

# ekosmos

Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle

## helleniccaucus

### New Voice for Greek Australians

Greek Australians in NSW have a new political voice with the establishment of the Hellenic Caucus. Hellenic Caucus will be hosting their launch on Wednesday 27 March 2013, at NSW Parliament House, with special guest speaker, the Hon Tony Bourke MP.

Membership of the Hellenic Caucus is open to Labor members and supporters who are interested in promoting issues concerning the Greek Australian community to all levels of government.

Hellenic Caucus President George Houssos believes there is no better time for Greek Australian voices to be heard.

"The Hellenic Caucus will make sure that the needs of Greek Australians are front and centre when it comes to political decision making while also providing networking and mentoring opportunities for our young activists."

"We want to create an organisation which will play an active role in shaping policy within the community and the Australian Labor Party even if that means standing up to the Labor Party when we think they have got it wrong," Mr Houssos said.

Australia and Greece share very deep historical, cultural and economic ties. Close to 400,000 Australians claimed Greek ancestry in the 2011 Census, and each year around 50,000

Australians travel to Greece for business or pleasure.

"The challenges facing Greece are acutely felt by all Greek Australians. As good friends of Greece, we need to do our bit to see that Greece overcomes these challenges.

"The Hellenic Caucus will look to play a role in the debate about the causes and consequences of the crisis facing Greece and we will work with the broader community to ensure our proud reputation is not diminished.

"The need of establishing a one-stop-shop cultural centre for Greek Australians will be one of the first campaigns that the Hellenic Caucus will be focussing on over the coming months," Mr Houssos said.

Canterbury Councillor and Hellenic Caucus Vice-President, Esta Paschalidis-Chilas says that the Caucus provides a good opportunity to develop stronger ties between elected representatives of Greek heritage in Australia.

"Dozens of Greek Australians proudly serve the community in public office. The Hellenic Caucus is a great opportunity for them to work together to provide progressive and effective outcomes for their communities and for Greek Australians," Ms Paschalidis-Chilas said.



### Parade held under heavy police presence

The annual military parade commemorating the start of Greece's War of Independence against the Ottoman Turks in 1821 was held in Athens Monday under a heavy police presence designed to keep spectators away from President Karolos Papoulias, ministers and other officials.

In a bid to keep costs down, no armored units or aircraft took part in this year's ceremony.

Tightened security was deemed necessary after protesters disrupted a military parade in October 2010. The metro station at Syntagma Square remained shut on police orders.

However, elsewhere around the country, parades and wreath-laying ceremonies were marred by protests and scuffles. In

Corinth, leftists clashed with supporters of neofascist Golden Dawn as party MP Stathis Boukouras prepared to lay a wreath. Police used pepper spray to break up the brawl.

A police officer has been suspended after he symbolically threw a wreath on the ground in front of politicians attending the ceremony.

In the village of Ierissos, near the site of a controversial gold mining project in Halkidiki, northern Greece, students paraded wearing gas masks and black T-shirts with slogans against the project.

On the southeastern island of Rhodes, police arrested an unidentified woman after she attacked a municipal official with a knife. The official, Dimitris Karantzias, was not seriously injured.



### CRETE: 4000 YEARS IN ART AND MUSIC

The history of the Great Island, told through music from ancient, medieval and modern Crete, together with short readings and images representing Crete's rich and diverse artistic and literary traditions.

Musicians: Kiriaki and Dimitris Koubaroulis (ancient and medieval music), Andonis Petrandonakis and Angelo Goutzios (traditional and modern melodies and songs). Reader: Christine Kanellakis. Co-ordinator and narrator: Dr Alfred Vincent.

#### INFO

Date: Wednesday 3 April

TIME: 7pm

VENUE: St George Auditorium, 4-16 Montgomery St, Kogarah

ENTRY COST: \$15

CONTACT: 02 9750 0440

or email [greekfestival2@gpc.com.au](mailto:greekfestival2@gpc.com.au)

LANGUAGE: Narration in English, readings in Greek and in English translation

### Samaras urges Greeks to 'remain united'

In a message to mark the 192nd anniversary of Greece's Independence Day on Monday, Prime Minister Antonis Samaras urged Greeks to «stand united» in the face of adversity.

"We only have to look back at recent history to see how many obstacles we have managed to overcome," Samaras said.

"And we have always emerged stronger as a nation, better as a society, more proud about what we are and more confident about what we can achieve," he said.

Samaras, who is leader of the country's conservative-led coalition, urged Greeks to «stay clear of divisive slogans, the fatalism of submissiveness and national inferiority complexes.»

"Greeks can achieve everything as long as they remain united and stand tall," he said.



### Four arrested for human trafficking

Police arrested four suspected human traffickers and 29 undocumented immigrants in various parts of Attica on Saturday morning.

The migrants were found in a private coach that was stopped in Elefsina, west of Athens. The vehicle was bound for Italy, officers said.

They also stopped a car in Kolonos, near central Athens, and raided a property in Tavros, southern Athens.

Three of the four suspected smugglers are Indian and the fourth is Greek. Police said they are looking for two more Greeks and two more foreigners.