

Greek Feast day makes a splash



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Leesa Smith

SCORCHING temperatures did not deter a throng of Greek men from participating in the annual Ceremony of the Holy Cross on Sunday. A record 160 male swimmers dived into Yarra Bay in an attempt to retrieve the ceremonial cross as part of the Epiphany service. Andrew Dimitrious was triumphant as the bearer of the cross, with tradition saying the family of the person who reclaims the cross will have a fortunate year. The worldwide feast day, which includes the blessing

of the waters symbolises Jesus Christ being baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Every Greek Orthodox Church in Sydney was represented on the day with more than 30 priests assisting the bishop of Sydney Bishop Seraphim with the service. More than 7000 people attended the service at Yarra Bay including the NSW Attorney - General, John Hatzistergos, the NSW Opposition Leader, Barry O'Farrell, Randwick mayor John Procopiadis and Maroubra MP Michael Daley.

Article from The Southern Courier



Andrew Dimitrious retrieved the ceremonial cross. Photos: ERIN BYRNE