – is ample proof of the department's potential to contribute to the University's profile.

[...]

Dr Alfred Vincent

cc. Professor Fred Hillmer, Vice-Chancellor
Associate Professor Hans Hendrischke, Head, School of Languages and Linguistics

THE BULLDOG THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

ALEX & EY

THE WEDDING

THEY'RE GETTING MARRIED... OR AT LEAST THAT'S THE PLAN

NOW FEATURING ZOE CARIDES & SABRINA HOUSSAMI

FINAL 2 SHOWS AT ENMORE
SATURDAY 1ST & SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST

ENMORE THEATRE - PHONE 9550 3666
130 ENMORE RD, NEWTOWN - ENMORETHEATRE.COM.AU

The Foundation of Hellenic Studies are proud to announce that **THREE RETURN AIR FARES TO GREECE** will be awarded as academic prizes for students in Greek Studies.

We encourage students from all faculties to enrol in any of the three levels of Greek on offer: **Beginners, Intermediate or Advanced.**

Enrol now for you chance to travel:

TO GREECE



Issued by HELLSOC and The Foundation of Hellenic Studies