

AHC Action on Macedonia

Once again copying the strategies and tactics of the Australian Hellenic Council, on 7 September 2009, the Skopjan community organised a Forum in Federal Parliament on "Relations" between Canberra and Skopje. Officially organised by the "United Macedonian Diaspora" (UMD), the "Australian Macedonian Human Rights Committee" (AMHRC) and the newly-formed "Macedonian National Council" (MNC), it was held with the backing of the Australia-Skopje Parliamentary Friendship Group.

Key sponsors of the event were the ALP Member for Corangamite (Victoria), Darren Cheeseman, and the Liberal Member for Cowan (WA), Luke Simpkins. Attended by seventeen leaders of the Skopjan community (including diplomats and church representatives), the forum concluded with the submission of a twelve-point plan on strengthening the cultural, economic, educational and diplomatic ties.

The Forum included a luncheon and a presentation by Dr Peter Hill, Australian National University, author of "The Macedonians in Aus-

tralia".

The twelve point plan aims at improving bilateral relations between Canberra and Skopje. This includes persuading the federal Govern-

ment to recognise Skopje as the "Republic of Macedonia" and officially abolish use of the nomenclature "Slav Macedonia". This was first introduced by the ALP Government in 1994 in relation to anyone who identifies with Skopje, but never implemented by the federal bureaucracy.

With Skopjan Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski's visit to Australia now imminent (he arrives on Sunday 25 October), open discussion and co-ordinated action is crucial. It is with these developments in mind that AHC (NSW) is calling for all Australian Hellenes and philhellenes to attend the Open Forum at the "Alexander the Great" Macedonian Club, Livingstone Road, Marrickville, on Wednesday 30 September 2009, from 7pm.

At the Forum, the AHC (NSW) Secretariat will present a review of the 2009 AHC National Conference in Canberra, as well as a plan of action on combating the anti-Hellenic lobby in Australia.

*Yours in Hellenism,
Dr Panayiotis Diamadis
Secretary
AHC (NSW)*



MEDIA RELEASE

The effort to save Greek at the UNSW has gained momentum

The effort to save Greek at the UNSW has gained momentum. Last week the trustees of the Hellenic Studies Foundation met with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor James Donald. Yesterday, the Greek students body- Hellsoc organised a protest and today the Consul General of Greece, Vasilios TOLIOS and the Chairman of the Foundation, Costa Vertzayias again met with Professor James Donald and the New Head of Languages Professor Peter Collins.

Whilst the University is not prepared to review its decision not to offer a major in Greek after 2011, it left open the possibility to review the situation should student numbers dramatically increase. The Dean also reiterated the University's decision that Introductory Greek Course will be offered indefinitely and that depending on student numbers may be offered at a beginners and advanced level.

Another positive outcome was that the Dean is prepared to discuss the introduction of courses related to Hellenic heritage and civilization.

Foundation Chairman, Costa Vertzayias said: "At the end of the day it is up to all of us as a community, educators and students to increase the numbers if we really want Greek to survive in the long term not just at the UNSW but at all Universities and at all levels. We must provide incentives and better courses to attract students."



Panayiotis Kalandranis and 9 year old Panayiota with Simon Kapodistrias at 2MM radio station on Saturday 19th September 2009. Panayiotis spoke to Simon and Anna Arsenis about the concert 'Zambetologies', which is dedicated to the singer, songwriter, composer, philosopher, comedian and all round Greek ambassador George Zambetas.

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