

# A 'PERFECT TEN' FOR MARRIAGES THIS SUNDAY 10/10/10

NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos said more than 100 couples will tie the knot at Birth, Deaths and Marriages Registries this Sunday, which falls on the date of October 10, 2010.

"Only once in a hundred years can couples tie the knot on the special date 10/10/10," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"This Sunday will be the 'Perfect 10' for couples wanting a special date to say their vows.

"It will be the busiest day ever for weddings held at Registry offices in NSW breaking all records since it opened in 1856.

"The date has been so popular with couples the Registry has been taking bookings since over a year ago."

Mr Hatzistergos said this Sunday will set a new record for the most number of weddings on one day with a total of 106 couples to wed at Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages offices in Sydney, Parramatta and Newcastle.

"Special dates are always very popular for weddings but not since 08/08/08, when 96 couples wed, have we seen marriage Registries experience such extraordinary demand on one day," he said.

"It has even exceeded Valentine's Day as one of the most popular days to wed.

"Registry staff have been working very hard to accommodate all the cou-

ples, hiring extra venues and booking as many celebrants and ushers as possible.

"It has even extended its opening hours so it can hold ceremonies right through from early morning to sunset.

"Some of the highly sought after time slots requested by couples were: 10 mins to 10, 10:00am and 10:10am.

"One of the lucky brides picked the special date as it is her birthday."

Mr Hatzistergos said brides and grooms are increasingly opting to get married in civil ceremonies.

"They are a simple yet elegant option," he said.

Figures show civil ceremonies are now almost twice as popular as church weddings, confirming a trend that began in 2002.

Civil ceremonies overtook religious ceremonies then, with 17,613 church services compared with 18,192 non-church weddings.

Last year, the trend continued with 25,718 weddings conducted by civil celebrants compared with 14,966 religious ceremonies in NSW.

Civil celebrants conducted 63 per cent of all NSW marriages in 2009, an increase of 15 per cent from 1999, when it was 48 per cent.

Registry offices are in Chippendale, Parramatta, Wollongong and Newcastle. Charges range from \$320 to \$420.

To find out more about getting married at the Registry, call 1300 655 236 or visit [www.bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au)

Attorney General Media Contact: Adam Bell 0448 302 533

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Media Contact: Alana Sheil 9035 6558 / 0412 264 339 (For assistance with arranging interviews and/or with couples and for media arrangements at the Registries on Sunday)

## FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE

- 106 couples will marry across Parramatta, Chippendale and Newcastle (35 at Parramatta, 65 at Chippendale and 6 at Newcastle).
- Sunday, October 10, 2010 will be the busiest day ever for weddings held at Registry offices in NSW breaking all records since it opened in 1856.
- Not since 08/08/08 has the Registry experienced such a busy day when 96 couples were married.
- Some special time slots requested by couples have been: 10 mins to 10, 10:00am and 10:10am. One bride particularly picked the date as it her birthday.
- The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages has hired extra venues, booked as many celebrants and ushers as possible and extended its



opening hours to hold ceremonies from dawn till dusk.

- As a special 10/10/10 gift, each couple will receive a nickel/silver finish engraved photo frame as a memento of their special day.
- The most popular time for Registry wedding is traditionally the October long weekend. Valentine's Day is also a very popular date.
- In the 2009 calendar year, there were 40,684 weddings in NSW, with 25,718 civil ceremonies and 14,966 religious ceremonies.

Source: Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages NSW

## Kastellorizian Association of Victoria elects first female President

On Sunday 3rd October, 2010 Yvonne accepted the role of President of the Kastellorizian Association of Victoria. Yvonne is, in fact, the first female President of the Association and we are pleased to emphasise that she comes from a family that has been active in the Brotherhood



over several generations. Her outstanding organisation skills and strong self-motivation will be major assets for the new regime as it faces the challenges to maintain its presence over the next few years. Yvonne brings with her considerable experience gained from roles within the education sector and demonstrates excellent communication skills, is an experienced public speaker which augers well for a very impressive ambassador to our Association.

Furthermore, her knowledge of Greek traditions, language, culture and religion will be a critical part of her term as President as this will be one of the main areas of focus to ensure we preserve and record our culture and heritage.

Yvonne succeeds Michael Spartels who has been a long-term supporter of the Association and hands the club over in very good shape.

## Workshops for Young Women

The Mayor of the City of Canterbury, Cr Robert Furolo MP is encouraging young women to learn a range of new skills by attending the Young Women of the World workshops at the Belmore Youth Resource Centre (BYRC).

"The BYRC runs a great range of fun activities all year round to help young people learn new skills and make new friends," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

"The Young Women of the World workshops bring together young women from a variety of cultures, teaching them a range of new skills and helping to build their confidence.

"The workshops will address topics that are significant to young people including healthy relationships, employment advice and even nutrition and cultural cooking.

"The Healthy Relationships workshop was organised earlier this month and was a great success in helping young women identify positive role models that can mentor them as they develop.

"The Job Seeking and Employment Workshops will be held in November and will offer practical career advice, including resume writing and interview skills through role plays.

"Young women will also be given the chance to learn about the im-

portance of nutrition and share their skills by creating their own cultural dishes at the Cultural Cooking and Nutrition Workshop.

"The Young Women of the

World Workshops will also provide information on the local services available to help young women develop into successful adults," Mayor Robert Furolo said.

## AHEPA Initiative for Parthenon Marbles Return

A conference organized by the Greek-American progressive organization AHEPA of Australia in Melbourne has decided to begin a legal battle against the Museum of London to return the Parthenon sculptures in Greece. AHEPA of Australia made the first initiative by giving the amount of \$15,000 Australian dollars for Emanuel Komninos and Victor Bizanis to start a global campaign on this issue.

Emanuel Komninos who is in charge of the first committee for returning the Parthenon sculptures and lawyer Victor Bizanis spoke among others, at the conference.

Mr. Bizanis was born in Australia but loves his homeland. In his opinion, the legal representation of Greece should rely on the extremely successful Australian lawyer Jeffrey Robertson who lives in London. In the past he has won a legal battle concerning the aborigines of Tasmania. Mr. Bizanis claims that there are lots of criminal records on which the Greek representative should take into consideration.

According to the "Mambo" case, the Aborigines sued the Australian state of Couinsland in 1992. They stated that their ancestors lived there when white people concurred their land, claiming them as: "to belong to no one". Aborigines won the trial and made the state return their land which had been concurred in 1788.

The second criminal record according to Mr. Bizanis has to do with the return of skulls and bones of Aborigines from Great Britain to Australia. The skulls and bones had been stolen by the British in the 19th and 20th centuries for anthropological research. The aborigines sued Great Britain, won and their ancestor's skulls and bones were returned.