

Sydney is the city that knows how to party and plans are in full swing for the party of the year with another unrivalled fireworks show for 2010 Sydney New Year's Eve. "X will mark the spot this Sydney New Year's Eve with one of the biggest and most watched celebrations on the planet shining the spotlight on our city," said Lord Mayor Clover Moore MP.

"Each year more than 1.5 million people gather for an awe-inspiring welcome to the New Year, and Sydney's iconic harbour becomes a place of hope, excitement and celebration."

"This year's theme is 'Make Your Mark' which is about each of us making our own unique contribution not just in 2011, but in the decade ahead," said the Lord Mayor.

"We can make our mark by thinking and acting sustainably and taking positive action to improve our community and environment."

Brand new "X" shaped fireworks and cutting edge pyrotechnic shapes including lightning bolts, crescent moons, double hearts, bowties and a star inside a ring will all premiere this year, while for the very first time a multi-layered Bridge Effect will mark Sydney as the New Year's Eve capital of the world.

The show will feature 7000 kilo-

"Make Your Mark" 2010 Sydney New Year's Eve

grams of explosive devices, including approximately 11,000 shells, 20,000 shooting comets and 100,000 individual pyrotechnic effects fired from barges, city rooftops and the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Sydney New Year's Eve attracts bigger crowds than London, New York, Paris or Berlin and features aerial displays, a Harbour of Light Parade, the 9.00pm Family Fireworks and the Midnight Finale.

2010 is the third and final year for Creative Director and Bundjalung woman Rhoda Roberts, who has spent the last 15 months developing the 2010 Sydney New Year's Eve theme with the Sydney New Year's Eve Creative team. She came up with this year's "Make Your Mark" theme because she wanted to share her legacy with everyone who enjoys Sydney New Year's Eve.

"I've had the enormous privilege of leaving my creative mark on one of the greatest events in the world by working on Sydney New Year's Eve," said Rhoda.

"For centuries my ancestors have

marked the passing of time and history with Indigenous traditions like rock markings and larrakitj carvings and "Make Your Mark" is about inspiring everyone to think about positive ways they can mark the beginning of the new decade."

"We've created some new surprises this year including pyrotechnic shapes that have never been seen before," said Fireworks Director Fortunato Foti.

"We've created a stunning red and white checkerboard waterfall which will tumble from the Sydney Harbour Bridge in the 9pm Family Fireworks and other new pyrotechnic surprises like Falling Angels which will delight in the midnight finale."

For a safe and enjoyable 2010 Sydney New Year's Eve:

- Pick a vantage point and be aware that popular areas fill up quickly
- Plan ahead if you're heading to the harbour foreshore and take public transport
- Remember not to take glass to the event and place rubbish into bins provided



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• To get the full multimedia Sydney New Year's Eve experience, tune your radio to 104.1 2Day FM to hear the synchronised fireworks soundtracks

For more detail and images of Sydney New Year's Eve visit: sydneynewyearsve.com



Greek winemaker's winning ways in vineyards and politics

While Yiannis Boutaris was campaigning last month to be the next mayor of Thessaloniki, in Greece his older son was waging his own campaign in North America to win recognition for Greek wines.

"My father is really the patriarch or the pope of Greek wines," said Stellios Boutaris, who was in New York to showcase his family's wines from their Kir-Yianni Estate.

"He is someone, who when he is not running for office, has spent his life promoting Greek wines, trying to change the image of Greek wines," he explained.

There are more than 300 indigenous varieties of grapes in Greece, where wine has been made for roughly 5,000 years. In ancient times Greek wines were highly prized and sought after but things have changed. The Boutaris family, which has been making wine since the late 19th century, has holdings in most of the country's wine producing regions. The Boutaris Group produces about 15 million bottles annually and exports to more than 35 countries.

In the 1990s, Yiannis, who had been the group's chief winemaker, left to produce estate-level wines on land he had bought 30 years earlier. It became the Kir-Yianni Estate where he tried to restore Greece's ancient reputation for quality wines using

modern winemaking techniques.

"My father reinvented Greek wine," Stellios said, adding that he brought the French concept of terroir to the Kir-Yianni Estate in Naoussa, Macedonia where they are concentrating on the Xinomavro grape. "It is one of the most interesting and noble varieties in Greece," Stellios explained. "It's a variety that is quite similar to Pinot Noir - in color and in difficulty to grow." But he added that it is robust like Nebbiolo - the grape grown in Piedmont where it is turned into two of Italy's iconic wines - Barolo and Babaresco.

Stellios, who holds degrees from INSEAD and the London School of Economics, wants to get the wines at Kir-Yianni on the world wine map.

"It will take some time, but we will get there. Good wine can be made in the winery, but only great wine can be made in the vineyard." The vineyards in Naoussa are on slopes some 300 meters (1,000 feet) above sea level in an area that has very hot, dry summers and lots of snow in the winter. "We are concentrating on indigenous grapes, traditional grapes, but with modern techniques," he said.

Yiannis Boutari, 68, who had previously been a city councilor and a candidate for the European Parliament, was elected Thessaloniki's next mayor.

NEW LAWS TO PROTECT OLDER PEOPLE FROM ABUSE

People who seriously neglect senior citizens or other vulnerable people in their care could be jailed for up to five years under changes to the law, NSW Attorney General John Hatzistergos announced today.

"Australia has an ageing population and more people than ever are relying on their children and other carers to look after their basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The new laws will guard against elder abuse and provide peace of mind for vulnerable seniors who are no longer able to care for themselves."

The NSW Government will expand and modernise an archaic section of the Crimes Act 1900 that makes it an offence to place the health of "a wife, servant or insane person" at risk by failing to properly provide for them. "This section of the law will be updated to include a host of other modern relationships where a person is dependent on another party for their day-to-day care," Mr Hatzistergos said.

"The changes will protect older people dependent upon carers, parents cared for by their children and people who are dependent upon their de facto partner."

The maximum penalty for the offence is five years imprisonment.

The amendment to Section 44 of the NSW Crimes Act 1900 applies subject to provisions of the Commonwealth Aged Care Act 1997. The amendments to the Crimes Act will also remove the reference to an "insane person", which is dated and disrespectful, and replace it with a more appropriate description of a person with a mental illness.

Council on the Ageing (NSW) President Kath Brewster welcomed the Government's greater focus on the abuse of older people and the introduction of tougher penalties for perpetrators of elder abuse. "With an ageing population we are very concerned about the abuse of older people, particularly those who are dependent on carers or family members," Ms Brewster said.

"Abuse can take many forms including financial and emotional as well as physical, so any strengthening of laws will send a strong message to the community that abuse is simply not acceptable."

Mental Health Coordinating Council Chief Executive, Jenna Bateman congratulated the Government for modernising a law created more than a century ago to remove the reference to an "insane person". "In 1900, people with mental illness were kept hidden in homes or in large institutions away from the public eye," Ms Bateman said.

"This was a time prior to medication, when recovery and the continuation of life in the community were seen as extremely unlikely. Today we understand that people do recover from mental illness, that social inclusion assists that recovery and that people with mental illness can have quality of life and contribute to society."

"The Attorney General is congratulated for recognising the archaic wording in section 44 of the Crimes Act 1900 and giving it currency in the society of today."