

The 29th Greek Festival of Sydney proudly presents **Kazantzakis and the Arab World**

Presentation by Professor Ahmad Shboul, with slides, readings and music

Language: English with Greek Summaries
www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au



“Like it or not, we are immersed in the fearful turmoil of our age, and a person alive today cannot possibly travel like a carefree tourist”. This was written by Nikos Kazantzakis, the famous author of *Zorba the Greek*, describing his travels in Egypt, before the Second World War. The Arab world had a special place in Kazantzakis’ writing and thought. As well as travel pieces on Egypt and Palestine, he wrote a long poem and a film scenario on the Prophet Mohammed.

Event presented by the International Society of Friends of Nikos Kazantzakis (Sydney Branch).

Date: Sat 21 May **Time:** 5.30pm

Venue: Gleebooks, 49 Glebe Point Road, Glebe

Donation: \$5 (includes refreshments)



A translator of Greek wins NSW Premier’s Translation Prize & PEN Medallion

The winners of the 2011 NSW Premier’s Literary Awards were announced Monday night. Among the winners was Ian Johnston, recipient of the NSW Premier’s Translation Prize & Pen Medallion, worth \$30,000. Ian Johnston was awarded the prize for the extraordinary translation projects he undertakes in both Classical Chinese and Greek. The NSW Premier’s Literary Awards, established in 1979, were the first set of premier’s awards to be offered in Australia. In their 32 year history, they have honoured many of Australia’s greatest writers and most significant works.

IAN JOHNSTON

Ian Johnston was an eminent neurosurgeon and was appointed a member the Order of Australia (AM) for services to medicine. After retiring in 1999, he moved to South Bruny Island to live a life of relative seclusion and to devote himself to his several non-medical interests – in particular, to indulge his lifelong passion for ancient languages. His translations from Classical Greek focus on medicine and ancient science, and especially on the work of Galen. His translations of four Galenic works on the theoretical foundations of medicine were published in 2006. A translation of Galen’s therapeutic magnum opus, *The Method of Medicine*, will be published this year as part of the Loeb Classical Library.

Judges comments: Dr Ian Johnston’s background in medicine informs his work as a translator, as he brings the sharpness and precision of a neurosurgeon’s scalpel to the extraordinary translation projects he undertakes.

Moving parents off welfare and into work

Under new measures announced in the 2011/2012 Budget, teenage parents and parents who are long term unemployed and receiving Centrelink payments will be required to participate in training or studying. Bankstown has been chosen as one of ten communities to receive these new measures to help parents move from welfare and into work. Member for Blaxland, Jason Clare MP welcomed the initiatives to help parents on welfare get a job. “A good education and is the key to finding work,” Mr Clare said. “I want to make sure all young people in Bankstown get a good start in life. The best way to do that is to help parents break their dependency on welfare.”

“These measures will help teenage parents finish high school. It will help parents who have been unemployed for a long time get the training they need to find a job. “Bankstown has been chosen because unemployment in Bankstown is 8.4 per cent, almost double the national average of 4.9 per cent. “We need this to change and these measures will help.”

Helping teenage parents

From 1 January 2012, teenage parents in Bankstown receiving Parenting Payment, with a child aged six months or older, will be required to attend compulsory interviews with Centrelink.

Parents will work with Centrelink to develop a participation plan that includes compulsory activities to support them in their parenting role or help them gain a good education. Teen parents will be required to undertake compulsory activities from when their child is one year old, to give teen parents time to settle into life with their new baby.

Teen parents will be given support to help them meet these responsibilities: They include:

- Funding for child care costs;
- Support through Youth Connections services to help individuals enrol and attend school, TAFE or other training;
- Support to help teen parents with their par-

enting skills through playgroups, parenting education classes, mentoring and support groups; and

- Training places through the National Partnership with states and territories.

The Government will invest \$47 million over four years in ten communities to trial new measures to make sure teenage parents finish school and support their children.

If parents do not engage with Centrelink, without reasonable excuse, they will have their income support payment suspended until they re-engage.

Helping jobless families find work

Parents who have been on income support for more than two years, or who are under 23 years of age and are not currently working or studying full time will be required to attend compulsory interviews with Centrelink to plan for their return to work. Centrelink staff will help parents get ready for work by connecting them with training opportunities, local jobs, child care and early intervention services. To give parents greater access to affordable child care, assistance with child care costs will be extended from 26 weeks to 52 weeks.

If parents do not engage with Centrelink, without reasonable excuse, they will have their income support payment suspended until they re-engage.

This trial in ten communities will cost \$71 million over two years.



Jason Clare speaks to young mum at Centrelink

Income management for at-risk parents in Bankstown

Bankstown has been chosen as one of five communities to be part of the extended income management trials.

“This will help ensure welfare payments are spent in the best interests of children,” Mr Clare said.

“We want to make sure parents are spending their welfare payments on essential things like food, clothing and housing.

“Income management has already proven effective in trial locations in Perth and the Kimberley in Western Australia, Cape York in Queensland and throughout the Northern Territory.” From 1 July 2012, income management will extend to vulnerable families and individuals in Bankstown that:

- are referred by state or territory child protection authorities;

- are assessed by Centrelink social workers as being vulnerable to financial crisis; and

- volunteer for income management.

Parents referred by child protection authorities will have 70 per cent of their income quarantined. People who volunteer or are referred by Centrelink staff will have 50 per cent of their income quarantined.

“Parents and individuals will have their quarantined income put on a BasicsCard which can only be spent at approved stores. These include Woolworths, Coles, Target, Kmart, Best and Less and Big W,” Mr Clare said.

“This is designed to make sure that welfare payments are spent in the best interest of children, rather than tobacco, alcohol and gambling.”