



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

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[The April Edition 2026](#)

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Dear Members,



President's Message

April is an important month for the Hellenic Community as we mark the deeply emotional and spiritual observances of Holy Week.

Both the Holy Friday service and the Holy Saturday-Sunday Resurrection were very well attended, with over 1,200 people gathering at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene on each Friday and Saturday evenings. It was particularly pleasing to see such a strong presence of young and new families across all services.

The Church was, as always, beautifully adorned with flowers, inspiring a strong sense of pride and ownership among our parishioners. The Crucifixion procession was conducted in an orderly manner along Parker and Aberdeen Streets and into the park, before returning to the Church.

The Resurrection service, held on a stage opposite the Church on Parker Street, once again helped ease congestion and created a more comfortable experience for clergy, choir, attendants, and parishioners attending the midnight service.

Encouragingly, this strong presence of young families and youth is being nurtured beyond the major feast days. Father Terry continues to lead regular youth engagement initiatives, including Youth Group gatherings, where young members come together to enjoy BBQ souvla, games, Greek music, and dancing.

In addition, Sunday School and Playgroup continue to run each week, providing a consistent opportunity for our younger generation to remain connected to their Greek Orthodox faith, language, and culture. For those unable to attend St. Andrew's Grammar in Dianella, the Community continues its long-standing tradition of teaching the Greek language through Saturday classes in at our Community Centre and at St. Andrew's Grammar.

I extend my congratulations to Father Terry and the Church Subcommittee for their organisation of Holy Week services, and for their ongoing efforts to strengthen youth participation within our Community. I also sincerely thank those members who, in the spirit of giving, generously donated approximately \$12,000 towards the Church's Easter costs.

Annual General Meeting

On 26 April 2026, the Hellenic Community of Western Australia held its 103rd Annual General Meeting and was well-attended. In my report, I noted the following:

- The Community has recorded a consistent consolidated surplus nearing \$2 million, marking four consecutive years of positive financial performance.
- The Hellenic Community Benevolent Association holds approximately \$6.5 million in long-term interest-bearing deposits.
- The Community has successfully reversed earlier losses in aged care. Since discussions in 2016 for the potential sale of our Aged Care facility, improved planning and operations have delivered stronger financial outcomes each year, with this trend expected to continue in 2026.
- St. Andrew's Grammar continues to perform strongly, operating profitably and delivering consistent surpluses over the past four years through sound planning and management. In Northbridge, over \$650,000 has been invested in repairs and upgrades to the lower hall, with further improvements made to the upper hall.
 - In my report to members at the 2026 AGM, I noted that for several years our primary focus was on the Dianella operations, as this area carried the greatest financial risk.
 - Members will recall that in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the Community's financial position at Dianella reflected significant losses. It was therefore both necessary and appropriate that increased attention and resources were directed there.

- Since 2021, we have worked to address and correct these losses. I am pleased to report that from 2021 through to 2025, this trend has been successfully reversed, with Dianella delivering strong surpluses each year.
- In addition, we implemented a structure whereby St. Andrew's Grammar and Hellenic Community Aged Care contribute rental payments to Parker Street, totalling approximately \$400,000 annually. This income, generated by the Dianella entities, has played an important role in supporting the ongoing upgrades to the Parker Street facilities.
- Support continues to be provided to Father Terry in addressing the rising operating costs of the Church. Like many parishes, expenses are increasing, while tray donations and sacramental fees are not keeping pace.
 - The financial losses being experienced across Greek Orthodox churches in our city are not sustainable and because we care for all our parishioners' wellbeing, it may require for each parish, in- depth discussions to implement appropriate corrective measures.
 - Our own Saints Constantine and Helene Church recorded a deficit of \$33,000 in 2025.
 - We will become proactive with Father Terry to discuss initiatives aimed at increasing both the parishioners attending church services, support and revenue. I am confident that, with the continued support of our members and parishioners, we will address these challenges with positive outcomes.

Dianella Investments

- The Community's investment in Dianella will continue to strengthen and financially support our church and Northbridge. As Dianella grows, so too will its capacity to support our Northbridge operations.

Northbridge Projects

- With the financial support generated from Dianella, planning is underway for a major development project on Parker Street, aimed at strengthening long-term income streams for both the Church and the wider Community. This project is subject to significant government funding, which we are currently seeking.
- If successful, it would represent the largest redevelopment ever undertaken by the Community. The proposal includes an extension of St. Andrew's Grammar as a city campus, incorporating a secondary school for up to 700 students, with an International Baccalaureate program. It includes a range of community facilities, such as a hall, lecture theatre, offices, a Byzantine Hellenic Museum, and 84 parking bays. The project will have ownership in full by the Hellenic Community of Western Australia Inc.

- This project will require continued advocacy, detailed grant applications, and ongoing engagement with members. The Board is particularly appreciative of the valuable assistance and strong support provided by Stan Palasis in the preparation of funding applications and concept designs for presentation.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to the Church Subcommittee, chanters, and choir for their contribution throughout our Lenten period and Easter celebrations attended by thousands of parishoners. I also acknowledge the Advisory Boards of St. Andrew's Grammar and Hellenic Community Aged Care, the Trustees, staff across all Community entities, and my fellow Board Members for their ongoing support and dedication. The strong support shown at the AGM, with all motions approved, reflects the confidence of our members in the direction and management of the Community.

Paul Afkos OAM

President on behalf of the Board of Management

Sunday of Thomas Souvla Day



Our community came together on Sunday for a wonderful afternoon of connection and celebration, marking the Sunday of Thomas following Pascha.

Under clear skies, families and friends of all ages enjoyed a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere filled with food, music and laughter.

We were honoured to be joined by Deputy Mayor of the City of Stirling, Karlo Perkov and St. Andrew's Grammar Acting Principal Siza Macdonald. whose presence added to the significance of the occasion.

Guests were treated to delicious souvla, blessed by Fr Kosma and Fr Evangelos, while live music from Chris Athanasiou kept the spirit of Greek dancing alive throughout the day. Younger attendees were equally entertained, with Vince Haines from Pop Magic delighting crowds with his magic and humour.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many dedicated volunteers whose time and effort made the event possible. Their contribution ensured a memorable day for all.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped bring our community together.



Enrolments Now Open at the Centre of Hellenic Studies Western Australia



Enrolments are now open at the Centre of Hellenic Studies WA for all proficiency levels in our Adult 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.

Classes will start the week of the 17th May. Enrol now to avoid disappointment!

[Class Schedule](#)

[Enrol Now](#)



A Message of Hope for Orthodox Easter



The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
Minister for Small Business
Minister for International Development
Minister for Multicultural Affairs

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Orthodox Easter

As Orthodox communities across Australia gather with family and loved ones to mark this sacred occasion, I send my warmest wishes for a blessed and peaceful Easter.

Orthodox Easter is a time of reflection, faith and renewal. It is a celebration of hope after hardship, light after darkness, and the comfort and strength that comes from family, culture, and community.

Throughout Holy Week, traditions such as the procession of the Holy Shroud, the sharing of the Holy Light and the cracking of red eggs are important expressions of ensuring faith, and connection to heritage.

In a world of uncertainty, the message of Easter is especially meaningful. It reminds us to care for one another, to stand together in compassion and understanding, and to hold on to hope.

May this Easter bring peace to your homes, strength to your hearts, and joy to your celebrations.

Happy Orthodox Easter!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anne Aly'.

The Hon Dr Anne Aly MP
April 2026

We were pleased to see the thoughtful message shared by the Hon Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, recognising Orthodox Easter and its enduring message of hope, renewal and love.

As our community marked this important occasion, it was encouraging to see its significance acknowledged at a national level, reflecting the rich cultural and spiritual traditions that continue to shape and strengthen multicultural Australia.

Holy Week at Saints Constantine and Helene Church



Orthodox Easter was celebrated with reverence and solemnity on Holy Saturday at the Church of Saints Constantine and Helene in Northbridge, with the community gathering for the Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy.

The service was presided over by His Grace Bishop Elpidios of Perth, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia. We were joined by HCWA President Paul Afkos OAM, Board Members and the WA Leader of the Opposition Basil Zempilas and his family.

The Paschal Encyclical was read, and at midnight the Holy Light was shared among the faithful inside and outside the Church. The proclamation of the Resurrection Gospel was followed by the ringing of bells and the joyful chant of "Christ is Risen," marking the culmination of Holy Week. His Grace conveyed the blessings of Archbishop Makarios and invited the Consul of Greece in Perth to extend Easter greetings.

Sincere thanks are extended to the parish volunteers, cantors and choir for their dedication throughout Holy Week. The evening concluded with the Resurrection Divine Liturgy and the sharing of traditional red Easter eggs, as the faithful celebrated the joy of the Resurrection.



Think You Know Trivia? Prove it at UWA's GSU My Big Fat Greek Quiz Night!



The Hellenic Community of Western Australia is pleased to support the Greek Students Association (GSU) of UWA for their upcoming *My Big Fat Greek Quiz Night*, an evening of food, trivia and entertainment at the Hellenic Community Centre in Northbridge.

Guests can look forward to a lively night featuring Greek food, music, games and trivia, with over \$1,000 in prizes to be won throughout the evening.

Each ticket includes a complimentary welcome drink (alcoholic or non-alcoholic option available), along with a selection of delicious Greek food served during the night.

While the evening carries a Greek theme, the trivia is designed to be inclusive and accessible, combining Greek and general knowledge questions so that everyone can participate.

This event promises a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere, and guests are encouraged to form teams and enjoy an evening with friends.

Date: Friday, 15 May

Time: 7:00pm – late

Venue: Hellenic Community Centre, Northbridge

Tickets: From \$22

Tickets are available now. First release has been sold out – get yours today before the price goes up!

This is an 18+ event. Valid identification is required. Please drink responsibly.

[More Information and Ticket Link](#)

St. Andrew's Grammar student selected for WA State Football Team



On behalf of the community, we extend our congratulations to St. Andrew's Grammar student Angelina Kalantzis on her selection in the WA Under 15s State Team – a fantastic achievement for the rising football talent and a proud moment for her school and community.

She will now represent Western Australia at the 2026 CommBank Emerging Matildas Championships in Melbourne, with the U15 and U16 State Girls Teams competing from 9–15 April at the Home of the Matildas at La Trobe University.

[Read More](#)





Celebrating Student Achievement and Leadership at St. Andrew's Grammar



The Academic Assembly held on 21 April was a celebration of student achievement, highlighting the effort, growth and dedication of our learners both in and beyond the classroom.

We recognised a range of individual accomplishments, with a strong focus on excellence in attitude, effort, and consistency. Several students were also

inducted onto the Honour Roll in recognition of their sustained academic commitment and strong work ethic.

The assembly also celebrated students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, acknowledging their resilience, perseverance, and willingness to embrace new challenges.

A key highlight was the announcement of our GOAANSE teams and the introduction of this year's Captains. We look forward to seeing them lead with pride, energy and school spirit at the upcoming event, and wish them every success.

Congratulations to all students recognised! Your hard work and achievements are valued and celebrated by the entire community.



A Night to Remember: Year 12 School Ball



On Thursday 2 April, our Year 12 students enjoyed an unforgettable School Ball at Joondalup Resort — a spectacular evening filled with glitz, glamour, and celebration.

From the moment they arrived, students looked incredible, dressed to impress and ready to mark this important milestone in style.

The night was full of laughter, dancing, and countless photo-worthy moments as friends came together to celebrate their shared journey. The atmosphere was electric, the outfits were stunning, and the smiles said it all.

It was a memorable opportunity for our Year 12 cohort to reflect, celebrate, and create lasting memories as they approach the end of their schooling journey, surrounded by friends and peers.





Preparing for Holy Pascha at Hellenic Community Aged Care



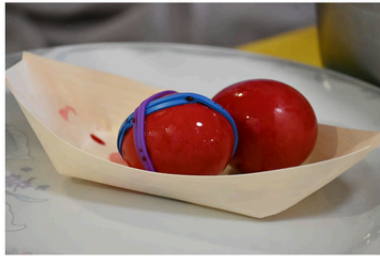
In the lead-up to Holy Pascha weekend, our residents gathered for a special Cooking Group session to prepare dyed red eggs – one of the most cherished traditions of the Easter season.

As they carefully coloured the eggs, residents shared fond memories of Easter celebrations with their families, laughing about traditional egg-cracking competitions with children and grandchildren, and reflecting on the joy of being surrounded by loved ones.

In the Orthodox tradition, red eggs carry deep symbolism. The red represents the blood of Christ, while the egg signifies new life. The cracking of the egg at Pascha serves as a powerful reminder of the Resurrection.

For our residents, this activity was more than just preparation – it was a meaningful moment of connection to faith, culture, and memory. It was truly

heartwarming to see these traditions honoured and shared with such care.



BBQ in the Courtyard



On 16 April, residents and their families came together in the gardens for a relaxed afternoon BBQ, enjoying a classic sausage sizzle and taking in the beautiful weather.

What began as a casual get-together quickly turned into a lively afternoon of connection, conversation, and plenty of smiles.

With a touch of Greek music setting the tone, the atmosphere soon lifted – and before long, an impromptu dance floor emerged, with residents joining

in for a spontaneous dance.

A simple but memorable afternoon shared in great company and great spirit.



Last Call: 2026 Cultural Immersion & Greek Language Programs

Discover Greece

The Consulate of Greece in Perth is pleased to share a range of 2026 travel programs to Greece, catering to different age groups and interests offering a unique opportunity for all Greeks in Perth a chance to connect with Greece through cultural experiences.

All programs include accomodation, meals (lunch and dinner) and organised sightseeing.	International airfares are not included in program pricing.
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The Perth Consulate of Greece has announced a range of Cultural Immersion and Greek Language Programs for 2026, offered as part of the Greek Diaspora Strategic Plan 2024–2027.

These programs provide a unique opportunity for members of the Greek diaspora to connect with their heritage through language, culture, and shared experiences across Greece.

All programs include accommodation, meals, domestic transportation within Greece, and guided tours. Participants are responsible for their own international airfare.

Expressions of interest close **today**. Apply by tonight to avoid disappointment!

[See Flyer for Full List of Programs](#)

[Apply for Program](#)

Get Your Tickets to Floreat Athena's 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner!



Celebrate 75 years of Floreat Athena at a special gala evening marking this major milestone, alongside the 40th anniversary of the Litis Clubrooms.

THE DETAILS

Date: Saturday, 6 June 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: Litis Clubrooms

Hosted by Gary Adshead, the evening will feature special guests, reflections from past and present members, and the official launch of the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Book by Dr John Yiannakis OAM. Guests will enjoy a three-course dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks included.

Tickets:

\$160 (with book) | \$120 (without) | \$70 (under 15)

Be part of this memorable celebration of Floreat Athena's history and community.

[More Information and Ticket Link](#)

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.**

