



# 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  
COMMUNITY'S TOWER HOUSE



## Monthly Newsletter

Stay connected with our community

The February Edition  
2026

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**Dear Members,**

**As we move deeper into 2026, our community calendar is already vibrant with activity, celebration and important milestones.**

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our Vice President, Effie Mazgaltzidis.

### President's Message

During my overseas business trip in February, Effie stepped into the role of Acting President

and carried out her responsibilities with dedication and professionalism, and together with our Board Members who supported her during this period, she ensured that the work and progress of our Community continued without interruption. These responsibilities can sometimes present challenges, and I thank Effie and the Board for their commitment and leadership during my absence.

January and February have been particularly busy months for our Community. We successfully concluded our New Year's Eve celebrations, commemorated

Theophania, celebrated Apokries, welcomed the start of the new school year at St Andrew's Grammar, and had the pleasure of welcoming Mr Raptakis, a Director from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

To commemorate Greek Independence Day on 25 March, the Hellenic Community of WA together with the Hellenic Club of WA will host Greece's National Day Celebrations Dinner on Saturday 28 March at the Hellenic Community Centre, 20 Parker Street in Northbridge.

This will be a wonderful evening with an enjoyable dinner with live music, fellowship and pride as we honour our heritage together. Tickets are now on sale from the Community and I encourage members and friends to secure theirs early for what promises to be a memorable evening for our Community.

Easter preparations are also well underway. Permits are currently being sought for the closure of Parker Street to allow our Holy Friday service on 10 April and the Resurrection services from Saturday 11 April into Sunday morning.

The Holy Friday Crucifixion Procession will proceed from the Church via Aberdeen Street and Russell Square, returning to the Church in a moving public expression of faith. The Resurrection Service will again be held in front of the Church on Sunday morning – always a powerful and uplifting moment for our entire Community together and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I encourage all members to gather at our Church and celebrate the Greek Orthodox Easter together, reflecting the unity and strength of our Community. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Father Terry, our chanters and the Church Subcommittee, whose dedication and many hours of preparation ensure these important services are conducted with dignity and care.

Preparations are also underway for our Annual General Meeting on Sunday 26 April. Members will have received their formal notice of the meeting along with a draft constitution for consideration and potential approval. Financial reports for 2025 will also be circulated in advance which will reflect another good financial outcome for our community.

I strongly encourage all members to attend and participate in the meeting as we continue strengthening the governance and future direction of our Community. I am pleased to say that 2025 was again a very strong year for the Hellenic Community, reflecting our continued growth and progress.

## KARABAGELIA-KASTORIAS

During my recent trip to Greece, I had the honour of attending the Karavangelia celebrations in Kastoria as a personal guest of His Eminence Metropolitan Kalinikos of Kastoria, who organised these important events. The Karavangelia commemorate the legacy and vision of His Eminence Metropolitan Germanos Karavangelis and highlight the historical and spiritual significance of Kastoria. The four-day celebrations brought together clergy, lay representatives and volunteers from across the region, along with bishops and priests from various parts of Greece – from Nafpaktos, Meteora, Trikala, Kalambaka, Eddesa, Gravena, Kozani and Florina.

The event was attended by senior government Ministers, regional Governors, Mayors of different cities and members of the local community. It was an exceptional example of clergy and lay people working together to organise a significant historical and religious event. Speakers from across Greece presented on topics including history, religion, medicine, education, religious tourism and investment, with many attendees, including myself, particularly inspired by the spiritual presentations with very warm ambiances.

I would like to congratulate His Eminence Kalinikos for his outstanding leadership and dedication in organising these celebrations. Great to experience!



I have included the featured article, both in English and in Greek for you to read more.

Article in English

Article in Greek



Ο ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΤΗΣ ΚΑΣΤΟΡΙΑΣ  
ΚΑΛΛΙΝΙΚΟΣ

Καστοριά, Ίανουάριος 2026

Ἀξιότιμον  
κ. Παῦλον Ἄφκον,  
Ἐνταῦθα

Ἀγαπητοὶ ἑταῖροι

Διὰ τῆς παρουσίας λαμβάνω τὴν τιμὴ νὰ σᾶς προσκαλέσω στὶς Ἐκδηλώσεις τῶν Δ' Καραβαγγελίων πού θά πραγματοποιηθοῦν στὴν Καστοριά τό διάστημα 11 μέ 15 Φεβρουαρίου 2026.

Οἱ φετινές ἐκδηλώσεις ἔχουν τόν τίτλο «Καστοριά καί Μετέωρα» καί ἀποτελοῦν πρόιον συνεργασίας μεταξύ τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως, τῆς Τοπικῆς Αυτόδιοικήσεως καί τῶν Ἱερῶν Μητροπόλεων Σταγῶν καί Μετεώρων, Φθιώτιδος καί Φλωρίνης Πρεσπῶν καί Ἑορδαίας καί ἀποσκοποῦν στό τετράπτυχο: ἀνάδειξη - προβολή - πρόσβαση - λειτουργία τοῦ θησαυροῦ τῆς Καστοριάς, δηλαδή τὴν ζωντανή της παράδοση καί τῶν ζωντανῶν ἐκκλησιαστικῶν της μνημείων, μέ πρότυπο τὰ Μετέωρα.

Τὰ Δ' Καραβαγγέλια θά τιμήσουν μέ τὴν παρουσία του σημαντικὲς προσωπικότητες τοῦ τόπου, ὅπως Ἀρχιερεῖς, Ὑπουργοί καί Ὑφυπουργοί, Καθηγητές καί Ἐπιστήμονες.

Μπορεῖτε νὰ δεῖτε ἀναλυτικὰ τοὺς ὁμιλητές καί τοὺς ἐπίσημους προσκεκλημένους στό ἐπισυναπτόμενο Πρόγραμμα.

Ἐπίσης, σᾶς ἐνημερώνω ὅτι εἶστε προσκεκλημένος νὰ παρακαθήσετε στό ἐπίσημο γεῦμα τῶν Ἐκδηλώσεων ὡς εὐεργέτης τῆς Ἱερᾶς Μητροπόλεως.

Εὐχαριστώντας σας θερμά γιὰ τὴν πολύτιμη βοήθειά σας στὴν Ἱερά Μητρόπολη, εὐχομαι ὑγεία, θεῖο φωτισμό καί κάθε ἐπιτυχία στὰ ἔργα σας.

Με θερμὴν εὐχὴν καί εὐχαριστικῆς  
τῆς Καστορίας Καλλιμῆς



## IMPORTANT MEETING WITH MINISTER OF EDUCATION

During my visit to Greece I also had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education, Ms Sophia Zacharakis, together with the local Member of Parliament Mrs Maria Antoniou, who kindly arranged the meeting. During our discussion I briefed the Minister and Mrs Antoniou on the progress and development of our Community in Western Australia, including St Andrew's Grammar and Hellenic Community Aged Care. Both were very complementary of the work by our Greek Australians.

## PROSPECT OF RECEIVING NEW GREEK LANGUAGE TEACHERS FROM GREECE

I also raised the importance of supporting the teaching of the Greek language at St Andrew's Grammar and discussed the potential for new teachers from Greece to assist in strengthening our Greek language program. I emphasised that we do not wish to impose any financial burden on the Greek Government, but rather ask the Ministry of Education to assist in identifying teachers who may wish to teach in Western Australia. Our school would cover the full salary in accordance with Western Australian requirements.

Our school will also assist in obtaining registration in Western Australia from the Teachers Registration Board.



The Minister was very positive in her response and indicated her willingness to assist. It was agreed that I would write to her with further details for her to consider. I informed the Minister that I will recommend to our Board that we formally extend an invitation for the Minister to visit Western Australia and our Community.

In closing, I remain encouraged by the continued momentum across our Community – through celebration, faith, education and strong governance. We honour our past while building confidently for the future, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events. Please come and say hi to all our Board Members as we hope as many members join us at the Annual General Meeting in April.

## **Paul Afkos OAM**

President on behalf of the Board of Management

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## **Visit from our Benefactor The Stavros Niarchos Foundation**



**We were proud to host Mr Ioannis Raptakis, Senior Advisor of the Board of Directors and Chief Safety & Security Officer The Stavros Niarchos Foundation and wife Georgja, at St. Andrew's Grammar for a special School Assembly on 6 March.**

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation gave a significant donation to the school to build the Bianca Afkos Science and Technology building, which officially opened last year.

Distinguished guests at the Assembly included the Consul of Greece Eleni Georgopoulou, CEO Paul Savvas, members of the Hellenic Community of WA Board and St. Andrew's Grammar Advisory Board, teachers and students.

Our guests were then taken on a tour of the new building by Head of Secondary Mrs Siza Macdonald where our guests could see current science, woodworking and performing arts classes in action.

Mr Raptakis expressed his congratulations for constructing this modern building.





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## Celebrate Greek National Day with Us!



**In the spirit of working well with other Greek Australian Associations, we will be hosting our Greek National Day Dinner celebration on Saturday, 28 March 2026 in conjunction with the Hellenic Club of WA.**

The event will include Lenten foods and will be taking place at 7PM at the Hellenic Community Centre in Northbridge.

The online ticket link is now available. Click the button below to get yours now before we reach capacity!

Please note that there will be no physical tickets sent. You should receive an e-receipt sent to the e-mail address that has been entered.

[Purchase Your Tickets Here](#)

## CGL Examinations: Receive \$200 if You Top the Exam!



**The Hellenic Community of Western Australia is offering all students who register for the Centre for the Greek Language (CGL) Examination before 20 March 2026 a chance to receive \$200 if they top the examination in May!**

Students who come second in their age group will receive \$150 for their effort.

Those who are also successful in passing the examination will receive their exam fees back, courtesy of the Greek Consulate in Perth.

[Apply Now](#)

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## Expression of Interest Open for our inaugural Backgammon (Tavli) tournament!



**The Hellenic Community of WA is proud to host our inaugural Backgammon Tournament and we're officially calling for expressions of interest from interested individuals and backgammon masters alike!**

**Date:** Sunday, 3 May 2026

**Start:** 11:30 AM

**Venue:** Hellenic Community Centre (20 Parker Street, Northbridge WA 6003)

**Entry Fee:** \$25 per person

Whether you're the strategic mastermind who plans five moves ahead or the confident quiet assassin who swears they've "never lost a game," this is your moment.

Expect sharp strategy, friendly rivalry, plenty of laughs.

Interested? Fill in our form to submit your expression of interest and someone from the Hellenic Admin will confirm your attendance closer to the date!

[Submit Your EOI Here](#)

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# Learn Greek at the Centre of Hellenic Studies Western Australia



## LEARN GREEK

Enrolments Now Open

**Enrolments are now open at the Centre of Hellenic Studies WA for all proficiency levels at both our Adult and Saturday School (Kindy to High School students only) classes.**

Our classes are taught by our passionate, experienced teachers from Greece and follow the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, giving each learner the ability to set achievable learning goals and track your progress.

[Find Out More Information](#)

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## Support Our School's GOAANSE Team



**St. Andrew's Grammar is offering corporate sponsorship opportunities for their Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Australia National Schools Event (GOAANSE) team travelling to compete in Sydney this year.**

The support received will go towards the tour cost for families, as well as coaching, equipment and uniform.

With your help, we will continue to build on our strong sporting and cultural prowess and a legacy of success for our school and community.

[Download Information Sheet](#)

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## St. Andrew's Grammar Whole School Blessing



**Our school community gathered in the gym for a beautiful Whole School Blessing to officially mark the start of the year at St. Andrew's Grammar – a meaningful moment of faith and unity for students, staff and families.**

His Grace Bishop Elpidios led the blessing, joined by the Consul of Greece in Perth, Eleni Georgopoulou, and Frank Paolino MLA, along with Board Members and distinguished guests. The morning included prayers, holy water and the traditional cutting of the vasilopita.

We also commemorated World Greek Language Day, with Consul Georgopoulou reflecting on the global impact of Greek and sharing a

message from Deputy Foreign Minister Ioannis Loverdos. A strong and symbolic start to the year ahead.



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## Lunar New Year Celebration at the Hellenic Community Aged Care



**On 17 February, we welcomed the Year of the Horse at Hellenic Community Aged Care, with our home transformed in vibrant red decorations symbolising prosperity and good fortune.**

Residents from all cultural backgrounds gathered for a festive afternoon tea featuring traditional sweet treats and steamed dumplings, symbols of wealth and happiness. Our East Asian residents received red ang pao (lucky envelopes), and staff thoughtfully delivered afternoon tea and blessings to those who preferred to celebrate quietly in their rooms.

We are proud to honour the rich cultures within our community and ensure everyone feels included. Wishing all a year ahead filled with health, prosperity and joy.



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**Love is in the Air!**



**Our aged care facility kicked off their Valentine's Day celebrations with our wonderful residents through a day of joy, connection, and heartfelt moments in the lead up to the day of love.**

Our guests were serenaded with rock n' roll music from Colin Ross and the Rock n' Roll Express band and were delighted with sweet treats, drinks and a chance for residents and their families to connect!

It was a warm and memorable day for everyone. Have a look at some of the snapshots from the day.



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## Fasolada Day is Coming!



**The Florina Association of Perth in association with the WA Greek Community Groups are pleased to host Fasolada Day on Sunday, 22 March 2026.**

Venue: Great Alexander Club; 49 Homer Street, Inglewood WA 6052

Time: 1:30 PM

Cost: \$20 (includes membership renewal for current members and membership for non-members)

The event will be following Greek National Day Celebration & Wreath Laying at Kings Park Botanical Gardens.

# An Evening with Dimitris Basis and the WA Youth Orchestra



## **Acclaimed Greek vocalist Dimitris Basis joins the WA Youth Orchestra for an unforgettable evening of beloved Greek traditional song**

Renowned for his unmistakable voice and profound emotional depth, Dimitris Basis brings the heart of Greek music to the stage in a special concert celebrating Greece's rich musical heritage. Effortlessly moving between traditional repertoire and contemporary classics, Basis has earned a devoted following across generations.

Joined by the WA Youth Orchestra, the music is reimaged on a grand symphonic scale. This powerful collaboration blends youthful energy with timeless melodies, bringing new colour, depth, and emotion to songs that have long resonated with audiences.

[Buy Tickets](#)

[Download Flyer](#)

