

SAE OCEANIA & FAR EAST REGION YOUTH NETWORK

World Conference for the Youth

The Council of SAE Oceania & Far East Region Youth Network recently attended the World Conference for the Youth Coordinating Committees of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad in Thessaloniki Greece, from 3rd December -7th December 2009.

Representatives from the Council in attendance included; Elias Demourtzidis, Coordinator of SAE Oceania and Far East Region Youth Network, Anthony Zorbas (W.A),

Makrina Tsinoglou (Tasmania), Alexandra Georgiou (QLD), Alex Belerhas (N.S.W), Rebecca Kougellis (A.C.T), Callie Kalimniou (VIC) and Elinah Ioannides (VIC).

The official opening was announced by the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Mr. Vasilis Papageorgopoulos, at the Grand Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki.

The youth were addressed by various speakers including; Mr. Stefanos P. Tamvakis President of SAE, and Mr. Andrew Athens, the Honorary SAE President, who served as the first President in 1995 for the Founding Assembly of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad.

Testament to the Conference's motto "The Future is Here", the purpose of this Conference was to give the youth the opportunity to identify the issues concerning the youth of the Diaspora, and through open workshops conclude with practical and strategic recommendations on how to best address the issues.



(From left to right: Elias Demourtzidis, Rebecca Kougellis, Alexandra Georgiou, Anthony Zorbas, Elinah Ioannides, Mr Andrew Athens, Alex Belerhas, Makrina Tsinoglou and Callie Kalimniou.)

Sixty young Hellenes from the world Coordinating Councils of the SAE Youth Network, and the NEPOMAK Network (World Organisation for Young Overseas Cypriots) met to discuss and develop specific proposals which centred on the following 6 themes;

Culture, Education and the Greek Language, and the Repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles;

Social Activities, specifically the Environment, and Greek Communities Abroad and Youth Involvement;

Professional and Vocational Guidance for Youth;

Philoxenia: Hospitality Programmes in Greece;

Communication: More effective operation of Youth Networks, and Communication between SAE regions; and

The creation of a Hellenic Database: Census of all Hellenic Youth Organisations worldwide.

A number of innovative ideas and proposals were created by the youth, and presented in a joint meeting with Mr. Spiros Kouvelis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Deputy Minister congratulated the youth on their proposals, and on their campaign to promote the repatriation of the Parthenon Marbles, Unite the Marbles, which according to Mr. Kouvelis, is an issue of critical importance. He further reassured the youth that their activities will be supported by the Greek Government, and emphasised the need for Greece to recognise the critical issues which are being faced by the Diaspora, and more importantly, the recognition of those issues which will be faced by the future generations of the Diaspora.

Along with the workshops, each region was given the opportunity to present to the Coordinating Committees initiatives from their own regions. The

Youth Council of SAE Oceania & Far East Region took this opportunity to promote the launch of the animated Bilingual DVD "My First Words - Greek and English" created by Greek-Australian, Tony Kyriacou. The DVD is aimed at children from one to eight years old, and teaches them basic Greek words.

The final day of the Conference saw the SAE Youth Network launch the Unite the Marbles campaign, at the New Acropolis Museum in Athens. This campaign is an online petition requesting for the re-unification of the Parthenon Marbles to Athens. The website www.unitethemarbles.org is in six different languages: English; Greek; Russian; French; Arabic; Portuguese and Spanish, and seeks to raise awareness across the globe about the plight for the return of the Marbles.

The Council believes that the actions of the Youth of the Diaspora around the world have finally taken shape, and that the Conference was an overwhelming success.

According to the Council, this Conference gave the youth an opportunity to meet and work with other young like-minded Hellenes from around the world, who have the common objective of promoting Hellenism in the Diaspora.

The Council looks forward to a busy year ahead, implementing these new initiatives in the Oceania and Far-East Region.

Rebecca Kougellis
Communications Officer

The Centre of our Capital once again becomes Greece

On Sunday 7 February 2010 the "Greek Glendi", one of the major activities of the Capital Multicultural Festival, will be held in City Walk, the centre of Australia's Capital.

The first "Greek Glendi" was organised in 1997 as part of the Canberra Multicultural Festival, as it was known then. An initiative of the local Government which brings together people of all walks of life and of such diverse ethnic backgrounds.

It gives us, people of Greek heritage, the opportunity to showcase and share with the wider Canberra community our culture and traditions. The Greek community of Canberra takes this opportunity to express their gratitude to the country, the nation and the city which welcomed us and gave us and our families many opportunities to develop, and at the same time maintain, observe and promote our tradition and culture.

The "Greek Glendi", all these years, is organised by



the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra and its surroundings and takes place with the generous support, both financial and in kind, from the Hellenic Club of Canberra and other sponsors.

It is an instance that the entire "Greek Paroikia" gets together behind the Greek Community and assists in putting together this very special and significant event. The dedication, commitment and passion of all volunteers need to be acknowledged.

The "Greek Glendi" has also another important aspect. Moneys raised are given to the Greek Australian Bilingual Preschool and Day Care Centre and the Home for the Aged of St Nicholas.

This year's "Greek Glendi"

features apart from the culinary tastes of souvlakia, spanakopites, and of course unbeatable Loukoumades prepared by the Philoptochos of St Nicholas, the Canberra Hellenic Dancers, more than 150 children from a young age to late teens will present traditional and modern Greek dances, the Melas-Kastoria band will play traditional Greek music, DJ Nicky Zee will present the latest in Greek music and the Ancient Hoplitikon of Melbourne will give a performance of Ancient Greek Hoplite re-enactment. There will also be a live broadcast from SBS Greek Radio.

The "Greek Glendi" starts at 12:00 noon and finishes at 5:00 pm



Παιδικό Θέατρο



Το Θέατρο Τέχνης Αυστραλίας του Σταύρου Οικονομίδη, αρχίζει θεατρικό Εργαστήριο για παιδιά απο 6 μέχρι 15 ετών. Τα μαθήματα που θα διδάσκονται είναι:

- * Υποκριτική
- * Ορθοφωνία
- * Κίνηση
- * Μάσκα
- * Αυτοσχεδιασμό κ.α.

Φέρτε τα παιδιά σας για να κρατήσουμε ζωντανή την γλώσσα μας και τον πολιτισμό μας!



photo from previous children's workshop

Hellenic Art Theatre Children's Workshop

Kids, come along and join the magical world of theatre!
Workshop Dates: every Saturday commencing 6th Feb
Time: 3pm - 5pm
Place: Greek Cultural Centre Building 36, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville
Cost: \$7 per session @ child.
\$5 per session for 10 week upfront payment and for extra child.
At the end of the workshops the children will produce and perform a play for all to see!

Contact: Melpo - 9519 8104
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