

# Adelaide woman to receive Hellenic award

For the third consecutive year the prefecture of Thessaloniki will honour Greek Diaspora Women in recognition of their contribution to World Hellenism.

The selection of the honourees is made by the seven SAE Regions in the Global Hellenic Community.

The Australian winner for the Oceania Region is Alexandra Vakitsidis from

South Australia. They are honored by the Prefecture of Thessaloniki in a show of respect and appreciation to the limitless contribution of the Greek expatriate woman and the Diaspora Greeks in general. In their adopted countries the

Greek expatriate women get recognition and admiration through their hard work and sacrifice.

Alexandra will join the other six global regional winners at a "Tribute to the Greek Diaspora Women" which will be held on Wednesday 14 April 2010 in Thessaloniki.

Alexandra was nominated by the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia (SA) Inc - OEEGA (SA).



## Dockers walk off job over Nick Fanos' death

Dock workers across the country walked off the job for an hour yesterday, calling for improved safety standards at Australian ports.

The move came after the death of 49-year-old Nick Fanos, who was crushed by a container at Port Botany in Sydney on Sunday March 28.

His funeral was held in Sydney's inner west today. Maritime Union national secretary Paddy Crumlin says current safety standards for dock workers are inconsistent.

"There is not a clear differentiation between the responsibilities of the Federal Government, in this area, and the State Government, and we've had enough," he said.

"We want a single standard to deal with this unique industry."

*Article from ABC News*

**Nick Fanos was a "hard worker and all round good bloke," says Paul Keating, delegate at Patrick Port Botany where Nick worked the past six years. "He would always help out a mate."**

**That is the kind of man Nick was, he helped out when needed and worked so hard to make sure his family were looked after.**

**"I worked with Nick in his first couple of days on the wharf" Mich-Elle Myers a workmate of Nick's said. "He was a really nice guy. He worked harder than most of us, but you could tell it was because he loved his family and wanted to provide for them."**

**Nick's family are from the wharves and have always been MUA members. Nick joined on his first day. His brother-in-law Billy is a crane driver at Port Botany and his nephew Gerry is as well. The wharves are a big family and when we lose one of our own everybody feels it. The place will never be the same.**

Nick's funeral was held at: The Greek Orthodox Church- New Canterbury Road- HURLSTONE PARK on WEDNESDAY 7th of April at 10am.

## Letter to the Prime Minister calls for safety on the wharves

Nephew of the late Nick Fanos plea to the PM

SPIRO TZOUGANATOS  
Barrister at Law  
Elizabeth Street Chambers  
Level 16, 179 Elizabeth Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

5 April 2010

The Honourable  
The Prime Minister  
Kevin Rudd MP  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

### Re: The Late Nick Fanos; National Stevedoring Safety Taskforce

At around 7.30 pm on Sunday March 28 my 49 year old uncle Nick Fanos, was killed while loading containers onto a ship at Port Botany in Sydney. Nick was crushed between containers. His wife, two children, the rest of our family and Nick's work mates are in shock.

We now await the outcome of investigations into my uncle's death including the findings of the Coroner.

However, in a modern workplace, the incident that killed my uncle should not happen. There should be a code of practice and mechanisms in place that make this horrific situation practically impossible. While it is too late for my uncle, the safety of other dock workers needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. I am aware of other recent fatalities of dock workers during the course of their work on the waterfront.

On behalf of our family and dock workers across our country I respectfully ask that you establish a National Stevedoring Safety Taskforce, leading to the earliest introduction of a National Stevedoring Safety Code of Practice.

I know there are priorities in the Government's workload especially in these trying economic times but surely there is nothing more important than the life, safety and welfare of workers and working families.

I trust you will give my request your urgent consideration.

Yours sincerely

Spiro Tzouganatos

CC: Paddy Crumlin, National Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia



article from MUA