

HAVE YOUR SAY ON HIGH FRONT GUTTERS

If you are a home owner or a tradesperson who has had problems with the installation of high front gutters, the Office of Fair Trading would like to hear from you. Fair Trading has two surveys on its website to help gauge the extent of issues with the use and installation of high front guttering. "High front guttering is not the only guttering available but it is very popular with building designers and architects," Minister for Fair Trading, Virginia Judge said. "However, a small number of claims about possible problems associated with the use of high front gutters on residential homes have been raised. "I take any such claims very seriously, and at my direction, Fair Trading has held meetings with industry, manufactures and insurers and issued a practice guide to industry. "Circulars have been issued by Fair Trading and the Department of Water and Energy to all plumbers and by the Building Professional Board to all certifiers. "Fair Trading has raised the issue directly with builders at trade information nights and expos and has also written to all local councils calling on them to provide any complaint or other data in relation to high front guttering. "To date, little evidence to support such claims has been provided.

"I encourage building industry tradespeople and consumers to share their experiences with this product by visiting Fair Trading's website at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au and completing the relevant online survey.

SBS hopes to win viewers with new Aussie line-up

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SBS' head of Production Denise Eriksen

SBS hopes to win over viewers with an all-Australian Thursday night line-up - led by a new cooking show from celebrity chef Sean Connolly.

SBS will launch a bunch of new shows on August 27, including Connolly's multi-cultural food show *My Family Feast*, in which the chef each week cooks and eats with a different Australian family from a different background, including, Greek, Italian, Congolese, Chinese, Mandaean Iraqi, Serbian, Afghan and Cuban.

It will be followed by a garden/lifestyle program *Costa's Garden Odyssey*, a history-based quiz show *ADbc*, while comedy-documentary series *Dave In the Life* will return.

SBS' head of Production Denise Eriksen says it's the first time the broadcaster has had a night dedicated to Australian content, and it's come after about 18 months of planning.

"Australia's had a hunger for their own stories and I think if you look at

the programs that are working across networks they're largely Australian programs. The big ones - *MasterChef*, they're Australian," Eriksen told AAP.

"It's particularly important for a network like SBS to be telling Australian stories in tandem with the great overseas content that we're famous for.

"Because Australia is a particularly exciting unique, multicultural community, to not tell stories would be criminal."

SBS hopes that Australians fall in love with the talent hosting the shows, including award-winning English-born chef Connolly, landscape architect *Costa Geogiadis*, Melbourne radio announcer *Sam Peng*, as host of *ADbc*, and *Dave Zwolenski*, whose show is about stepping into the shoes of people from politicians to thrill seekers.

"We're really pleased that we're bringing on a lot of new faces into our schedule. Our audience is going to meet a whole bunch of different people that they would never have normally met," Eriksen said.

With *My Family Feast* centred on



cooking and *Costa's Garden Odyssey* incorporating food as well, Eriksen said food was important to SBS.

But she rejected suggestions they were jumping on the bandwagon following the success of Network Ten's amateur cooking contest *MasterChef Australia*, and new cooking programs on Seven and Nine.

"SBS has long had a reputation for its food programming because food is a recognised and respected way of showing cultural diversity," she said.

"It's a way of being able to introduce people to different communities through something that's a common interest in food." Eriksen added that she thought the line-up would perform well against other networks, because Thursday night was a bit of a "mixed bag" among the commercial stations.

Wherever there are Greeks, a church is devoted to the 'Panagia'

Everywhere in Greece, from the major urban centers to the remotest island and village, and in all corners of the world where Greeks live, there is a church dedicated to 'Panagia', the Virgin Mary.

On August 15, the feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, tens of thousands of Greeks flock to her churches to piously pray to her and seek her grace.

In the words of the late Fotis Kontoglou, the refugee from Asia Minor who has been called the "father" of a whole generation of artists known as the "thirties generation", the August 15 feast is the "Easter of summer", as it is celebrated as widely and devotedly by the Orthodox Church as the Resurrection of the Christ.

The Pontian (Black Sea Greeks) of the US and Canada have their own special church devoted to the Virgin, the church of the Panagia Soumela, at the foot of the

Appalachian Mountains in West Milford, northern New Jersey.

It all began in 1982, when the Panagia Soumela Pontion Amerikis (Panagia Soumela of Pontians of America) Institution was set up in New York for the purpose of reviving the August 15 devotion in the "Pontian Land of the New World". Twenty-three years later, in 2005, the "Holy Institution Panagia Soumela, Inc. purchased a large land expanse in West Milford, that now has an Orthodox Christian church and a cultural center. It is here that the annual three-day panegyri takes place from August 14 to 16, attracting devout from many other states in the US and from Canada.

The name 'Soumela' comes from the Greek 'stou Mela', meaning 'at Mt. Melas' signifying a specific locality in the Pontos in Asia Minor. The revered icon of Panagia (of) Soumela takes its name from the historic Monastery

of Panagia Soumela in the Pontos, and has been kept there for centuries.

According to tradition, the icon was painted by St. Luke the Evangelist (Apostle Luke) and is older than the Monastery. The icon was originally kept in Athens, originally called the Panagia Atheniotissa (Panagia of Athens), but was later removed to Pontos for safe-keeping when the Saracens destroyed the city of Athens by two monks, St. Barnabas and St. Sophronios who are also said to be the founders of the Monastery of Soumela.

The original icon is now in the new monastery of Panagia Soumela in Greece, southwest of Veria, in the village of Kastanies on the slopes of Mt. Vermion, which was founded by refugees from the Pontos, while one of three exact copies of the miraculous icon lies in the monastery in the Pontos.

