



# 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 November Edition



*HCWA hosts the first public display of the United Cup tennis trophy in Western Australia, just around the corner - the Grand Opening of the Bianca Afkos Science and Technology Centre, St. Andrew's Name Day ... and more from your Hellenic Community Newsletter!*

### This month's features

- **President's Message**
- **Celebrating St. Andrew's Name Day**
- **Grand Opening of Bianca Afkos Centre - Just Around the Corner**
- **Aladdin Production Wows Audiences**
- **Food, Music and Fun at Greek Dinner Dance**
- **Church Christmas Celebrations**
- **...and more!**

# President's Message



**Dear Members,**

**On behalf of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, I extend my warmest wishes to all our members for a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We keep in our thoughts those less fortunate and pray that everyone enjoys good health and happiness in 2026.**

**To families who have lost loved ones, may God grant you strength as you navigate this difficult journey.**

**As the school year, calendar year (and in some circumstances the financial year) draw to a close, we reflect on the activities across all our community-owned entities. We are pleased to report that our community continues to sail confidently into the winds of fortune as we celebrate a very special announcement.**



Our ref: 81-10995/9

Mr Paul Afkos OAM  
Chairperson  
Hellenic Community of Western Australia  
[p.afkos@afkos.com.au](mailto:p.afkos@afkos.com.au)

Dear Mr Afkos OAM

**ADVANCE DETERMINATION – HELLENIC COMMUNITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Thank you for your application for advance determination received 28 July 2025 seeking to establish an additional campus for St Andrew's Grammar in Northbridge.

I am pleased to advise that I have accepted the recommendation of the Non-Government Schools Planning Advisory Panel and have made an advance determination as follows:

Governing body	Advance determination	Expires
Hellenic Community of Western Australia	To establish an additional Year 7 to Year 12 campus at 20 Parker Street, Northbridge	1 February 2030

I have made this advance determination on the basis of the considerations set out in the *Advance Determination Policy Direction 2019* for the purposes of the *School Education Act 1999* (the Act) only. All other matters, such as Western Australian Planning Commission considerations, local government authority and school registration requirements, have not been considered and I expect that you will pursue these accordingly.

This advance determination will enable you to make an application for change of registration to the Director General, Department of Education at least six months prior to the proposed commencement date at the new campus. In making an application for registration change, you will need to demonstrate, to the Director General's satisfaction, how each of the registration standards and other requirements of the Act will be met.

Should you require any further information regarding school registration matters, please contact Ms Justine Freeman, Manager, Non-Government School Regulation, Department of Education at [ngrsregulation@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:ngrsregulation@education.wa.edu.au) or on 9441 1947.

Yours sincerely

HON SABINE WINTON MLA  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

04 NOV 2025

## Important Announcement!

*You heard it here first!*

We are pleased to report that yesterday, on Thursday 4 December, we received confirmation from the Hon. Sabine Winton, Minister for Education that our **application has been approved for the registration for a new International**

## Baccalaureate High in Northbridge!

Stay posted to hear more as we work with state and federal offices on funding.

## **Our Hellenic Community of Western Australia**

Significant upgrades have been completed on our two community-owned halls, totalling \$680,000. To ensure proper management and cost-sharing, all bookings for the halls will now be coordinated through the CEO and his staff at Hellenic Admin.

Additional improvements are planned, including renovations to the original boardroom, upgraded toilets and the installation of a new kitchen in the upper hall (pending State Government funding). The lower hall now has a fully operational air conditioning system.

To support the smaller Greek Australian associations, we have been (and continue) offering one free hall booking per year for fundraising purposes. This initiative aims to revive their own patronage and will further introduce our community activities along Parker Street.

Representing the community, I was honoured to speak at the Castellorizian Association about the growth and progress of our community from 1995 to today. The large group listened attentively during the 42-minute presentation, reflecting on the very difficult position during the mid 1990s and the more flourishing of today, which captured the audience.

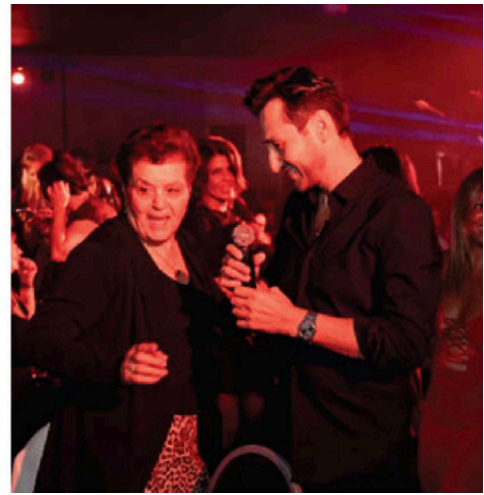
We are also in discussions about collaborating with the St Timothy Foundation to allow use of the lower hall and kitchen one day a week to prepare meals for those in need.

### *Strategic and Forward Planning*

Looking ahead - in the new year, the Hellenic Community Management Board has begun developing the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and Governance Charter, encompassing the Parker Street and Dianella properties.



*I was honoured to speak at the Castellorizian Association about the growth and progress of our community.*



*Panos Kalidis delights us with a Concert in our Community Hall at Northbridge.*

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

Our Church is heritage listed, therefore we have applied for a State Heritage Grant for a heritage architect to update the heritage conservation plan. We can now confirm to members that we have been successful and obtained a \$16,000 grant to draft a new heritage conservation plan that will enable us to apply for further and specific funding opportunities for our Church.

Members will be aware the Church and halls are currently on one owner-title under the legal ownership of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia INC.(HCWA). Due to the heritage listing of the Church, future development of our two halls could become restricted, therefore the board is moving to place the buildings on separate titles while maintaining full HCWA ownership.

Our Church enjoys the spiritual leadership of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia, and HCWA will continue to steward the legal, administrative and maintenance aspects of the Church. We extend our deep thanks to Father Terry and Presbytera for their dedicated work for our parishoners.



*From tots to teens and beyond, all ages use our church and community halls throughout the year.*

## **St. Andrew's Grammar**

As the school year comes to a close, we farewelled our Year 12 students with a graduation assembly, followed by a memorable graduation dinner at Mandoon Estate. We wish all our students success in their final exams and in their chosen careers, encouraging our graduates to maintain their connection to our community by joining the St. Andrew's Grammar Alumni.

The school will close the year with another good operating surplus, which has been fully utilised to complete the \$9-million-dollar construction program over the past 18 months. With this year's target construction projects now complete, we have adopted a consolidation policy before moving forward with the next stage of our 2030 master plan.

### *Major Event for our School and Community*

The official opening of the Bianca Afkos Science and Technology Centre on 11 December 2025 is a highlight of the year. An open invitation has been extended to all members, parents and friends. The Centre features advanced facilities - design and technology workshops, a modern lab, a dance/drama studio and stage, six large classrooms, change rooms, storage areas, offices, a sheltered bike/scooter facility, and dedicated staff areas, as well as increased parking and green spaces.

This development is part of the school's Master Plan to accommodate up to 1,000 students across primary and secondary levels. With capped enrolments at 1,000 students throughout the school, the school now has a waitlist for pre-kindy and primary, reflecting its growing reputation for quality education. St Andrews is close to achieving its vision as a school of choice and will end 2025 in a **strong financial position** with nearly 950 students expected to enrol in 2026! A testament to the hard work of our Board of Governance, our Advisory Board, Chief Executive Officer and relevant School Senior Leadership (Principal, Business Manager and Heads of School). I extend my thanks to you all.

### *Feast Day of Saint Andrew*

Last Saturday our Community and school celebrated the feast day of Saint Andrew with a dinner dance held at the Despina Berbatis Gymnasium where 220 guests enjoyed food and dancing to a live band. Special thanks to the organising committee and in particular the hard work of Savvas Papasavas, our Year 12 student leaders and Clare Zekas!

*Celebrating Saint Andrew's Name Day with our Year 12 students as the school year comes to a close.*



## **Hellenic Community Aged Care**

In 2026 our project focus will shift to Aged Care, tenders have been called for the construction of new parking facilities and a two-story administration block for HCWA, SAG Inc., and HCBA. This project aims to consolidate administrative services of all entities, eliminate duplication, and improve efficiency and productivity. With rising operational costs and reduced government funding, these measures are essential for sustainable growth. The tender has been advertised to close on 17 December with work on the project set to commence in 2026. This project will be paid out of the present reserved funds the Aged Care has.

Hellenic Community Aged Care has maintained high occupancy throughout 2025 with an excellent occupancy rate of over 97%! This is especially good given that two rooms remain unoccupied while insurance conduct remedial work due to water ingress caused by a visiting tradesperson.

### *Improved Services provided by the HCAC*

Our aged care service continues to deliver exceptional care. Since October 2025, mandatory minimum care minutes for nurses and personal carers have been introduced as they attend to our valued residents, and HCAC exceeded these requirements in October and November, providing additional support to residents. In 2025, HCBA invested over \$351,503 in plant, equipment, and furnishings, including new mattresses, two Regency chairs, a Bariatric shower trolley, and cordless floor sensor mats.



*Supporting our nurses and care workers and providing greater services and facilities for our residents.*

## **Paul Afkos OAM**

President on behalf of the Board of Management

## United Cup Trophy Visits St. Andrews Grammar this Morning!



**St. Andrew's Grammar in Dianella proudly hosted the first Western Australian showcase of the United Cup trophy, marking the official four-week countdown to this world-class tennis tournament.**

The visit gave students and staff a rare chance to connect with one of international tennis' most exciting events. The United Cup, an innovative mixed-team competition featuring some of the sport's biggest names, returns this January with Team Greece among the contenders. Leading the charge for Greece are global tennis stars Stefanos Tsitsipas and Maria Sakkari, sparking excitement across the country and within our school's vibrant Hellenic community.

Principal Craig Monaghan expressed the school's pride in hosting the trophy: "We are thrilled to welcome the United Cup trophy to St. Andrew's Grammar. This is a significant moment for our students and wider community, especially given our strong cultural ties and the pride many of our families feel for Team Greece."

Chief Executive Paul Savvas added: "Having the trophy here not only celebrates excellence in sport but also inspires our students to pursue their own passions with dedication and spirit."

The showcase aims to build anticipation ahead of the tournament and rally local support for Team Greece as they prepare to compete on the world stage. The United Cup kicks off at RAC Arena, Perth, on 2 January.

## Special Offer for Our Hellenic Community!

Enjoy **30% off** United Cup tickets for these sessions:

Greece vs Japan – January 2 (Night Session)

Greece vs Great Britain – January 5 (Night Session)

*Click below to buy your tickets!*

[Buy Tickets](#)

## You're Invited to the Opening, in Memory of Bianca



In memory of Bianca Afkos, we are delighted to invite you to the **Grand Opening of the state-of-the-art Bianca Afkos Science and Technology Centre.**

***It's just around the corner. Next Thursday, 11 December all HCWA members are invited*** to join us and the Afkos family as we celebrate the much-awaited Grand Opening of the Bianca Afkos Science and Technology Centre at St. Andrew's Grammar.

The nine million-dollar, state-of-the-art education development will be officially opened by the **Hon Dr Anne Aly MP**, Minister for Small Business, Minister for International Development, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, and Member for Cowan. Topping up a federal grant, the **Afkos family generously donated** half a million dollars and the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation** in Greece donated 360-thousand-dollars.





**“The Bianca Afkos Science and Technology Centre stands as a symbol of St. Andrew’s Grammar’s commitment to preparing our students for the world beyond school.”** – Said Mr Paul Savvas, CEO of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, the school’s governing body, (and a former student of the St. Andrew’s Grammar!)

The Centre features spaces for next-generation robotics, cutting-edge science facilities, a custom-built dance and drama studio with an integrated stage...and more! ***Come join us as we unveil the plaque!***

**WHEN:** Thursday 11 December, 9:30am (arrival from 9:15am)

**WHERE:** St. Andrew Grammar (Boddington Road side)

**> Watch the construction time-lapse!**





## The Party of the Year!

**Come party with your Greek community as you ring in 2026! Online tickets NOW available!**

Sizzling souvla, live music, dancing and the amazing company of your local Greek community - **what better way to party into 2026!**

NOW you can also **book your tickets online**, or pop into the Hellenic Community admin office at 2A Hellenic Drive, Dianella WA 6059.

The Floreat Athena Football Club and the Florina Association of WA are joining our Community as we celebrate and welcome in 2026.

### The Details

When: **Wednesday, 31 December, 8:00pm**

Where: **St. Andrew's Grammar**, Palassis Outdoor Covered Area Tickets: \$45 Adults | \$20 Teens 12-17 Years | FREE Children Under 12

### Featuring!

Our very own singers **Apostolos Fotiadis and Nikos Karayiannis** are set to delight party-goers along with a live band this New Year's Eve.



*This event is brought to you by your Hellenic Community of Western Australia and proudly supported by the Florina Association of WA and the Floreat Athena Football Club.*

**Buy Tickets**



## Last chance tickets! Tomorrow night is FAFC Seafood Night

**Forgot to grab your tickets to tomorrow's Floreat Athena Football Club Christmas Seafood Night? Snap up last-chance tickets below!**

There's still time to snap up your last-chance tickets to tomorrow night's seafood extravaganza!

Join the Floreat Athena Football Club for a good cause as we tuck into fish, calamari, prawns, roasted potatoes, and more... For the kids - we'll have a kids' football fun activity along with a special appearance from Santa!

Tickets are \$40 Adults | \$20 Children 16 & Under - all proceeds go towards equipment for Athena's juniors! **Click below to buy last-chance tickets!**

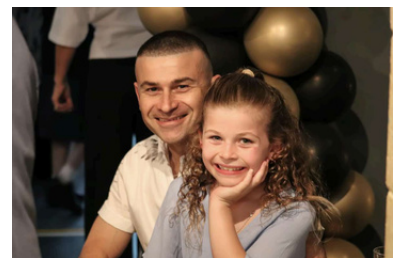
[Buy Tickets](#)



## Manjimup Cherry Festival SOLD OUT!

**Tickets have NOW sold out to the Manjimup Cherry Festival on Saturday, 13 December. To those who have already snapped up your tickets - see you there!**

# Greek Dinner Dance – A Night to Remember!





**An unforgettable night of Greek culture and community, with all proceeds from the evening going to St. Andrew's students' trip to Greece.**

On 29 November, our much-anticipated Greek Dinner Dance was a vibrant celebration of Greek culture, featuring authentic Greek cuisine and live Greek music that kept the dance floor humming!

A highlight of the night - the raffle draw, featured spectacular prizes, including two \$1,000, a \$750 and a \$500 cash prizes! Many thanks to our sponsors Devlyn Building Company, T&Z Architects, Solutions IT and Perm-A-Pleat and for donating the prizes!

The event, held in the school gymnasium, brought together members of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia Board including President Paul Afkos OAM, families and guests of the wider community for a dignified celebration of Hellenic heritage. We were also joined by Mr Basil Zempilas, WA Leader of the Opposition and Leader of the WA Liberal Party who greeted our community members and guests alike.

Mr Afkos reflected on the school's ongoing growth, noting that St. Andrew's Grammar "continues to move forward with strength and purpose, ". "We are proud of how far the school has come and remain committed to building an exceptional future for our students," he added.

All proceeds from the evening will go towards supporting the student trip to Greece. Well done to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event such a resounding success. Your support truly makes a difference!



## Principal's Report — Centre of Hellenic Studies

**This year has been a delightfully busy one at the Centre of Hellenic Studies as we pass on the ancient heritage of the Greek language to our young ones.**

Our children's classes have grown not just in numbers, but in spirit. Students have jumped head-first into the language that connects them to their heritage. Inside the classrooms, you'll find them practising their Greek vocabulary and letters learning through songs and rhymes.

I'm incredibly proud of every student, every teacher, and every family who continues to support our mission. We look forward to building on this momentum next year, strengthening the pathway for our young learners as they deepen their understanding of our Greek language and culture.

**Stay posted for details on our 2026 adult and children's classes!**

Savvas Papasavvas

**Principal, Centre of Hellenic Studies**

## St. Andrew's Name Day Service at St. Andrew's



**Thursday, 27 November the staff and students of St. Andrew's Grammar and members of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia gathered for our annual St. Andrew's Name Day service. A wonderful occasion marking the contribution of the Πρωτόκλητος (first-called) disciple of Jesus.**

"Saint Andrew's life reminds us that true leadership begins with humility and service. His courage and faith laid the foundation for communities built on compassion and integrity. At St. Andrews Grammar, we strive to instil these same values in our students – empowering them to lead with purpose, making a positive impact on the world." Said Mr. Paul Savvas, CEO of St. Andrew's Grammar.

A special liturgy was presided over by His Grace Bishop Elpidios and Father Terry Gerovasilis who provided communion and prayerful blessings over staff and students.

The service was later followed by a concert with traditional Greek dancing and a band assembly by our talented students!

*Our thanks to His Grace Bishop Elpidios and Father Terry Gerovasilis for their service to our school community.*



# Remembering our Fallen Heroes

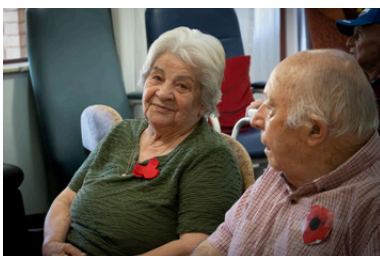
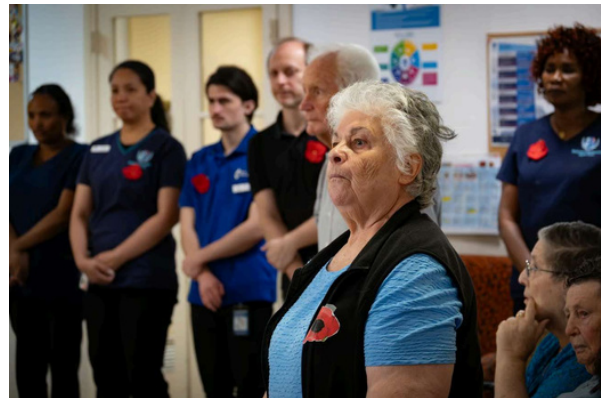
**On November 11, Hellenic Community Aged Care gathered to honour our fallen heroes on Remembrance Day.**



Residents and staff paused to reflect and pay tribute to the brave men and women who served and sacrificed for the freedoms we cherish today.

The morning service featured a solemn moment of shared silence with Australians across the state for Remembrance Day on the 11th of November.

Following the observing of silence, residents shared poignant memories of family members who had valiantly served in the war. Together, we reflected on the legacy of courage, bravery and freedom they have passed on to future generations.



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## Aladdin JR. Showcases Exceptional Talent



**Members of our Hellenic Community of Western Australia were proud to witness the smashing sensation that was Aladdin JR., a thrilling production by St. Andrew's Grammar on the weekend of 7 – 9 November at the Subiaco Arts Centre.**

Audiences responded enthusiastically, praising the quality and professionalism of the show. One attendee shared:

“Performances by the students were outstanding. Congratulations to all involved.”

Principal Craig Monaghan reflected on the achievement:

“This was one of the best school musicals I have seen. It was a proud moment for our school, and we look forward to what our performing arts students will deliver in the future.”

Aladdin JR. showcased the exceptional singing, dancing and acting talent of our students including stars, Saiam Radia as Aladdin, Pieter Oosthuizen as Genie and Kassiani Zafiroopoulos as Princess Jasmine.

Here, we'd like to acknowledge the exceptional efforts, endless hours of work and the personal sacrifice of the staff who led this production – Shana O'Shea, Marina Powell, Lauren Giannakis, Taylah Stewart, as well as the wider team of teachers, parents and volunteers who contributed to its success.

**Thank you to everyone who attended and supported Aladdin JR!**



## **Church Christmas Concert Delights**

Take a peek below! Photos in from the wonderful Christmas Concert and Christmas Lunch celebration at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene on Sunday, 23 November.



## Get in touch

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

