



# 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 September Edition



*St Andrew's Grammar Secondary Greek Dance group put on a powerhouse performance at the annual BrainChild Ball at Crown Perth. Read on to discover this story and more from your Hellenic Community Newsletter!*

### This month's features

- President's Message
- R U OK Day? Celebrations
- 'Genocide to Regeneration' launch at Parliament House
- St. Andrew's ACC Championship Sweep
- Save The Dates and more...

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## President's Message

**Dear Members,**

**The past four years have provided good growth of our Community with all entities working very well.** This growth has been achieved by the operational structures that we have installed.

This has also given us an opportunity to approach and offer support to a number of smaller Greek Australian Associations to ensure their future prosperity within the community and not become inactive. We can support with administrative work helping these associations, become more compliant with the Associations Act, or provide them financial support.

We have offered to those same associations the option of coming under the umbrella of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, or they may choose to remain a separate association. Notwithstanding their choice, HCWA will continue to support the Associations with the above services.

We're presently assisting three of our Greek Australian Associations and we would like their members to feel as they are part of the

greater Greek Australian Community in Western Australia. This has been ongoing with the Hellenic Women's Association, and with constitutional updating for the Castellorizian Ladies Association and the United Hellenic Association of Bunbury. This will help those associations to become more compliant with today's more stringent State Acts. We're in discussion with three other Greek Australian associations who are interested in coming under the umbrella of the HCWA.

### **Calling of a meeting with all presidents**

Based on an initiative suggested by President, Kevin Kannis, and our own Board Member, Anna Smilovitis, a meeting was arranged by our CEO inviting all Presidents and representatives of Greek Australian Associations, His Grace Bishop Elpidios of Perth, all clergy, and the Consul for Greece Ms Eleni Georgopoulou to the Castellorizian House on 18 September 2025. The main discussion centralised around the coordination of a shared events calendar for the remaining months of 2025 and continuing into the early months of 2026.

The discussion was very productive with much cooperation concluding the first stage of an annual calendar of events by all. The attendees committed to a meeting twice a year to review and update the calendar.

It was also agreed that the administration of this calendar will be undertaken only by the Hellenic Community. The calendar will be posted on the Hellenic Community website with a representative of the clergy and of each association authorised to access the calendar. Associations may choose to provide information to HCWA to input into the calendar.

Hellenic Community must assist with the calendar and other needs of the smaller associations which are part of our extended family.

Another initiative implemented by our Management Committee in support of the Associations is the open invitation to one free use of the Hellenic Community Centre per year. This has already been accepted and utilised by several associations, helping generate more funds for their associations through fundraising events.

## **Our Church Saints Constantine and Helene**

Father Terry with the full authority of the Management Committee met with the heritage architect retained by the Hellenic Community to prepare the conservation report for the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene. A conservation plan is the first step in seeking government funding for any conservation works on the Church. Following its publication, this report will provide the HCWA to prepare and submit applications for further funding.

## **Community Centre - Parker Street**

The two halls had a major uplift to revitalise what was an aging building. Whilst we have spent nearing \$700,000.00, we are confident these funds were spent wisely with the inclusion of a personal lift (installed in the original lift shaft when it was built in the 1960's). Many of the works were necessary to make the two halls (upstairs and downstairs) compliant with today's council by-laws which will assist us to improve our opportunities to gain increased rental income.

With the present thinking for future developments of Northbridge by the State and Local Governments, Northbridge will continue to grow with our Community, maintaining its central role in supporting our future vision and growth.

## **Hellenic Community Age Care**

The Management Committee recently received financial reports for the financial year of 2024-2025. These reports pleasantly showed that our facility managed to exceed the already lofty surplus from the previous year. A credit to the leadership of our CEO, Paul Savvas, and Coordinator, John Metaxas. These results mean the association is well placed to fund its expansion and refurbishing plans of the buildings commencing in the latter half of 2026. Once completed, it is anticipated the new two-story administration building will be occupied by all HCWA entities administration, designed to provide increased efficiencies and improve productivity with centralisation.

The demountable which is owned by HCWA and located on the entrance to Hellenic Community Aged Care on Hellenic Drive. This will be repurposed as a training centre and relocated to the northside of the facility to be used for our staff training and in conjunction with our Murdoch University placements. By

rearranging this, the full corner block of land will become available for future developments, for which we're presently undertaking feasibility studies.

We now have a care facility that holds 96 residents providing various levels of care, including a dementia-specific wing.

### **HCWA stability and progress**

In the time from my initial election in 1995 up to present (that is in the last 30 years) our Community has had four elected Presidents, namely, myself, Evan Kakulas, Gary Mitchell and Savvas Papasavvas (who was then again followed by myself in my re-election since 2020).

2025 is the 30-year anniversary of when I was first elected President of the Hellenic Community in 1995. Back then, St Andrew's Grammar was a Kindergarten to Year 7 school with only 122 students. The Hellenic Community Aged Care had 32 residents in its 40 room facility, and the Community Centre was dated, barely changed from its original construction in the late 1960s.

Much has changed since then. In my current term, we have a school that has recently opened a Pre-Kindergarten precinct. Our school now hosts students from Pre-Kindergarten through to Year 12, with 951 students enrolled to commence in 2026, and an extensive waitlist. Our school has also progressed within its academia, with students consistently achieve high grades, contributing to our school fast becoming a school of choice.

### **Our School Saint Andrews Grammar**

In 2026, we will commence with 951 students and for the first time in our 30 years have students waitlisted and registered to come to our school. Our high educational standards, together with our Greek Language, Culture and Religion, form the pillars that excel our school so successfully. For this we must thank our staff, our CEO and all management of the school. Our school holds a natural bond in togetherness with our Greek Orthodox Faith.

The school has also achieved significant success in sporting events, competing very well with other top schools and becoming State Champions in football.

## **Hosting overseas visitors**

On October 21, 22 and 23, the Hellenic Community will host the Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece, Mr Ioannis Michail Loverdos, in Perth along with the Ambassador of Greece in Australia, Mr Stavros Venizelos, Consul for Greece in Perth, Mrs Eleni Georgopoulou, the Ministers' Diplomatic Advisor, Ms Zoi Tsirakopoulou Gklinou, and the Minister's Press and Media Officer, Mr Alexandros Arapetsikas.

The Management Committee is working with the Consul to organise events celebrating the delegates' arrival in Perth. Members will soon be advised about these events, and we encourage all Greek Australians to be present at the functions to help commemorate this auspicious visit.

## **Meetings in Greece**

During my recent visit to Greece, I was invited by the Chief of the Hellenic Army General Staff General Kostidis and Lieutenant General Garinis to attend the Thessaloniki International Exhibition.

Separately, I had also met with His Eminence Kallinikos of Kastoria who shared with me the good work of the Metropolis. These include providing over 550 free meals daily to families in need and restoring historical churches in the region.

These visits offered valuable insights and connections, which will help guide new initiatives for our community, including opportunities for St. Andrew's students.





**Paul Afkos OAM**

President on behalf of the Board of Management

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## 'Genocide to Regeneration' launch at Parliament House



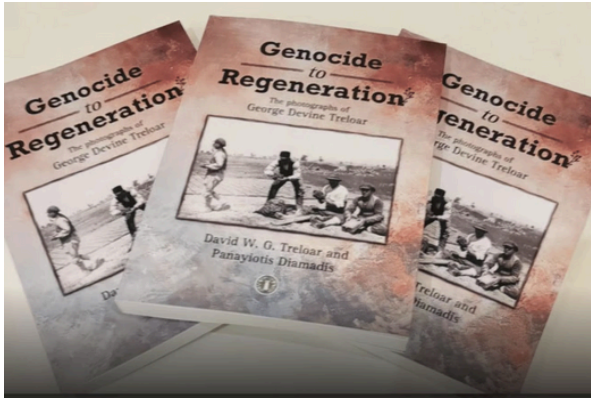
The Hellenic Community of WA, in collaboration with the Pontian Brotherhood of WA and the authors met along with invited guests at Parliament House to launch *Genocide to Regeneration: the photographs of George Devine Treloar*.

With his camera and his words, Treloar documented the magnitude of the catastrophe which befell Hellenism in that period, the Genocide of the Hellenes.

Our CEO Paul Savvas represented the community at the historic meeting, hosted by Markya Groenewald MLC. Co-authors Professor David Treloar and Dr Panayiotis Diamadis were also present.

"The presentation was profoundly moving," said Paul Savvas, "sharing untold stories and never-before-seen photographs that illuminate a vital chapter of history.

"Moments like these remind us of the resilience of communities and the importance of preserving memory so that future generations may learn and reflect," says Paul Savvas.



The book launch was also covered by national Greek news. Click on the links below to read more.

[Greek Herald](#)

[Neos Kosmos](#)

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## HCWA Trustees Meeting

**On 25 September 2025, the Trustees convened a meeting with the Executive Board and CEO Paul Savvas to discuss several important topics.**



The agenda included updates on the construction and current status of the Pre-Kindy and Junior Admin Office, the status of the new STEM building, the renovations of the Community Centre on Parker Street in Northbridge and the appointed Builders for works undertaken. Additionally, the Board of Directors shared plans for the future refurbishment of the Harmanis Building and the Amphitheatre.

During the meeting, an informal discussion allowed for a broader exchange of ideas and insights regarding the vision of the current Board of Directors. The Trustees expressed their satisfaction with the information provided, noting the transparency and willingness of the Executive Board to share progress updates. They were reassured that HCWA has sufficient funds to meet its commitments thus far.

## **Larry Doropoulos**

Chair of Trustees

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## **Get Your Tickets to Souvla Family Day!**

**Join us for an unforgettable afternoon filled with delicious, traditional Greek souvla (lamb and chicken), sweets, tea, coffee and the warm company of our vibrant community**



This ticketed event, brought to you by the Centre of Hellenic Studies in conjunction with the Greek Senior Citizen's Association, is held on Sunday, 19 October 2025 from 12PM to 3PM at St. Andrew's Grammar.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$20 for children aged 13-16 years (inclusive). To purchase, send an email to [chswa@hcwa.org](mailto:chswa@hcwa.org) with the number of tickets and ticket type. Children 12 years and under are free entry!

This event is proudly brought to you by the Centre of Hellenic Studies, a subset of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, in conjunction with the Greek Senior Citizen's Association.

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## **Greek Film Festival at Event Cinemas Innaloo** **Under the umbrella of HCWA**

**Join us for a celebration of Greek Cinema right here in Perth, featuring two special screenings across two Sundays this November.**

16 November, 3:30PM | **Kapetan Mixalis**

*The story of a Cretan warrior's struggle for freedom and a forbidden love during the 1889 revolution against the Ottoman rule.*

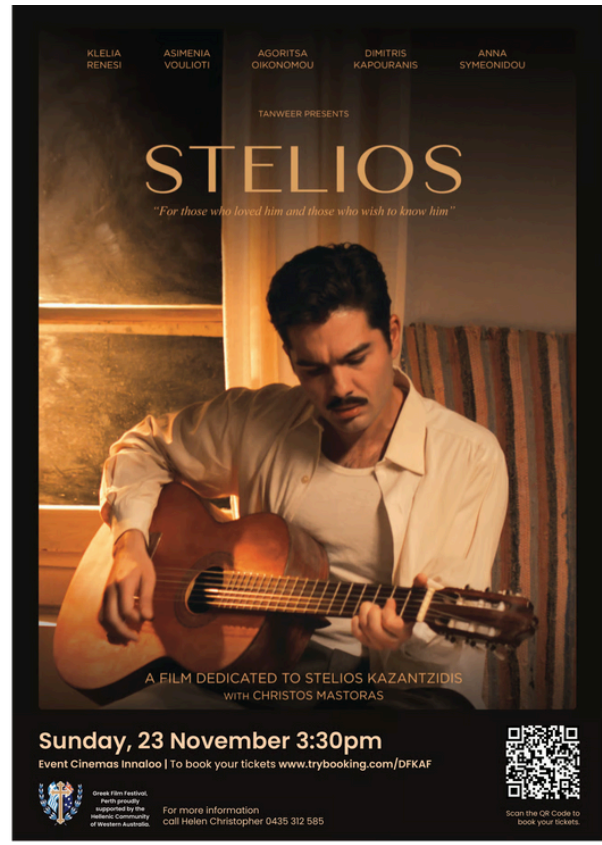
23 November, 3:30PM | **STELIOS**

*Exploring the life and extraordinary career of Stelios Kazantzidis, whose voice and songbook touched the hearts of Greeks around the world.*

Get your tickets to both movies below. For more information, please contact Helen Christopher on 0435 312 585.



**Kapetan Mixalis Tickets**



**STELIOS Tickets**

## Greek Language Lessons

**It's never too late, or too early to learn Greek!**



Greek language classes are available for adults, as well as primary and kindergarten ages.

Download the relevant form below, or email [chswa@hcwa.org](mailto:chswa@hcwa.org) if you require additional information.

**Adult Class Registration**

**Kindy/Primary Registration**

## **Meet our Greek teachers!**

Ms Virginia Baltatzi and Ms Chrysoula Kapsali are our exceptional teachers from Greece, bringing both expertise and passion to every lesson at the Centre for Hellenic Studies no matter proficiency level.



**Virginia Baltatzi**



**Chrysoula Kapsali**

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## Learning Journeys and STEM Displays

**Our Pre-Primary to Year 6 students proudly welcomed families on 24 September for our Learning Journey and STEM Showcase.**



From classroom walkthroughs to a mini STEM exhibition of projects and displays, students demonstrated not only what they've been learning, but how far they've grown this year.

It was wonderful to see parents, grandparents and loved ones exploring, asking questions, and celebrating the students' progress together.

Involving families in events like these strengthens the home-school partnership and shows our students that their learning journey is something to be valued and shared. That's what makes our school such a special place to grow.

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## Letter from the Prime Minister

**Earlier this term, students in Year 6.2 explored renewable energy and how they can all care for our planet.**



The topic sparked such passionate discussions that some students kept learning in their own time, inspiring them to write a letter to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese with their ideas for a more sustainable future.

Today, the school received a special reply from the PM's office, thanking the students for speaking up and reassuring them that their voices are heard.

What an amazing example of active citizenship displayed by our Year 6.2 students. As a school, we are so proud of their passion and initiative to advocate for a better Australia.

[Click here](#) to read the letter from the Prime Minister.

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## Raising Funds for Telethon Kids Institute

**Our Secondary Greek Dance group put in a powerhouse performance at the annual BrainChild Ball at Crown Perth.**



The ball is a prestigious fundraising event to spread awareness of children with brain cancer and to raise funds in support of vital research at the Telethon Kids Institute.

It was a great honour to be invited to perform at this year's ball, which had a Grecian theme. Our students captivated the audience with their energetic and authentic performance of the Kalamatiano and Pentozali and represented their school with great pride.

We would like to specially thank Mr Nicholas Kyriakakis for the outstanding audio tracks and Miss Lauren Giannakis for the brilliant choreography. We would also like to thank Ms Deanna Papa and Mrs Siza Macdonald for their assistance at the event.





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## St. Andrew's Sporting Success

**From athletics to netball, St Andrew's Grammar athletes continue to go from strength to strength**



St Andrew's Grammar proudly celebrated an incredible run of sporting achievements this month.

At a special assembly, Mr Tom Bottrell, Director of Sport for the Associated & Catholic Colleges of WA (ACC), presented our Senior Athletics students with trophies recognising their outstanding performances at the ACC Athletics Carnival.

The school took out four major titles: Overall School, Overall Boys, Senior Boys and Senior Girls. while also placing second in Junior Boys and third in Overall Girls. Mr Bottrell praised the remarkable improvement of our athletes and their sportsmanship, noting it was rare to see a school win two years in a row, especially after moving up a competitive division. The assembly also honoured our ACC Senior Girls Football team for their historic championship win.

Adding to the celebrations, our Year 9 Netball team, the St Andrew's Spartans, triumphed in the Under 18's Winter Championship Grand Final, defeating the previously undefeated REBELS 4 with a 39–31 victory. Asha, our GS, was named Grand Final MVP by the Noranda Association. We're equally proud of our younger Year 5 & 6 netballers who reached the quarterfinals this season.

To watch the best highlights of the Athletics Carnival, [click here](#).



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## St. Andrew's Shines at RoboCup Junior Competition

**St. Andrew's Grammar is thrilled to share that two of its three teams qualified for the State Finals in the 2025 RoboCup Junior Competition!**



Held at ECU Mt Lawley, Thunderstrikers, JASA and Formida Vexcoders presented their robots to a panel of judges, displaying their creativity and problem-solving skills.

Congratulations to all three teams for their hard work and commitment throughout the competition season and the culminating tournament– what an amazing achievement!

The school would like to thank to Mr Graffin for all of his support and dedication in coaching our school's first ever competitive robotics teams. We are already looking forward to next year's competition!



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## Save the Date: Aladdin Jr. Production Coming Soon



**Get ready to step into a whole new world! St Andrew's Grammar is proud to present Disney's Aladdin on November 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2025.**

With dazzling costumes, unforgettable songs, and magical performances, this is a show you won't want to miss. So, mark your calendars and stay tuned for ticket details—**coming soon!**

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### Hellenic Community Aged Care

## Celebrating R U OK Day?

**Together with the team at the Hellenic Community of WA, we celebrated R U OK day on 11 September.**



In our bright-yellow show of solidarity, we honoured the power of empathy, connection, and the simple act of asking, “Are you OK?”

Staff from across the Hellenic Community of Western Australia (HCWA), including our CEO Paul Savvas, joined in the day’s celebrations.

“Today was a reminder,” said Paul, “that a small, genuine question can make the world of difference.”

“Reaching out to one another is the foundation of what makes a community. Rooted in the values of philoxenia (hospitality) and koinōnía (community), our Greek heritage inspires us to care deeply for one another — especially our elders,” says Paul Savvas.

The day’s festivities included an outdoor party, with their beautiful garden dotted with yellow as residents and staff came together under a clear, sunny sky.



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## Father's Day Fun

**As part of the Father's Day celebrations organised by our Aged Care staff, our residents and their families kicked off Father's Day weekend in style with a toe-tapping party with live rock n' roll music!**



Residents and families were treated to live tunes by the talented Collin Ross from Rock N Roll Express, who performed popular hits and sing-along classics.

Refreshments were also served, as family and friends came together to share memories and celebrate the fathers, grandfathers and father-figures in their lives.



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## Garden Games on the Lawn

**Our residents welcomed Spring with lawn games in the garden and ice cream freshly scooped by our Carers.**



The central garden came alive with smiles, conversation and a spark of friendly competition between residents against the gentle sunshine throughout the afternoon.

Take a look at some of our snapshots from the afternoon which perfectly encapsulates the camaraderie between our residents.





## 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



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