

Cosmopolitan Mykonos launches international congresses, cultural events for new tourism season

The cosmopolitan island of Mykonos, a top tourist destination in the Cyclades Island complex, is inaugurating this year a series of international congresses and cultural events for the summer tourism season this year.

The events include the 2nd International Meeting on Aesthetic and Reconstructive Facial Surgery on May 13-16, the 48th Panhellenic Congress on Pediatrics on May 21-23, and the 2nd International Symposium on "Green Chemistry and Environmental Health" on September 27-29. Further, a series of concerts, canoe and theatrical performances, and art exhibitions have been planned spanning on the island from May to end-September, with the main thrust in July and August.

Events will also be held on the nearby islet of Delos to celebrate the August full moon. Mykonos, which is also known for its golden sandy beaches, cobblestone streets and windmills dating from as early as the 16th century, is believed, according to local legend, to have been named after a local hero -- an offspring of the ancient Greek god Apollo -- who was worshipped locally in antiquity.



According to Greek mythology, Mykonos was the site of the battle between Zeus and the Titan, and the island was named in honor of the mythical god Apollo's grandson Mykonos.

The island's world-famous landmarks include: Petros the Pelican, a white pelican that has been the official mascot of Mykonos for over 50 years, since the first

Petros, a wounded pelican, was found off the coast of Parangia shore by a local fisherman in 1958 and was nursed to health; the windmills, most dating back as early as the 16th century, built by the Venetians, and used to grind wheat up until the early 20th century; the settlement of Alefkantra (Little Venice), with its houses, dating back to the middle of the 18th

century, built right on the sea's edge and their balconies overhanging the water; the Archaeological Museum, that houses marble sculptures, ceramics and jewelry recovered from Mykonos and the nearby islets of Delos and Renia; the Aegean Maritime Museum, with its models of a collection of ships from the pre-Minoan period through to the 19th century and ancient artifacts recounting the history of shipping on Mykonos; and the Church of Panagia Paraportiani (literally, Our Lady of the Side Gate' in Greek, as the church's entrance was found in the side gate of the entrance to the Kastro area), one of the most famous architectural structures in Greece, with the name meaning inner or side door, which it was to the Medieval stone walls that encircled the area. The impressive whitewashed church, the construction of which began in 1452 and was completed in the 17th century, in actuality consists of five churches attached together. The four other churches (Saint Efstratios, Saint Savon, Saints Anargyri and Saint Anastasia) are all on the ground and constitute the base of the 5th church (Panagia) built on top of them.

Electric shock as businesses face disaster

FAMILIES will be stung twice by soaring electricity price rises with small businesses forced to pass on average bill increases of more than \$5000 a year.

Desperate shop owners yesterday said they could even be forced to cut staff thanks to the IPART-approved price rise of 64 per cent over the next three years. That will leave some large businesses having to find an extra \$12,000 annually.

Their anger is set to grow with secret Government documents revealing \$47.5 million was wasted on consultants and spin doctors to push the failed power privatisation bid in 2008. And the documents obtained by The Daily Telegraph reveal that a further \$119 million has been set aside for advisers to plot the planned sale of the retail businesses of EnergyAustralia, Integral and Country Energy.

Electricity cost is a major headache for Premier Kristina Keneally, with more than 4500 so far signing The Daily Telegraph's online Power Struggle petition for the rises to be axed.



Electricity price stress ... Sue Wills from Abigail's Florist in Blacktown is concerned about the rises.

Picture: John Fotiadis Source: The Daily Telegraph

Among the businesses facing big bill increases is Blacktown's Uncle Tom's fruit shop, Elias Vasilas has run the business for 10 years. He has now been asked for a payment plan after his quarterly power bill soared \$900 to \$3300. He fears the next series of rises will push his bill up more than \$5000 a year and if he puts his prices up, the big supermarkets may run him out of business.

"It's making you think, 'Is it worth it?'. The Government has no idea. It is very tough," he said.

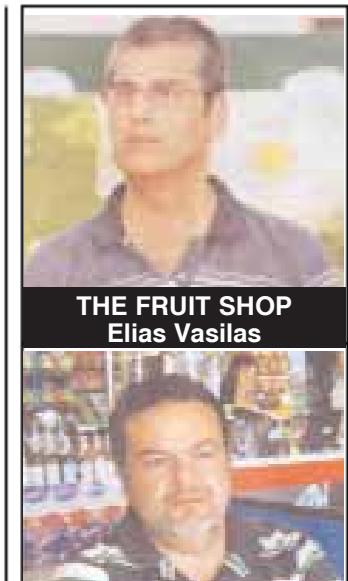
Sue Wills from Abigail Florist said the rises are

killing us'.

"We're going through a hard enough time as it is. My bill used to be \$750, this time it was up to \$1150," she said. And Port Macquarie barber James Holder's bill is tipped to rise by \$1500 by 2013. He will pass on a rise of \$1-82 a cut, adding it was a "huge" issue.

Cessnock Cinema owner Michael Genetzakis has lung cancer and was putting his own savings into his business after his power bill went from \$3000 a month to \$8000 because of an EnergyAustralia contract.

"Thank you for what The Daily Telegraph has done," his son John said after hearing the news.



THE FRUIT SHOP
Elias Vasilas



THE CINEMA
John Genetzakis

claimed when Mr Genetzakis entered into a four-year contract electricity prices had doubled.

He was threatened with huge termination costs but after an inquiry from The Daily Telegraph, EnergyAustralia agreed to waive the exit fees. He will now get a deal 50 per cent cheaper.

"Thank you for what The Daily Telegraph has done," his son John said after hearing the news.

Gemma Jones Political Reporter
From: The Daily Telegraph

Anzac Day Dinner

To commemorate the Australian Campaigns in Greece and Crete

Hosted by The Honourable

John Hatzistergos MP

who will give an address on the recently

published book,

'Diggers and Greeks'
by Dr Maria Hill.

Enjoy a 3 course meal and fine wines and listen to Cretan Lyra and Lute playing performed by Andrew Parlatis and Anglo Goutzis from the Cretan Association of Sydney.

Held in the Parliamentary Dining Room, Parliament of NSW

On Wednesday 21st April - 6pm to 10pm.

Cost: \$70

Please RSVP by 10th April 2010 (bookings must be accompanied by payment as places are strictly limited.)

To George Pealos Cultural Trustee Kytherian World Heritage Fund

Phone 02 9388 8320 or email transco@bigpond.net.au