



Greek rescue team to Haiti

A 16-member Greek rescue team, including three nurses, unit will depart for Haiti on Tuesday to offer assistance in ongoing operations in the quake-devastated Caribbean country.

"We are going to Port au Prince to offer telecommunications support to other rescue teams; the Greek team will set up a wireless web that will coordinate all the rescue teams operating in the area," team leader Alexandros Lianos said.

Meanwhile, the Hellenic Red Cross on Monday issued a plea to Greek people for financial support towards Haiti. The organisation has already sent 50,000 euros to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent organisations to cover immediate needs.



GOCMV elections proceed smoothly

Officials speaking, up to 2,200 people had voted at the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne, Victoria's (GOCMV) General Election at Alphington Grammar School.

The election's smooth process and friendly atmosphere were noticed by Dimitri Christophilos, a GOCMV member for 20 years, who was "hoping for change" and expressed his frustration to NKEE with the "in-fighting and squabbling" that has characterised the GOCMV over the last year.

There was strong turnout by younger people and families to the General Election, as well as Greek seniors who were there in strong numbers. The intergenerational mix of voters was also reflected among the various candidates from both camps.

It is doubtful that the election results will be released prior to Wednesday. As a company commissioned by the Victorian Electoral Commission counts and re-count the ballots.

(source: neos kosmos)

Masterchef Chris Talihmanidis

CHRIS Talihmanidis was born in a tiny village in northern Macedonia in the 1930s. His parents were farmers. As Greece began to tear itself apart through civil war in the late '40s, Talihmanidis' grandmother took the teenager to work in her restaurant.

"Kids went missing in those years and bad things happened to them," Talihmanidis says. "My grandmother wanted me to be safe, so she kept me close beside her."

Talihmanidis has been cooking professionally ever since.

He moved to Australia in the '60s and bought the Marine Cafe in Lorne in 1974, renaming it Chris's Restaurant and running it successfully for several years before buying a tiny cafe perched on a cliff near Apollo Bay. He took the name with him and in 1979, Chris's at Beacon Point was born.

Over the next 24 years, Talihmanidis gradually transformed the cafe



into a much larger - and increasingly celebrated - restaurant. Then when it was destroyed by fire in May 2003, it had to be rebuilt.

Today, with Chris still spending many hours in the kitchen (delegating some cooking duties to head chef Muhammad Ahmat and long-time life and business partner Penny Kernick), the restaurant with the peer-

less view remains a popular dining destination.

"I still love the Greek classics," Talihmanidis says, "but you have to be able to adapt and become more modern to keep people happy."

David Sutherland
Article from The Age

Hellenic Society of Constantinople Honors Costas Mandylor

On Saturday, Jan 16th the Hellenic Society of Constantinople held its annual Dinner Dance at the Wilshire Country Club. This was the 43rd consecutive year that the organization "cut" its vasilopita. The Hellenic Society of Constantinople was founded by a group of Greek Americans who came to the US from Istanbul for a better future. Every year the organization honors a person of Greek descent who has promoted Greek heritage. This year's honoree was Greek-American actor Costa Mandylor. Mandylor who was commended for his contributions to the film and Greek community. He gleefully accepted the award from Corina Tsopei (former Miss Universe) and thanked the Hellenic Society of Constantinople.

Mandylor was born Costas Theodosopoulos in Melbourne, Victoria,

Australia. He is the son of Louise (née Mandylaris) and Yannis Theodosopoulos. Initially remembered for the role of Kenny - a deputy sheriff, in Picket Fences. Today, Mandylor is best known for portraying Hondshew in Beowulf, and Mark Hoffman in Saw parts III, IV, V and VI.

The evening continued with music and dance Greek style almost until midnight.

BELOW: HSOC President Mike Begakis with his brother Nick



Costas Mandylor



Australians prefer reading over sex: survey

Sex may not be all that it's cracked up to be, according to some Australians at least, who have revealed in a survey they prefer curling up with a good book rather than their lover.

When quizzed by Swedish furniture giant IKEA, one in three Aussies said that if given an extra hour in the day, they would prefer to read a book than get cosy with their other half.

The results of the online poll show 35 per cent of the 1057 respondents would opt to get stuck into a novel if they had the extra time, while only 20 per cent chose one-on-one time with their partners.

But it's apparently the nation's women who secretly yearn for paperbacks over passion, with 45 per cent saying they would opt for a good book while just 14 per cent would choose private time in the bedroom.

Men were more unlikely to snub their lovers for literature. Twenty six per cent said they would rather an hour of romance, while 25 per cent favoured reading.

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald