



HELLENIC COMMUNITY  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

# Monthly Newsletter

Stay connected with our community

The July - August Edition 2025



*GOAL!!! St Andrew's Grammar girls' football team storms to victory, claiming our school's First-Ever ACC Championship! Read on to discover this story and more from your Hellenic Community Newsletter!*

## This month's features

- President's Message
- HCWA CEO shares insights at National Care and Support Sector Conference
- A special WASO concert for our aged care residents
- Dormition of the Theotokos
- St Andrew's Girls Soccer Team make History and more...

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## President's Message



**As we move through the second half of 2025, I am pleased to share the continued progress and achievements of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia.**

**The dedication of our newly elected Boards has ensured that key projects and initiatives—rooted in our shared values and vision—are being brought to life for the benefit of all members.**

The Hellenic Community, Benevolent Association, and St Andrew's Grammar Boards elected in June 2025 have maintained their momentum of overseeing several projects started in 2023/2024 and due for completion this year:

### **Five projects due for completion in 2025**

1. The refurbishment of the Parker Street Community Centre, including the lower and top halls and installing the \$150K personnel lift.
2. Our new science and technology teaching facilities which we did not have previously.
3. New and full pre kindy facility which we did not have previously. This will create a new student feeder system.
4. New purpose-built primary administration offices at the school separating from the secondary school. This was a natural progress since our school is nearing 950 students. For all the above there will be formal openings before the end of this year.
5. Finally, we have settled on the design to progress towards tendering major works at Hellenic Aged Care, including on the Dianella complex a new two-level administration building.

This will combine many common services from all community entities and in so doing will provide increased efficiencies and lower certain operating costs.

*Scroll down to read more on HCWA community engagements, actions and what age groups make up our community below.*



# HCWA Community Engagements and Actions

## **Offer of assistance to all other Greek Australian Associations**

The Hellenic Community has offered each Greek Australian Association where we share common members, to hold one of their own annual functions at the Community Centre, Parker Street to use without any user fees. So far, the Greek University Students Association (held 8 August), Pontian Brotherhood (to hold a sold-out dinner dance on 30 August), Hellenic Society of Geraldton (booked on 21 September) and Greek Senior Citizens (5 October) have held or will hold Community Centre functions from now until October. The Community Boards decision has already proven popular with other and smaller Greek Australian associations. It is wonderful to see our centre is in good use.

## **Meeting with other Greek Australian groups**

From an initial meeting in July 2025, a follow up meeting will be held on 18 September 2025 with all associations and clergy to foster better communication, greater cooperation, and support between associations moving forward. Our CEO Paul Savvas has sent invitations for the meeting to all groups.

The Hellenic Community has lodged an application with the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for a State Heritage Grant. If successful, the grant will help fund a new conservation plan for the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene.

## **Work in progress on Parker Street development**

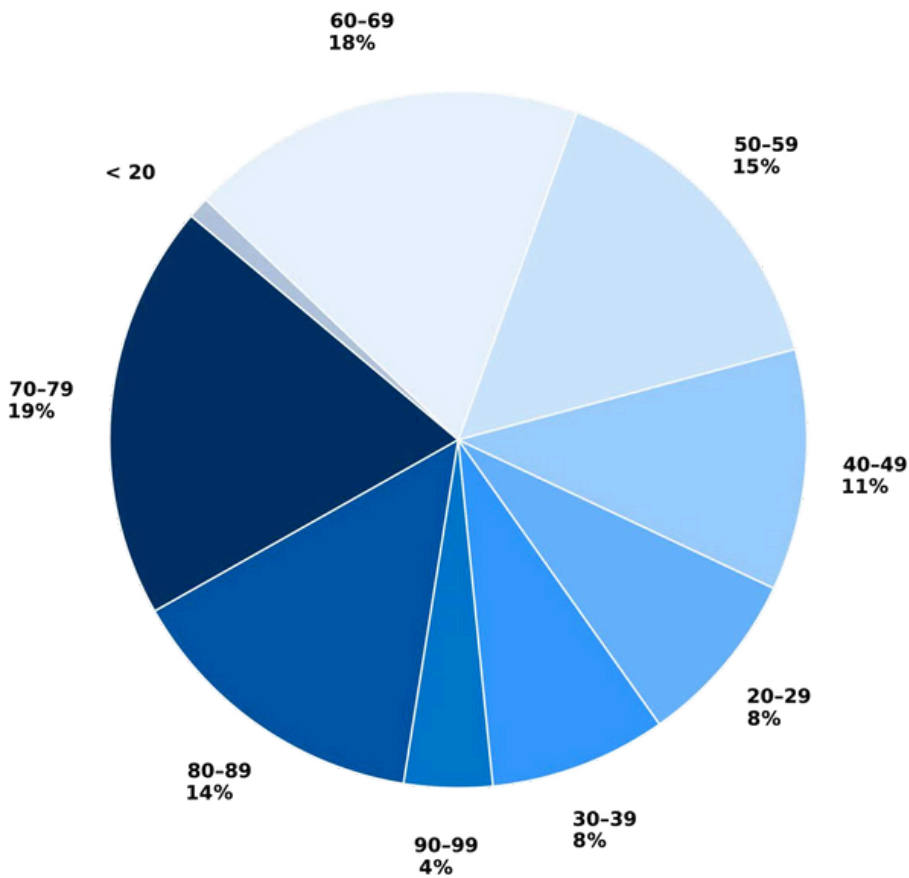
I have reported previously on our long-term vision in developing Parker Street. This should also be the vision of future boards. Although progress is slower than we expected, communications and meetings between State and Federal Ministers are continuing. Due to the large cost of the development expected to cost near \$35 million, we must consider this as work in progress.

## **Additional Greek Language teachers from Greece**

We are having discussions with the present Greek Consul in Perth, Mrs Eleni Georgopoulou through whom we have made new application with the Ministry of Education in Greece. HCWA has offered new and additional financial incentives for visiting and qualified teachers to our Community from Greece. All new teachers as our present teachers will also teach at our Saturday Greek Language school. The Saturday school is celebrating 100 years and in support to our members children, the Community has waved the registration fees. Our commitment to improve the teaching of the Greek language and Hellenic Culture is continuing through a new subcommittee to assist with this at the Community's schools.

**HCWA Event!** The next major Hellenic Community event in the Centre will be the **Church service for the Elevation of the Holy Cross**, followed by lunch in the upper hall on **Sunday 14 September**. We hope for a large attendance in the upper hall. With the personnel lift functioning, members do not have to navigate the stairs. Details will be advertised closer to the date.

# Who are our members?



**For members who've asked about the age range within our community, we've put together a chart showing the age distribution of Hellenic Community members. (See left)**

The membership comprises 52% males and 48% females. We do not have dates of birth for all members.

We can assume the distribution between age groups would be similar if all member ages were known.

The average yearly membership over the past 6 years has been 873 fully paid-up members.

The age composition of several Greek associations in Perth is likely to be heavily biased in 55 years and older. This now offers some challenges for us all to become more innovative with ideas to attract younger cohorts to membership of our associations.

We need to consider how to accommodate the busy schedules of young families to have some time to participate in our Community. This may involve partnerships with other Greek Australian Associations through sport and other activities of similar nature.

A good example of this is the work Fr Terry is undertaking with our youth. These events are fully supported by the Community. We are optimistic of our success.

## Paul Afkos OAM

President of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia (HCWA)



## Panos Kalidis live at Club Meraki – a Night to Remember!



**This debut bouzoukia night at Club Meraki marks a new chapter for Perth's nightlife, headlined by internationally acclaimed Greek singer Panos Kalidis and his band direct from Greece.**

Date: **Saturday, 28th September** (Long Weekend)

Time: **8:00 PM**

Venue: **20 Parker Street, Northbridge WA 6003**

Tickets & Reservations: **info@clubmeraki.com.au**

With millions of streams and chart-topping hits including Kou Pepe, Pote Voudas, Treli Idea and Eho Giorti, Panos brings his high-energy live show to the stage for the very first time in Perth.

Kalidis has built a reputation as one of Greece's most in-demand performers, filling venues across the country and sharing the stage with major artists such as Despina Vandi, Nikos Vertis and Konstantinos Argiros. Now, Perth audiences will experience the same electrifying atmosphere that has made him a household name.

*Proudly Supported by the Hellenic Community of Western Australia.*

## Community Notices



### **MindCare4Women: Help Shape a Dementia Risk Reduction Program**

**Are you a woman aged 40–60 from Arabic, Greek, Hindi, Punjabi, Vietnamese, or Sub-Saharan African communities?**

Join a 2–2.5 hour in-person workshop to co-design a new dementia risk reduction program—created by women, for women. Participants will receive a \$40 AUD gift card in appreciation.

**To register, email**

**MindCare4Women@latrobe.edu.au.**

## Hellenic Community Aged Care

### CEO Paul Savvas on National Care and Support Sector Conference Panel



**On Friday, 25 July, Paul Savvas, CEO of Hellenic Community of Western Australia, acting in his capacity as CEO of the Hellenic Community Aged Care, took the stage at the 2025 National Care and Support Sector Conference in Perth—an influential gathering of leaders from across Australia’s care sectors: Disability, Aged Care, Mental Health, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), and Veterans’ Care.**

Paul joined a high-profile panel alongside Michael Chester (Uniting WA) and Sharon Grocott (Wayahead – Mental Health Association NSW) to address the critical theme of **Quality and Safeguarding**. Their session explored how care providers can uphold excellence, ensure safety for vulnerable individuals, and drive continuous improvement across the sector. Speaking on the WA Aged Care sector, Paul joined national and international experts – including the Director of the World Health Organisation.

Reflecting on the experience, Paul said:

“It was an honour to contribute to a national conversation that is shaping the future of care in Australia. The challenges we face across sectors are complex, but they are also shared—and that opens the door to collaboration, innovation, and reform. At Hellenic Community Aged Care, we’re committed to leading with integrity and purpose to deliver quality care.”

The conference focused on **five key themes** driving **transformation in the care and support** economy:

- 1 Care Models:** Rethinking how care is delivered to meet diverse needs.
- 2 Funding and Governance:** Building sustainable and equitable systems.
- 3 Workforce and Regulation:** Strengthening the care workforce through smart regulation and development.
- 4 Quality and Safeguarding:** Ensuring safety, accountability, and excellence.
- 5 Technology and Digital Transformation:** Harnessing innovation to improve outcomes.

Insights from the conference will inform a Parliamentary Reform Paper, ensuring that the perspectives of sector leaders, providers, and individuals with lived experience are heard at the highest levels of policy-making.



*We’re proud to see Hellenic Community of WA represented in this vital national dialogue and remain committed to advancing care that is safe, inclusive, and future-focused. **Interested in learning more? Scan the QR code below to watch the full Panel 3 video!***

## WASO pays a very special visit

**On Friday, 25 July, residents of Hellenic Community Aged Care were delighted by a special visit from the West Australian Symphony Orchestra (WASO), who performed an exclusive concert tailored for our community.**



The performance featured a selection of beautifully arranged pieces, with musicians taking time to introduce their instruments and share the stories behind each composition. This thoughtful approach created a rich and engaging experience for everyone in attendance.

Staff observed that the music had a profound impact on many residents, with some moved to tears and others expressing deep appreciation for the performance. The visit was not only a cultural highlight but also a meaningful moment of connecting through the joy of music.

*This event was made possible thanks to the initiative of our Lifestyle Coordinator, Rahel Assefa, reaching out to WASO for a sought-after community visit.*



## Bishop Elpidios Leads Divine Liturgy at Hellenic Community Aged Care



**On Tuesday, 12 August, our CEO and Aged Care managers were honoured to welcome His Grace, Bishop Elpidios of Perth, for a special Greek Orthodox Divine Liturgy held in our onsite chapel for our residents, staff, and visitors at Hellenic Community Aged Care.**

The service brought together members of our community in a spirit of faith and reflection. The chapel was filled with the inspiring sounds of prayer and tradition, creating a meaningful and comforting atmosphere for all who attended.

*We extend our sincere thanks to His Grace for making time to be with us. His presence was deeply appreciated and made a lasting impression on our residents.*



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## An afternoon of Crafts, Community and Kindness



**On Wednesday, 20 August, Hellenic Community Aged Care had the pleasure of welcoming the Kindness Ambassadors from St Andrew's Grammar (Years 4–6) for a time of crafting and connection.**

Our residents enjoyed a joyful afternoon of crafts and conversation, sharing stories and laughter with the students. The thoughtful presence and artistic energy of the St Andrew's Kindness Ambassadors brought smiles and warmth to everyone involved.

*Our thanks to St Andrew's Grammar's Miss Toya Muliarta and our amazing Hellenic Community Aged Care team for making this time of connection, and community possible.*

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## Recognising Staff Achievements in Aged Care



**We're celebrating the dedication and expertise of our Aged Care Staff. Congratulations to Muhamad Landung Rifai, Angela Cadano, Dinkinesh Asfaw and Kinley Pem for taking out this quarter's Hellenic Community Aged Care Staff Excellence Awards!**

## History Made as St Andrew's Grammar Girls Claim First-Ever ACC Championship



**St Andrew's Grammar has celebrated a landmark sporting achievement, with its Senior Girls Football team securing the school's first Associated and Catholic Colleges of WA (ACC) championship in any sport.**

In a dominant display on Wednesday, 27 August, the girls triumphed over South Coast Baptist College 5-0 in the grand final. The victory was especially significant, as South Coast Baptist had held the championship title for the past four years (2021-2024).

Backed by a vocal crowd of more than 50 St Andrew's students, the team showcased not only their skill and determination but also the school spirit that has driven their success this season.

The win adds to what has already been an illustrious year for football at St Andrew's Grammar. The Senior Girls team has also been crowned State Futsal Champions, GOAANSE Futsal Champions and GOAANSE Football Champions in 2025. The Senior Boys team has also enjoyed success, including victory in the GOAANSE Football Championships.

"This win is a testament to the significant partnership we have entered into with Perth Glory FC and is clearly paying dividends," said Principal Craig Monaghan. We are going from strength to strength, and our football program adds another feather to our bow in terms of the various programs on offer." Mr Monaghan added.

Principal, staff and students congratulated coach Steve Purton and Manager/Academy Director Steve Gleeson for guiding the girls to this historic result. Wednesday's victory cements St Andrew's Grammar as a rising force in Western Australian school football. *A huge thank you to our community for showing up in full force to support the team!*

## Dormition of the Theotokos    Κοίμηση της Θεοτόκου



**Friday 15 August, students and staff from St Andrews Grammar had the honour of attending the beautiful service at the Church of Sts Constantine and Helene in Northbridge, celebrating the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos.**

The service was a spiritually enriching experience for all, filled with reverence, tradition, and community. We thank Reverend Father Terry Gerovasilis for welcoming us so warmly and for guiding us through this important feast day.

With more than 50 students in attendance, Reverend Father Terry Gerovasilis, along with many attendees, expressed appreciation for the school's presence and participation in this important occasion.





## Inspiring our Next Generation of Greek Language Learners

**From interactive songs in Kindergarten to sentence translation in Year 2, students are demonstrating enthusiasm and focus in their lessons, reflecting the effectiveness of the curriculum and teaching approach.**

From interactive songs in Kindergarten to sentence translation in Year 2, students are demonstrating enthusiasm and focus in their lessons, reflecting the effectiveness of the curriculum and teaching approach.

This term, Greek language learning has continued to thrive across Kindergarten to Year 2, with students engaging in a variety of dynamic learning activities design for the age group. Kindergarten students are enthusiastically learning body part vocabulary through songs and hands-on experiences, while Pre-primary students are expanding their Greek vocabulary through the beloved story The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

In Year 1, students are exploring the Greek alphabet and weather-related vocabulary through interactive games such as Memory and Bingo. Meanwhile, Year 2 students are confidently reading, writing, and translating simple Greek sentences. The high level of engagement across all year levels highlights the success of the program's interactive and student-centred approach.

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**Hellenic Community of Western Australia – where faith, culture, and community come together.**

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