

Premier Launches 29th annual Greek Festival of Sydney

Premier Kristina Keneally launched, on Wednesday night, the 29th annual Greek Festival of Sydney – and encouraged the wider community to attend the vibrant celebration of Greek culture in NSW.

The Greek Festival of Sydney is one of Australia's largest annual cultural events and will be held at Darling Harbour on March 26-27. "The Greek Festival of Sydney is a wonderful opportunity for the broader community

to come together and appreciate rich Greek culture and traditions in NSW," Ms Keneally said. "Tens of thousands of Sydneysiders are expected to attend the festival celebrating the Greek-Australian lifestyle, arts, culture and heritage. "Darling Harbour will come alive over the weekend with live music, Greek dancing, sporting activities, food festivals and arts and crafts stalls.

"There is something at the festival for everyone, whether it be indulging your taste buds with traditional Mous-

saka and Souvlaki or experiencing the latest in Greek dance, music and entertainment.

"The Greek community in NSW has played an important role in the development of our State – and the Greek Festival of Sydney will be a time to pay tribute to all that Greek Australians have brought to our State."

More than 35,000 people in NSW were born in Greece and a further 122,000 people in NSW claim Greek heritage. More than 86,000 people in

NSW speak Greek at home.

"I encourage all Sydneysiders to come along to the festival with their family and friends and indulge in two days of music, dancing, fine food and festivities," Ms Keneally said.

"I also thank the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW for organising the Greek Festival of Sydney each year." For more information and a full schedule of events you can visit the Greek Festival of Sydney's website at www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au.

Get ready to vote at the NSW State Election 2011

The NSW State Election is on Saturday, 26 March 2011. It's the day to use your voice and be heard on who will govern your State. With election day fast approaching here's what people need to know.

On election day

Polling places are open from 8am to 6pm. For the location of your nearest polling place visit

www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 735. If you are not on the roll in NSW you can enrol and vote when you bring your RTA driver licence or RTA Photo ID card, showing your current address, and citizenship details if you were born overseas.

Know your candidates

For a list of candidates for your district visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 735.

Elector Brochure

When you check your enrolment details you can print out a personalised elector brochure confirming your enrolment details and listing the candidates and polling places for your district. Bring it with you to the polling place as it will make voting easier. To check your enrolment details visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 735.

iPhone application for the election

Download the free iPhone application NSW State Election 2011 for election day polling place information and live election results. You can download it now at the iPhone app store.

Early voting options

If you can't get to a polling place on election day you can cast a pre-poll vote at one of 167 pre-poll voting centres across the State. Pre-poll voting is available until 6pm Friday, 25 March. For locations of pre-poll centres visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 735.

People who wish to apply for a postal vote should act now. Postal vote applications from within Australia must be received by COB Wednesday, 23 March. You can apply for a postal vote online so visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 735.

iVote (internet and telephone voting) is available to eligible people. Registrations close 6pm Wednesday, 23 March. You can then vote up to 6pm Friday, 25 March. For more info visit www.iVote.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 02 2011. Voting is compulsory for all enrolled electors. The fine for not voting is \$55.

For all information about the election visit www.votensw.info or call 1300 135 736.

For enquiries in languages other than English call our interpreting service on 13 14 50.

Enquiries by people with a hearing or speech impairment can be made through the National Relay Service on 13 36 77.



Tania Mihailuk welcomes \$10,000 grant for St Euphemia College

Labor Candidate for Bankstown, Tania Mihailuk, today welcomed NSW Government funding for St Euphemia College in Bankstown. The funding of \$10,000 is for an intergenerational project supporting cultural development amongst young Australians of Greek heritage.

"St Euphemia College not only boasts academic prowess but provides students with a broad educational experience and outstanding pastoral care." Ms Mihailuk said.

"After making representations on the merits of the project to the Minister for Ageing, I am delighted that the Minister has granted St Eu-

phemia College funds to proceed with this important initiative."

"The program will call upon elders of the Greek community to help better connect with students of St Euphemia College."

"The project will help develop and strengthen the student's appreciation and respect of their Greek heritage."

Members of the Australian Greek community will be invited to share their stories and life experiences with the students.

The program will run throughout 2011 and will involve seminars, role-playing activities, social and educational workshops.

Library honours Greek National Day

Marrickville Council Library in partnership with the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW will celebrate Greek National Day on Friday 25 March from 2.00pm – 5.00pm.

The celebrations include Greek music, songs and poems. There will also be Greek artefacts on display such as pottery and statues.

A talk on 'The Greek War of Independence in 1821' will be presented in Greek, by Council's Multicultural Services Of-

ficer Dimitri Symeonidis.

Greek National Day is celebrated around the world on March 25 to commemorate Greece's historic struggle for national independence.

Mayor of Marrickville Councillor Fiona Byrne said it's important to recognise the history of one of the largest ethnic groups in Marrickville.

"This day is an opportunity to acknowledge the history of many people living in our community, and celebrate the contribution Greek culture makes

to the Marrickville area," Councillor Byrne said.

Marrickville Library will also showcase a selection of new books, DVDs and CDs about Greek history, cooking and culture from Sunday 20 to Sunday 26 March. Greek arts and crafts will also be on display from Thursday 17 to 31 March.

No bookings are required and all are welcome. Light refreshments will also be served.

For more information on this event please call Marrickville Library on 9335 2173.