



## Greek man guilty of bigamy

A Greek man from Tasmania has hit the tabloid headlines after pleading guilty to the highly uncommon, in Australia at least, charge of bigamy. His admission came after the uncovering of falsified documents used to marry a second wife. The fraudulent divorce papers and his subsequent remarriage make him one of the rarest trial cases ever in the country.

Local police in Tasmania have termed the case unusual and rare even as the 43-year-old man stood before the Hobart Magistrates Court to admit his crime. Nicholas Trikilis (foto) made no attempt to cover his bigamy. Trikilis married Katrina May Phillips in the month of April in 2008. He had done so after filing false divorce papers. Bizarrely, Trikilis also posted photographs of the wedding ceremony to local newspaper the Mercury. The paper even published one of the pictures, which showed friends and family joining the happy couple as the merrily posed inside Tasmania's Royal Botanic Gardens.

In a perverse sense of timing, the divorce case involving his still legal wife, or Kerri Anne Statton, was scheduled for hearing tomorrow. This case has been placed on hold while the bigamy charges are resolved. Coningham resident Trikilis admitted to the court that he was guilty of using a forged document, forgery itself, providing a defective divorce notice and also of providing falsified information relating to the charges of bigamy. Trikilis signed the document in question on January 30, which implied he was divorced, in a bid to end his marriage. On April 18 he presented a public servant at Hobart's Family Court with false documents before marrying again on April 26th in a civil ceremony. He filed the marriage and divorce papers on the same date – April 28th. Before sentencing Eames to 21 months' jail with a 12-month non-parole period, magistrate Ian Matteredson said the problem with bigamy was that "you end up with two mothers-in-law".

Trikilis will be sentenced on April 15.

## French to honour Aussie director Miller

Miller joined a select group of foreigners when he receives the Order of Arts and Letters at a ceremony at a French Film Festival gala in Sydney. "George Miller is a well-known director in France," said Jean-Jacques Garnier, the French Consulate's cultural attache. Mr Garnier says Miller was presented with the award for "his life achievement as director and what he gave to cinema in Australia and around the world."

Miller gave up a career as a doctor to concentrate on film, directing and co-writing 1979's *Mad Max* starring Mel Gibson. He went on to direct *Witches Of Eastwick* (1986), *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992) and *Babe: Pig In The City* (1998). In 2007, he won an Oscar for the animated penguin movie *Happy Feet*. Miller is currently working on a 3D sequel to *Happy Feet*, as well as *Mad Max 4*.



# It's all Greek to them

The forum was an initiative of Victorian MPs John Pandazopoulos, and Jenny Mikakos who organised for Parliamentary Secretary for Education, MP Steven Herbert to attend.

The Victorian Government has released a discussion paper on a new language education strategy for schools in Victoria. Also present at the meeting which was attended by approximately 60 people was Education Department's official Ian Burrige. The deadline for submissions ends is the end of March and a committee was set up after the meeting from Greek educators to make submissions. "A number of issues were identified during the discussion," Mr Pandazopoulos said.

One of those issues was the fact that the government has put a lot of emphasis into the teaching of Asian languages in the last decade sometimes at the expense of other European and community languages such as Greek.

"A thing that we did hear quite a bit [during the meeting] is that [the teaching of Greek] is often left to the parents," Mr Pandazopoulos pointed out.



He explained that a few Greek parents want to fight for the teaching of Greek in the school but are not supported by other Greek parents or the broader Greek community in their local area.

"They feel that they're left on their own and therefore feel powerless if the School Council decides to stop offering Greek in their school," he said.

GOCMV Board member, Theo Markos highlighted the fact that although no specific proposals were outlined during Monday's meeting it was a good opportunity for the community at large to air its concerns.

Meanwhile, three Federal MPs of Greek background joined forces last week to call on the government to in-



clude Greek as one of the languages in the new national schools curriculum currently being developed by the Australian Curriculum and Reporting Authority (ACARA).

Labor MPs Steve Georganas from S.A., Maria Vamvakinou from Victoria and Liberal MP, Sophia Mirabella also from Victoria highlighted the importance of the teaching of the Greek language in their respective speeches in Parliament.

(source: neos kosmos)

## Guilty plea to three rapes



A CLOSE friend of a man last year jailed for 28 years as one of Victoria's worst sex offenders has pleaded guilty to raping three unconscious women whose alcoholic drinks he spiked.

Harry William Barkas, 47, this week admitted his crimes 2½ years after his arrest as Victoria's alleged "hot chocolate" rapist.

Barkas was detected after police received many calls after the arrest of John Xydias who was later described as a sinister and depraved man.

Barkas, who lost the tag in 2008 when prosecutors withdrew all charges related to such drinks, originally faced crimes against 24 women.

Police had alleged Barkas drugged, raped or assaulted the women after befriending them in Melbourne's CBD and inner suburbs.

The South Yarra man appeared on Monday in the County Court charged with 21 offences, including rape and administering a drug for the purposes of sexual penetration.

The charges, which involved seven women, were to be heard at three separate trials.

The charges to which he ultimately pleaded guilty involved three women.

After pretrial legal argument, prosecutor Ray Gibson said on Wednesday the case had been resolved and Barkas then pleaded guilty to rapes committed in 1991 and between 2002 and 2003 and 2004 and 2005.

Judge Paul Lacava earlier heard that Barkas and Xydias had socialised on many occasions.

Xydias, who pleaded guilty in 2008 to 25 charges of rape and 61 of sexual assault against 11 women between 1991 and 2006, drugged victims and filmed his attacks.

Barkas' barrister Julian McMahon and Mr Gibson had discussed this week how to disguise the "infamous" name of Xydias, who was mentioned throughout Barkas' police brief, because it risked prejudicing the trial.

Barkas was remanded to appear in the court again on March 29.

Source: The Age