



HELLENIC COMMUNITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.

REPRESENTING ALL GREEK AUSTRALIANS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Hellenic Community
Aged Care



HELLENIC COMMUNITY ADMINISTRATION
SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELENE CHURCH
COMMUNITY HALLS
COMMUNITIES RECTORY



Monthly Newsletter

Stay connected with our community

The October Edition



We commemorated Oxi Day with our visiting foreign dignitaries, special guests and the community with a special wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial. Read on to discover how else we commemorated this significant day and more from your Hellenic Community Newsletter!

This month's features

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President's Message

Dear Members,

October was a very busy month for all entities of our Community including our Church of Saints Constantine and Helene, our school St. Andrews Grammar and our aged care Hellenic Community Aged Care. Below you will read several activities our community has organised and hosted.

Our Church

On Sunday, 28 September 2025, parishioners at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene commemorated the tragic sinking of the SS Empire Patrol with the loss of 33 passengers including children, and 2 crew while returning to Kastolorizo. Father Terry read a solemn message from His Eminence Archbishop Makarios before recounting the events of the fateful day on 29 September 1945 when these refugees in Gaza, overjoyed with anticipation at returning to Kastolorizo, tragically perished on their homecoming voyage. This moving service was followed by a free luncheon in the Community Hall co-organised between the Community and the Castellorizian Association of WA.

On 19 October 2025 our church held a service for the Synaxis of the Holy Unmercenary Healers and the Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke the Doctor. This service was a new initiative for our church introduced to recognise the invaluable work of our health workers and those caring for the infirmed.

An important moment for reflection and appreciation of one of the core values of our community.

The Community was pleased with the presence of the Honourable Mr Ioannis-Michail Loverdos (Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece), His Excellency Mr Stavros Venizelos (Ambassador of Greece in Australia), Mrs Eleni Georgopoulou (Consul for Greece in Perth), the Minister's diplomatic advisor, Ms Zoi Tsiropoulos Gklinou, and the Minister's Press and Media Officer, Mr Alexandros Arapetsikas at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene for a Doxology Service lead by His Grace Bishop Elpidios assisted by Father Terry on 23 October 2025.

The Church service was followed by formal wreath laying at the State War Memorial where the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency the Honourable Christopher John Dawson AC APM spoke along with the Honourable Mr Ioannis-Michail Loverdos, Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece. The wreath laying was in the presence of countless dignitaries and Greek Australian representatives including representatives including the Ambassador of Greece, Consul of Greece in Perth, presidents of Greek Australian associations in Perth. I represented the Hellenic Community in laying a wreath joined by members of the Hellenic Community Board representing the Hellenic Community Benevolent Association Inc. and St Andrew's Grammar Inc. celebrating 28 October OXI.

Sunday, Saint Dimitrios Day celebrations

On Sunday 26th October, we celebrated Saint Dimitrios and Saint Tabatha's day with a church service at our church. Presided by His Grace Bishop Epidios and the Honourable Consul Eleni Georgopoulou followed by a reception in the Community's Hall.

Our School: Becoming a School of Choice

I am pleased to announce that the forthcoming Science and Technology Centre is on schedule for completion and hand over by mid-November, together with other site works and beautification the \$9 million project is the largest ever undertaken by our community having come to completion in just 18 months.

The opening of this building is now confirmed for the 11 December 2025 at 9.30am. It is an open invitation to all members, parents and friends of the school. Please come and witness the ceremony among the invited guests.

The newly constructed, state-of-the-art Science and Technology facility will include a designated design and technology workshop, a new science laboratory, a dance and drama studio complete with an integrated indoor/outdoor stage, six spacious "oversized" classrooms, changing rooms, storage areas, three offices, new sheltered bicycle/scooter store areas and a dedicated staff space. Parents can expect greatly improved parking and traffic flow during drop-off and pick-up times with the addition of 78 new parking bays and a purpose-built, extended 'Kiss and Drive' area. This area is designed to ensure a smoother, safer and more efficient experience during peak periods.

This marks a significant milestone in the history of our school, our new cutting-edge infrastructure places St. Andrew's among the State's leading education providers when it comes to facilities of this calibre.

Also on the horizon is the eagerly anticipated Primary Administration Office. This project has faced considerable delays with unforeseen challenges being identified arising from historical construction practises, now requiring remedial work to maintain compliance in today's rules and regulations. The school has been actively working with the Builders to successfully address these issues.

The new Primary School's Admin Office will include a welcoming reception area for parents of primary students, a spacious staff hot-desk hub, a sick bay and two dedicated offices for the Head of Primary and Assistant Head of Primary. It will be the final of the three major building projects undertaken at St. Andrew's Grammar in 2024 and completing in 2025, enhancing learning and working environments for students and staff.

I would also like to remind you that we will be celebrating the schools' Name Day in the School Gymnasium on Saturday, 29 November with a dinner dance. Please mark your calendars!

Our Overall Community

Monthly meetings of the Community entity Boards deal with current and prospective policy issues. Hellenic Community Benevolent Association Board considerations included the designs for the new building and the sequencing of works including north and south side car parks, central courtyard, new administration building, and converting existing nurse administration and reception to the new reception and meeting area. These items are a requirement in accommodating our growth and success.

Members would be aware, the Age Care financial year must end on 30th June in each year, we're elated to report another very successful financial year which has closed with an additional surplus to that of last year's surplus by an increase of \$589,000.00, totalling \$1,596,489. This will be a good outcome which will be reflected in the BM annual report. Thank you must go to all senior management, staff, the age care board, Paul Savvas and John Metaxas.

The Hellenic Community Board (BM) considered amongst other matters the transfer of the control of the Greek Film Festival to the Hellenic Community. The future management fees to be paid by all entities for providing security guarantees and other administrative support provided by the Community will be collecting some fees. The St. Andrew's Grammar Inc. Board considerations included naming rights for the Science and Technology Centre, staff and Hellenic Community employees, and EBA negotiations underway with staff.

Hellenic Admin continues to reach out to other smaller Greek Australian Associations to support them with updates of constitutions, maintain accounts, their annual general meeting documentation and the use of our community halls in Northbridge. These associations include, the Hellenic Women's Association, Castellorizian Ladies Association, Greek Senior Citizens Association, Greek Film Festival, Greek RSL, and Hellenic Council of Western Australia Inc. In the month of October, we continue with our applications and several meetings with Ministerial staff for funding the Northbridge Redevelopment. This naturally is work in progress.

Visitors from Greece

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 21-23 October 2025, the Hellenic Community was privileged to host the visit to Perth of The Honourable, Mr Ioannis-Michail Loverdos (Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece), His Excellency Mr Stavros Venizelos (Ambassador of Greece in Australia), the Ministers' diplomatic advisor, Ms Zoi Tsiropoulos Gklinou, and the Minister's Press and Media officer, Mr Alexandros Arapetsikas. The visit was hosted in the presence of His Grace Bishop Elpidios, Mrs Eleni Georgopoulou (Consul for Greece in Perth), and Reverend Fathers from the Monastery of St John of the Mountain, and all Churches.

The Minister addressed the 71 invited guests of the HCWA dinner at the Hellenic Macedonia Function Centre on Tuesday evening 21 October. The Deputy Minister spoke of changes on a few items to be more convenient to all Greek Australians, including obtaining Greek Passports, investing in Greece, and your eligibility to vote on all Greece's Governmental Elections. The Minister also indicated he will speak with the Minister for Education to reintroduce sending teachers from Greece to assist in teaching the Greek languages at full time schools.

We thank His Grace Bishop Elpidios for his blessings of our meal, and the visit by the touring party, we thank the clergy and all Association Presidents who accepted the HCWA dinner invitation to attend and hear the Deputy Foreign Minister speak. We must also thank the Honourable Mrs Eleni Giorgopoulou for her confidence in the Community Board and our staff to host and manage the Deputy Foreign Minister and visiting party visit to all our entities.

Minister Meet and Greet at St. Andrew's

At St. Andrew's Grammar on Wednesday afternoon 22nd October the Deputy Foreign Minister having seen the traditions we hold dear, acknowledged while we are geographically distant from our motherland, the bonds binding us through customs, language, religion, and values transcend any physical separation.

Community members gathered to enjoy light refreshments, connect with our distinguished guests, and watch a wonderful performance by the Years 4-6 Greek Dancing Group. Students sang the Greek and Australian National Anthems and performed traditional Greek dances for the visitors and other attendees. The Minister, the Ambassador, the Greek Consul toured the school with the official party, President Paul Afkos, the Chair of the Advisory School Board Mrs Eleni Evangel, and Principal Craig Monaghan.

Each dignitary was presented with a memento to mark the occasion before joining HCWA President, Paul Afkos, and St Andrew's Board Chair, Eleni Evangel on a tour of the school. On this mini tour, the dignitaries explored our primary & secondary classrooms, as well as our future facilities currently under construction.

The Deputy Minister stopped by the Platanos tree. By coincidence one of the Members who was present when the tree was planted, Mr Strati Gavalas, informed the Deputy Minister the Platanos Tree was planted on 23 August 1991 from a sapling of the tree under which Hippocrates taught his students that was brought to Australia from the island of Kos.

The Minister paused there for several minutes and participated in a live interview with Greece and spoke on several matters on his visit. The Minister during his visit and speech became very emotional when he saw the grand achievements and progress by the Community and all its entities. To quote the Minister "you're more Greek than us" saying this with a lot of emotion and sincerity. The Minister and his party attended a service at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene lead by His Grace Bishop Elpidios and with Father Terry Gerovasilis on Thursday morning. The Minister, Ambassador of Greece and President Paul Afkos OAM, all laid wreaths at King's Park following the Church service.

His Excellency, the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Ioannis-Michail Loverdos, His Excellency, Mr Stavros Venizelos the Greek Ambassador to Australia, Ms Eleni Georgopoulou, the Greek Consul in Western Australia, Chief Justice Peter Quinlan, Member for Mount Lawley Frank Paolino MLA, HCWA President Paul Afkos OAM, board members, Libby Mettam MLA, representatives of the armed forces, clergy, and our wider community were present at the wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial. It was deeply moving to see so many come together in shared remembrance and respect.

In Closing

The visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Loverdos demonstrated the leadership role of the Hellenic Community representing all Greek Australians in Western Australia in welcoming and hosting important international visitors to Perth. These visits require certain protocols to be observed, and the Hellenic Community alone has the administrative support and resources to schedule and manage such events.

In closing the month of October, we thank all those who volunteer their time together with our 320 employees in helping our community and we look forward in all your continual support.

Paul Afkos OAM

President on behalf of the Board of Management

Manjimup Cherry Festival

Join us for the Manjimup Cherry Festival - a celebration of one of the region's most iconic and delicious exports!



WHEN: Saturday, 13th December 2025

COST: \$40 per person (includes snacks and drinks on the bus; lunch at the festival is at your own cost.)

Bus will depart at 7:15 AM and return at 7:30 PM. Parking is available at the St. Andrew's Grammar Car Park (Primary School Side).

Payment can be made at Hellenic Admin or online [here](#).

Foreign Dignitaries Visit to Perth

On 21 October 2025, HCWA President Paul Afkos OAM, the Greek Consul in Perth Eleni Georgopoulou and St. Andrew's Grammar Principal Craig Monaghan and Head of Secondary, Mrs Siza MacDonald welcomed the arrival of the Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece Mr Ioannis Michail-Loverdos and the Greek Ambassador to Australia Mr Stavros Venizelos to Perth.



Mr Afkos, Ms Georgopoulou, Mr Monaghan and Mrs MacDonald warmly greeted the dignitaries with the school's senior staff and student leaders at Perth Airport. Their arrival kickstarted a four-day series of functions in Western Australia (WA).

On the same evening, the dignitaries attended a special dinner party jointly hosted HCWA and the Greek Consul at the Hellenic Macedonian Centre in Inglewood which brought together different Greek associations, clergy and members of the community.

In his speech at the dinner party, Mr Loverdos reinforced the importance of a galvanised and united Hellenic Community particularly in a state such as Western Australia where Perth is renowned for being the most isolated city in the world.

It was the first time to WA for Mr Loverdos, while for Mr Venizelos it was the second time he had visited Perth. Read more about their visit to St. Andrew's Grammar in the *St. Andrew's Grammar* section.





The Community Commemorates Oxi Day

On 23 October 2025, HCWA President Paul Afkos and Board Members, alongside Members of Parliament, representatives of the armed forces, clergy, and our wider community came together in shared remembrance and respect to commemorate Oxi Day.



The morning began with a Doxology Service at Saints Constantine and Helene Church, attended by our foreign dignitaries, clergy, community leaders and representatives from St. Andrew's Grammar and Hellenic Community Aged Care. Together, we reflected on the courage, sacrifice, and unshakable faith of those who stood for freedom on that fateful day in 1940.

We then gathered at the State War Memorial in Kings Park for the wreath-laying ceremony. The ceremony was a solemn and powerful tribute, attended by prominent leaders in the armed forces, police and the Governor of Western Australia Chris Dawson AC APM. During the ceremony, our St. Andrew's Grammar choir performed the Greek and Australian national anthems, with student representatives stood at attention holding the Greek and Australian flags.

This year's commemoration was made even more meaningful by the presence of our foreign dignitaries, whose participation reflected the deep and enduring ties between Greece and Australia. The commemoration also concluded their week-long visit to WA.

As we stood together beneath the sunny Perth sky honouring the spirit of "Oxi," we were reminded that courage and unity transcend time, and that the values of those who came before us continue to guide the Hellenic Community of Western Australia today.



HCWA President Meets with World's Pan Macedonian Leaders at International Conference



Paul Afkos, President of the Hellenic Community of WA connects with retired US Senator and ardent Greek patriot Mr Christopher Kiorou (right) well known for his philanthropy. Mr Afkos and Mr Kiorou both contributed towards the cost of the conference.

Paul Afkos OAM, President of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia (HCWA) joined global leaders of the world's Pan- Macedonian Associations to honour the heroes of the Macedonian Struggle and to strengthen the bonds between the Macedonian diaspora and the Motherland at the 2025 Pan Macedonian International Conference.

Held 9 August in Kastoria at the historic venue located in the courtyard of the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle, key speakers, representing the world's associations, shared on their active efforts to preserve the Greek identity of Macedonians and unanimously condemned the Prespa Agreement.



HCWA President Paul Afkos (centre) was acknowledged at the conference with other delegates.



Twilight outdoor conference meetings held in the courtyard of the Museum of the Macedonian Struggle.



HCWA Vice President Effie Mazgaltzidis (left) and Board Member Anna Antoniou (right) with a member of a dance group.



HCWA Board members, Stella Milanko, Anna Anotoniou and Effie Mazgaltzidis, and guest with former Pan Macedonian President Harry Zissopoulos (right, back) enjoying a break between conference segments.



Paul Afkos OAM receiving gifts from the Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff General Kostidis (left).



Souvla Family Day Recap

Despite the rain and gloomy overcast skies, our Souvla Day at St. Andrew's Grammar brought together hundreds from across our Hellenic Community.



The aroma of lamb and chicken sizzling on the spit filled the air, while loud Greek music and laughter carried across the school grounds. Families and friends gathered under marquees, and kids ran between face painting and giant lawn games. The afternoon ended with our raffle draw and traditional dancing that saw everyone joining in.

Thank you to the Centre of Hellenic Studies and the Greek Senior Citizens' Association for their support in running this event, to Mr Savvas Papasavvas for his invaluable assistance in the lead-up to the event, and to our dedicated volunteers who kept the souvla turning and spirits high all day.

When our community gathers, it's always a celebration to remember. Stay tuned for our next big community event, details out soon!



Hellenic Community Aged Care

Staff and Community Farewell to Maria Papa

After more than 21 years of dedicated service, we bid farewell to Maria Papa, our much-loved Staff Education and Professional Development Officer at Hellenic Community Aged Care.



Since joining the organisation in 2004, Maria has been a driving force for education, care, and professional growth within our aged care team. Her passion for mentoring and her commitment to high-quality care have shaped the culture of our organisation and inspired countless colleagues.

At her farewell luncheon, the room was filled with warmth and gratitude from the staff at the facility and the community as we came together to share our favourite memories of her, thanked her for her dedicated service and wished her the best.

Maria, we thank you for your remarkable contribution, your kindness, and your unwavering dedication to our community. Your impact will continue to be felt across the Hellenic Community Aged Care and beyond.



World Grandparents' Day

Our aged care staff organised an afternoon of fun, dancing and treats alongside a visit from St. Andrew's Grammar students.



The students performed traditional Greek dances to the hand-clapping delight of our residents.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Paul Savvas stressed the important role grandparents play in Greek culture and families.

“With our heritage in the Greek culture, we honour the wisdom passed on to future generations and recognise the profound influence grandparents have on our families and communities,” Mr Savvas said.



World Indigenous Peoples' Day

Residents, their families and staff gathered in the gardens over a beautiful high tea to honour Indigenous Peoples Day.



On this special occasion we were treated to a talk on Whadjuk Noongar culture and history by Shyan, our lovely caregiver on placement with us. We were also delighted to have Laurel, an Australian artist world-famous for her amazing sculpture titled, 'First Contact' at our resident celebration!

As a multicultural aged care community, we value the rich diversity of our residents and the strong friendships and storytelling that connect us. This day also holds special meaning for us in Perth as we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Thank you to Father Evangelos who came to meet and greet residents with CEO Paul Savvas and Site Manager, Yemi, on this very special occasion. And thank you to everyone who joined us in this meaningful celebration!





St. Andrew's Grammar

Successful Registration

The Board of Governance, our CEO and Principal were interviewed by the Department of Education for assessment in renewing our Certificate of Registration for our school.

Members would remember historically St. Andrew's was receiving a registration assessment every 12 months.



Certificate of Registration

Issued in accordance with section 162 of the School Education Act 1999 to
St Andrew's Grammar Incorporated
Governing Body for
St Andrew's Grammar School
(School code: 1374)
Registered to provide: Early Years Learning Framework: Western Australian Curriculum and Western Australian Certificate of Education Curriculum.
for: Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12
at: 2 Hellenic Drive, Dianella
from: 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2030.

Jay Peckitt
Director General
Date 7/11/25

St. Andrew's has only received two five-year registrations, one being the current registration and this renewal, which will now be for the next five years up to and including 2030.

This demonstrates the present governance and management restructure the Board of Management introduced in 2023 is well received by the Education Department to provide the school the maximum registration period available to private schools.

Aladdin Jr. Production Starts Today!



Step into a Whole New World with St. Andrew's Grammar's Production of Aladdin JR.!

Aladdin, a “diamond in the rough,” dreams of a life beyond the streets. When he meets Princess Jasmine, who longs for freedom beyond the palace walls, their worlds collide in a whirlwind of excitement and possibility.

In this stage adaptation, Aladdin’s monkey companion Abu becomes three loyal and comical friends Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, while Jasmine’s tiger Rajah is re-imagined as her caring handmaidens Rajah, Manal, and Isir.

Everything changes when Aladdin discovers a magical lamp and the larger-than-life Genie, while Jafar and Iago plot in the shadows to seize its power.

Filled with unforgettable songs, dazzling choreography, and timeless Disney charm, *Aladdin JR.* is a celebration of courage, friendship, and staying true to yourself.

There are still tickets available to all screenings, click the link below to get yours!

[FIND TICKETS](#)

St. Andrew's Grammar Welcomes Foreign Dignitaries

The school proudly welcomed the Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, the Greek Ambassador to Australia, and the Consul of Greece in Perth for a special community Meet and Greet during their week-long visit to Perth.



Our guests were treated to a wonderful performance by our talented Year 4–6 Greek dancing group, followed by light refreshments and warm conversation with members of our school and wider Hellenic community.

Each visiting dignitary received a memento to commemorate their visit before joining Principal Craig Monaghan, HCWA President Paul Afkos OAM and Chair of Advisory Board Eleni Evangel on a tour of the school, where they explored our classrooms and previewed the exciting new STEM and performing arts facilities.

It was a day filled with pride, connection, and a shared appreciation of our Hellenic heritage. A meaningful reminder of how deeply our Hellenic roots run and how vital it is to keep those connections strong, so our culture and community continue to thrive for generations to come.





Goodbye and Good Luck to our Year 12s

On 20 October 2025, we bade farewell our Class of 2025, marking the end to their formal education journey.



The morning began with a special assembly, where our graduating class was welcomed by our youngest students from Pre-Kindy, lining the aisles to present a graduating gift. Families, guests, and members of our School Board joined us to celebrate their achievements, hear inspiring speeches, and applaud award recipients.

Following the assembly, students attended a Doxology Service at Saints Constantine and Helene Church, led by His Grace Bishop Elpidios and Priest Reverend Fr Terry, a fitting moment of reflection, prayer and gratitude before they step into the next chapter of their lives.

The day concluded with their Graduation Dinner at Mandon Estate. Joined with their loved ones, it was an amazing night of final reflection of their years at St. Andrew's Grammar.

To our Class of 2025 - may you go forward with courage, kindness, and faith in all that lies ahead. We are so proud of your journey so far and cannot wait to see what you do in your future.



Alumni Catch-Up

The school hosted an alumni catch-up event at Inglewood Hotel on 10 October 2025.



It was wonderful to see familiar faces from the graduating classes of 2009 through to 2024 coming together to reconnect, share stories and celebrate our St. Andrew's Grammar community.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to attend; your presence helped make the event truly special. We look forward to many more opportunities to bring our alumni together.



Community News

Thank You to Steel WA Group!



Thank you to Steel WA Group for kindly repairing the gas burner for Prokopi and Nicolette Koutlis, and for continuing their exceptional candle making support for our Church of Saints Constantine and Helene.

The company cater to the structural steel requirements of the upscale housing sector, encompassing the supply, delivery and installation of high-caliber steel elements, serving builders in crafting luxury homes. Find them at 16 Sarich Court, Osborne Park WA 6017.

Corked: A Short Film by Brandt Kakulas & Zach Dakis



This gritty new short film that explores trust, betrayal, and the blurred lines between right and wrong is showing for one day only at Luna Cinemas in Leederville.

Find out more information and tickets below. **Please note that tickets will not be sold at the door.**

[Information and Tickets Here](#)

Get in touch

Have a question? Need more info? Feel free to reach out to your Greek community, right here in WA.



[Email info@hcwa.org](mailto:info@hcwa.org)

Celebrating Hellenic Culture, Connecting Our Community



HELLENIC COMMUNITY
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC.