



Uruguay Honors Greek Culture

Having already experienced great success in Alexandria, New York, California, Turkey, Malta, Italy and Greece, the US-based non-profit organization The Readers of Homer, under the direction of Founder Dr. Kathryn Hohlwein and of Yannis Simonides, in collaboration with the 'Maria Tsakos' Foundation in Montevideo, under the direction of Ms. Margarita Larriera, set sail for South America for the purpose a unique cultural event in Montevideo, Uruguay, whereby more than 15,000 people participated in a series of cultural and educational events dedicated to Homer, entitled "JORNADAS HOMERICAS" (Days of Homer).

The events were centered on two marathon reading and singing renditions of the Odyssey and the Iliad, executed by about 500 Uruguayan children, students and other participants of all ages and backgrounds. About 20 readers per hour read/sang passages of 30-40 lines in ancient and Modern Greek, Spanish, English or any language of their choice. The marathon readings took place in the Paraninfo Hall of the University of the Republic of Uruguay in Montevideo.

Amongst dozens of representatives from the political and diplomatic sphere, as well as from the arts and letters from Europe, the USA and Latin America were the renowned Uruguayan author, Eduardo Galeano.

Furthermore, several parallel events related to Homer's took place in Montevideo including: educational seminars led by leading Hellenists of Latin America, round table discussions about the immediacy and diachronic value of Homer, a student fine arts competition entitled Homer: Myth and Reality, and theatrical performances of the tragedies Oresteia and Electra performed by drama schools of Montevideo.

The JORNADAS HOMERICAS were concluded on Saturday May 22nd, with a public reading of segments from the 20th century masterpiece Odyssey by Nikos Kazantzakis in Greek, Spanish and English. This event was accompanied by University of the Republic Choir presenting the work Dizionario Greco by Czech composer Petr Eben, under the direction of Belgian conductor Johan Duijck.

Australian immigration routes still available for chefs and cooks

Australian Immigration Minister Chris Evans has said recently that that there are still a number of immigration options available for highly qualified chefs and cooks. Immigration Minister Evans went onto say:

The removal of the classifications for chefs and cooks from the Skilled Occupation List will not affect the ability of restaurateurs to bring in qualified staff to meet demand in the industry.'

'We have reformed the skilled migration system to allow employers to target the skills they need in their businesses.

'Employers can nominate chefs and cooks on 457 visas, employer-sponsored visas and the new State migration plans.'

The Immigration Minister said



that in the one year period to 30 April 2010 employers had recruited about 1,000 cooks on chefs on employer-sponsored visas. In the period 2007-08 420 cooks and chefs had been sponsored.

'Despite more than 4000 chefs and cooks being granted visas under the independent skilled migration program in 2007-08, there were critical shortages in the industry,' Senator E-

vans said.

'Clearly the majority of these people were not working as either cooks or chefs.

'The changes we have introduced will ensure that only those who have real jobs to go to in the industry will be granted visas.'

Immigration Minister Evans said that the Government was wanted to focus on employment based migration to Australia. On 31 March 2010 there were 3210 cooks and chefs in Australia working on employer-nominated 457 visas. It is also possible for States and Territories to include cooks and chefs for inclusion in their own immigration programs. Immigration Minister Evans went onto say:

'The Government has streamlined the processing arrangements for the employer and state-sponsored visa programs to make it easier and quicker for employers to recruit workers from overseas.'

Belmore Sports Ground will become the permanent home ground of Sydney Olympic FC

It is with great delight that the Board of Sydney Olympic are today able to announce that Sydney Olympics' long term tenure at Belmore Sports Ground for the next 25 years is secure.

On this historical day, on the hallowed turf of Belmore Sports Ground, in a press conference, the Federal Ministers Mr. Anthony Albanese and Tony Burke, the Mayor of Canterbury and State Government Parliamentarian Mr. Robert Furolo, Mr. Ray Dib, Chairman of the Canterbury Bulldogs Rugby League Club and our own President Mr. George Giannaros announced that a \$4.9million Federal government grant supplemented by a \$1million grant by Canterbury Council will be spent in the im-



mediate future in order to upgrade facilities at Belmore Sports Ground.

Belmore Sports Ground will become the permanent

home ground of Sydney Olympic FC and the Bulldogs will permanently relocate their training base and administrative head-

quarters to the venue.

During his interview Mr. Giannaros respectfully thanked the Federal Government and Canterbury Council for their vision in providing these funds. He also addressed the strategic alliance which has been formed between these two historic clubs from two different football codes, whose collaborative efforts in this venture not only brings benefits to both clubs but also to the local community.

He also stated that this synergy may open the door for additional funding from say the FFA in any future considerations they may give to playing/training venues should they be successful in their bid to host the Football World Cup in 2018/2022.



Historical Document in Cairo

The release of a new book on the Communal Church of Saint Constantine and Helen, published by the author and President of the Ambetios School Alumni Association, Ms. Villy Politou, was an important event for the Greek Community in Cairo.

This work, which was characterised by the President of the Greek Community Christos Kavalis as "a historical document", was published on the day of the Celebration of the Patron Saint of the Community, on May 21st, attracting the interest of community members and earning praise from the Patriarch of Alexandria and All Africa, Theodore II, who also wrote the foreword to the edition.