



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 May Edition 2026

Dear Members,



President's Message

May has been a positive and encouraging month for the Hellenic Community of WA, marked by strong member support, renewed momentum, and a shared commitment to preserving and strengthening our community for future generations.

The April Annual General Meeting finished very well, with members keen to see and hear from the Board on the good work and progress within our community.

The annual reports and financials were very well documented and presented with much detail for the members to become well informed.

Members have shown their confidence in the Board of Management with all motions, including the final draft presented to the members of the Constitution, being overwhelmingly passed.

Having discussed and approved the Constitution, we can now focus more on progressive growth, new and innovative ideas to improve the community's standing and financial strength of our community entities.

The future of our community is buoyed and the envy of several other groups, a very good start for all future elected Boards of Management (BM). The BM can work with confidence on the challenges which confront us, in particular new projects and new programs.

Life Membership at the AGM

Congratulations to Dimitrios (Jim) Tsokos and Michael Christie, who have each served the community for more than 20 years, on the honour bestowed on them by the members at the AGM in awarding both with life membership to the Hellenic Community of Western Australia.



Dimitrios Tsokos has a long association with the Hellenic Community as an employee and in later years a committee and board member. Dimitrios was the first manager at Hellenic



Michael Christie is familiar to all parishioners at Saints Constantine and Helene for his reliable presence at the panagiri. He is known for faithfully attending Sunday

Community Aged Care when operations commenced in 1993 and first manager of Hellenic Admin when formed in 2008. He has since served on School, Hellenic Aged Care, and Community Boards.

services, Wednesday evening English Divine Liturgies, and offering his assistance at midweek services, funerals, and other major feast days. At Easter he helps lead, the organisation and smooth operation of the Church during the busy Easter period and guides the younger volunteers in their service at the Pangari.

Questions raised by members

From the AGM and the April newsletter members raised some questions with me regarding three matters of which can easily be explained.

- 1. The annual financial trading loss by our church**
- 2. The 2025 financial loss by the Saturday Morning Community's Greek language schools**
- 3. A question asked as to the present ownership of all the entities**

Q1. For the past 12 years, our church has faced increased operating costs and a reduction in tray collections, whilst the church's reserved funds stand at \$217,000.00. This amount is from many years of committees putting aside 8%, each year of the communities income to accumulate our church's present chest of funds.

It is the day-to-day operating cost which have increased that we must address. I am certain members will assist with our church alone, but is a clear pattern with other churches in Western Australia. The BM and Fr Terry have started addressing this problem.

We continue to meet and discuss with Fr Terry new ideas and ecclesiastical programs that will bring new and additional parishioners to increase our members and congregation. Whilst we continue to meet all these challenges, we ask members to be patient with us as we implement changes to cope with the challenges ahead. **We're optimistic we will achieve a good outcome.**

Other new initiatives for our Church and our Community

We have written to several Greek Orthodox associations in which HCWA members may also be members of their local regional associations, who we see sadly as having reduced support in their associations, and invite them to renew their regions of Greece and their most sacred and historic celebrations. The Community and our Church can assist and bring those same celebrations to us all in Perth to celebrate with them together.

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We say to all, let us help in maintaining your region's religious and historic celebrations, so they do not become forgotten. Our church and community can assist with all these. I can confirm the associations' responses to our invitations have been positive thus far, and will implement all this in time. Thank you to Fr Terry for his assistance with these matters.

19. CONTROLLED ENTITIES

Subsidiaries of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia are given below which are all managed by the 12 elected Board Members.

Controlled Entity	Country of Incorporation	Percentage Owned	
		2024	2023
Hellenic Community Benevolent Association Inc.	Australia	100%	100%
St Andrew's Grammar Inc.	Australia	100%	100%
Centre for Hellenic Studies WA (1)	Australia	100%	100%
Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helene (2)	Australia	100%	100%
St Andrew's Grammar Foundation (3)	Australia	100%	100%
George & Chrissanthi Palassis Youth Trust (4)	Australia	100%	100%

Note:

(1) Centre of Hellenic Studies operates the Saturday and afterhours Greek language & culture classes.

(2) Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Constantine and Helene is owned and operated by Hellenic Community of Western Australia Inc.

(3) St Andrew's Grammar Foundation is a gift deductible recipient for donations to the St. Andrew's Grammar building projects.

(4) George & Chrisanthi Plassis Youth Trust is a trust where the funds bequeathed to the Hellenic Community for the benefit of persons of Greek orthodox heritage under 25 years of age to advance cultural, educational, religious and sporting pursuits and activities.

(5) The Hellenic Community Benevolent Association Inc. is the Community's age care facility, providing care for our elderly.

Membership Drive

The Board of Management has planned a marketing programme to increase opportunities, targeting all Greek Western Australians who qualify to become members of the HCWA. They will be encouraged to join, and for us all to welcome new members.

At present, 1,680 members are registered within HCWA, with only 880 of those being currently financial. Membership is only \$25.00 per person, inclusive of GST each year. We also have youth membership and would like to increase this category of members in which Fr Terry is presently working with.

It is certainly great value, with our religious programs Fr Terry organizes. The Community provides Greek language learning, Greek dancing, full-time education at Saint Andrews, aged care services, cultural events and much more. Join now and become part of our and your community.

Our meeting with Deputy Premier Rita Safioti

To continue with our March meeting with the Minister, I am pleased to report that the application for the State's support for financial assistance for our Northbridge project has taken a very good step and will be tabled at a Government Cabinet meeting on 8 June. We're optimistic we will have a favorable decision and that we can announce positive news following the Ministers decision. We also thank the Member for the seat of Mount Lawley Mr. Frank Paolino MLA for his ongoing support with this project.

Next Major Dianella redevelopment

Since 2018, previous Board Members had promoted the development of the aged care and the combined new administration building. The present Board continued with this view and has taken the project into the stages of seeking tenders, only to realize the total cost will now be \$12.50 million. This increased amount is more than we expected and have review our position in going forward.

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The Hellenic Community Benevolent Association does not have on hand the total funds, it has around 7.8 million and we're reluctant to borrow funds for this project at all. We have decided to defer parts of this project and focus only on refurbishing areas where the refurbished and new work will contribute to increasing income and the resident experience for the HCBA. This work can be accommodated well within the present reserved funds of the HCBA.

The two-story administration building for the combined aged care and the school, will be deferred and to review the design possibly for three to four years to allow the aged care to generate increased funds for this additional project and avoid the need to borrow funds.

The comforting prospect of the HCBA is that, with the new operating process and the good work by the aged care Board, together with the proposed refurbishments and two new rooms will continue to generate surpluses to assist with investing funds to obtain good returns and maintain our good star rating, providing good health care to our residents and improved staff facilities.

Our church's name day Saints Constantine and Helene – 21 May 2026

A wonderful church service was held on 21 May 2026, presided over by His Grace Bishop Elpidios.

Parading the Icons of our Church's Patron Saints of Saints Constantine and Helene. The service was well attended considering the 21st of May was a working day. The celebrations continued with a luncheon organised on Sunday 24 May with 280 persons attending and enjoying the feast day with good food, music, and youth dancing.

Our congratulations and thanks to Father Terry the Hellenic Community Board and staff, and all the dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to organise such a warm and memorable event. We feel blessed to be part of such a strong and connected community and look forward to many more celebrations together!

St. Andrew's Grammar

The school is progressing very well under the team leadership of Acting Principal, Siza Macdonald, and Head of Primary, Julie Wall. The financial position continues with consolidation after a \$9.5 million building program from 2024 to 2026. Members will be aware we have a grant from the State Government to refurbish the tired Kerry Harmanis building, which will also include additional classrooms and toilets for the secondary school. This work will start in 2027.

Our student numbers fluctuate on average at 930. Very recently, the school had a Perth Glory Camp, in which an additional 84 new students requested places and scholarships. This increased number was difficult to accommodate in full. Regrettably some students were required to take places on our waiting lists. The school continues to have waiting on registration list growing, should young families wish to register their children, please attend to this sooner than later.

Master Plan

To capture the thinking of future school planners the BM have agreed the student numbers be capped and that we develop a master on how best utilize the land to maximize values. We have almost completed with the schools overall Master Plan showing all present and future buildings and every detail on how to best be utilising every square meter of land to maintain the maximum values. The master plan with buildings and facilities will be capped the student numbers at 980 primary and secondary students. The pre-kindy and kindy are additional. We presently have the operating template to provide the school prosperity and become a school of choice for academic excellence.

The school has its own newsletter produced every month. Should HCWA members wish to electronically receive the school's newsletters, please email your request to CEO Paul Savvas's assistant, Clare Zekas, and Clare will include your request in the school's mailing list.

Paul Afkos OAM

President on behalf of the Board of Management

Paul Afkos OAM Awarded Life Membership of Football West



Paul Afkos OAM, President of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, has been awarded Life Membership of Football West following a resolution passed at the organisation's Annual General Meeting on 20 May 2026.

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Life Membership represents one of Football West's highest honours and is conferred on individuals whose service to the game has been significant, sustained, and impactful across multiple areas of football in Western Australia.

The award recognises contributions that extend beyond a single club and reflect long-term commitment to the development and administration of the sport.

Whilst Mr Afkos is very humble in receiving such a prestigious award, he acknowledges the great honour in being recognised for the award and pays tribute to his whole family who have supported him while he devoted many years to their shared love of football.

Mr Afkos has played an important role in the evolution of football in the state, notably as co-owner of Perth Glory Football Club at the time of its establishment in 1995. The formation of Perth Glory marked a major milestone for Western Australian football, providing a professional platform for local players and significantly raising the sport's profile. The club went on to achieve considerable success in the National Soccer League, including three Premierships and two Championships in the early 2000s.

In formally advising of the appointment, Football West Chairman Sherif Andrawes acknowledged Mr Afkos' "outstanding contribution to the game" and thanked him for his "exceptional service to football in Western Australia."

Mr Afkos commenced his contribution to WA Football in 1972 and continues to support the progress of football in Australia. He is a former Board Member of the Australian National Soccer league (NSL), President and Life Member of Kingsway Olympic soccer club Inc, Board Member of the State Soccer Federation of WA Inc and Board Member of the Junior Soccer Association of WA Inc.

As a Life Member, Mr Afkos will receive invitations to Football West Annual General Meetings and events. His appointment recognises the longstanding contribution to football in Western Australia by Mr Afkos and formally acknowledges his role in the development of the game at both club and broader community levels.

[> Click to read the Letter of Congratulations by Football West Chairman, Sherif Andrawes](#)

Feast Day Luncheon 2026: A Celebration of Faith and Community



The Hellenic Community of Western Australia's Church of Saints Constantine and Helene commemorated its patron Saints' Name Day in true Hellenic spirit, with plenty of great music, good food and a sincere celebration of our Orthodox faith.

On 21 May 2026, a Divine Liturgy was held, presided over by His Grace Bishop Elpidios together with Fr Terry. The well-attended service included the traditional procession of the icon of Saints Constantine and Helene after whom the church is named.

Celebrations continued with a Feast Day Luncheon on Sunday, 24 May 2026, held at the Hellenic Community Centre, Northbridge. The event attracted approximately 280 attendees, who enjoyed a well organised program featuring traditional Greek cuisine, music, and dance performances.



In attendance at the Feast Day Lunch of Saints Constantine and Helene (L:R) President of the Hellenic Community of Western Australia, Paul Afkos OAM; Consul of Greece in Perth, Ms Eleni Georgopoulou; Church of Saints Constantine and Helene Priest, Father Terry Gerovasilis; and Acting Principal for St. Andrew's Grammar, Mrs Siza Macdonald.



A highlight of the afternoon was the participation of St. Andrew's Grammar, whose students delivered a series of Greek dance performances.

St. Andrew's Grammar Acting Principal Mrs Siza Macdonald remarked. "What a fantastic celebration, the Hellenic Community's Church can be really proud of this event – a coming together of the Greek community, from across Perth and beyond, to celebrate the Feast Day of patron saints, Saints Constantine and Helene. There was such a strong sense of community, a great atmosphere, and truly delicious food – well done to the chefs!"

Young dancer Evie Zekas (11 years old) who also attended the celebration said. "The best thing about the Feast Day was getting to do Greek dancing. I enjoyed that because it was fun, traditional and made me feel proud of my heritage."

The Community's Church would like to extend its sincere thanks to the BM, Staff, Church subcommittee, and the many community volunteers who contributed to the success of these celebrations, as well as to all the attendees and supporters who came together to honour the Feast Day of our Patron Saints.



[Our thanks to Robi Gerovasilis for permission to use these beautiful photos!](#)

A Miracle in our Midst: "5% was Enough"



Yes, Ioannis has walked! Click the button to watch his miracle journey on Instagram!

Watch Ioannis' Instagram Video

We'll all remember this January as we ***prayed together and contributed together*** towards the care and recovery of Ioannis Vidiniotis, a young man who met with a life-altering accident while swimming at Cottesloe Beach. Ioannis had been visiting relatives in our Perth, the Kazantzidis family, for the summer holidays when the accident occurred.

Rushed to Royal Perth hospital Ioannis underwent an emergency five-hour surgery and was then treated by the hospital's expert medical team over a series of weeks. At the time Ioannis had no movement in his legs and was unable to close his hands. Due to his spinal injuries, the doctors' prognosis was **a less than 5% chance of ever walking again.**

However, "5% was enough" says Ioannis, who recently posted a video with video highlights of his miraculous journey from the intensive care hospital bed, to experiencing some feeling, to being able to move a part of a foot, to walking with aids, to a video posted this week of Ioannis **taking his first few steps without assistance!!!!**

The story of Ioannis touched many hearts both across Australia, Greece and beyond. Friends, family, Community members, and even complete strangers, all giving to a GoFundMe page created for Ioannis's care and recovery, raising **\$300,000 within 12 days!** In addition to practical support, our Community came together in prayer, asking God for a miracle for Ioannis, a prayer to beat the odds – **a prayer that has now been answered.**

The Hellenic Community Board of Western Australia would once again like to acknowledge the outpouring of love by our Community for Ioannis and his family during what can easily be described as the worst time of their lives. **#againstalldds**



Γλώσσα & Legacy: 2026 Greek Exams Come to a Triumphant Close

We are thrilled to share that the Greek Language Certification Exams (Πιστοποίηση Ελληνομάθειας) took place successfully from the 19th to the 21st of May 2026! All candidates attended and gave their absolute best, and the exams were carried out with great success.

It was truly wonderful to see so many dedicated candidates willing to push themselves to achieve their goals and maintain their connection to their Greek heritage and language. Their commitment and enthusiasm was an inspiration to us all.

None of this would have been possible without the invaluable contribution of Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, whose support and assistance was instrumental in making the exams run smoothly. We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our colleague Virginia Baltatzi, who was a wonderful help on the first day of the examinations.

To all our candidates, we are so proud of each and every one of you. Your dedication to the Greek language and your roots is something truly special. Well done and congratulations to all! We wish everyone καλά αποτελέσματα and hope you all receive the results you deserve!

By Chrysoula Kapsali, Coordinator of the Greek Language Certification programme (WA)

Looking to brush up on your Greek Dancing?



Join the fun! If you're feeling like your Greek dancing is in need of a brush-up, or just looking for a fun night of dancing, there's still time to sign up for our friendly classes!

The details:

- **Classes are FREE!**
- Weekly sessions – every Wednesday at 6pm at St. Andrew's Grammar, 2 Hellenic Dr, Dianella (enter carpark off Boddington Court)
- **Get in touch if you are interested in a weekly Monday class at Northbridge – free parking after 6pm!**
- Fun, friendly and stress-free approach to learning
- No experience needed—just comfortable shoes and a willingness to get moving!

Call Mariza on 0422 216 076 to register!



Shake Off the Chill at the Winter Glendi

Good food, great music and plenty of dancing; come share a cosy winter afternoon with friends, family and your WA community.

Join the Greek Senior Citizens of WA for a fun Winter Glendi on Sunday 5 July at the Alexander the Great Club in Inglewood. Starting at 12pm, it's the perfect way to spend a winter afternoon with good food, great music and plenty of dancing with our community.

Tickets are just \$25 (EFTPOS available) – join us for lunch, tea, coffee and sweets. Bookings are essential, so make sure to contact **Savvas 0404 471 174** or **Eleni 0419 904 802** to save your spot – we'd love to see you there! > [Click here to download the flyer and spread the word!](#)

Honouring the Past: A Tribute to Greek Courage and Sacrifice

St. Andrew's Grammar gathered as a school community on 22 May to honour the Battle of Crete and commemorate the Pontian Genocide in a sombre, reflective ceremony. While earlier in the month, representative staff and students participated in the Doxology at Evangelismos Church and a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Battle of Crete Memorial in Kings Park.

Across the commemorative events, students and staff acknowledged the profound travesty of the Pontian Genocide and paid tribute to the extraordinary bravery of the Greek people and their vital support for Australian and New Zealand troops. The words of Geoffrey Edwards, "*The price of freedom is never free...*", cited by Ms Eleni Georgopoulou, the Consul of Greece in Perth, served as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices behind our modern freedoms.

Speeches by the Consul of Greece in Perth Ms Eleni Georgopoulou; School Advisory Board Chair Mrs Eleni Evangel and Acting Principal Mrs Siza Macdonald along with poignant poems and songs performed by students inspired deep reflection of their sacrifice by the audience.



The awareness of our new generations of St. Andrew's students of the legacy left by our fallen heroes was also clearly evident on ANZAC Day, when representatives from our Community Board and school joined the Greek-Australian RSL for the commemorative service.



Ssshhh! Snap up a Limited Spot to beat the Waitlist!



St. Andrew's Grammar waitlists continue to fill-up for future years, however parents who act quickly, enrolling their children for this year or early 2027, NOW have the opportunity to jump the queue!

That's right, for student enrolments **for this year (2026)**, or for a **Term 1 start in 2027** there are a few spaces available in:

-
- PrePrimary spaces
- Year 1 - limited spaces left!
- **Year 2 - only a few spaces left!**
- Year 4 - limited spaces left!
- Year 6 - limited spaces left!
-
- Year 7 spaces
- Year 8 - limited spaces left!
- Year 10 spaces
- Year 11 spaces
- Year 12 spaces

Please note! These spaces are only in relation to 2026 and 2027.

Click the button below to register your interest through the St. Andrew's website.

Apply for a spot!

What's Cookin'? Cooking Stories Launches



Did you our Community has its own Youtube Channel?

Yes that's right, and what better way to launch our own stories on video than with the segment - *Cooking Stories*.

Check out our very own cooking segment - *Cooking Stories*, featuring the wonderful ladies from the Castellorizian Ladies Association of WA!

In this episode, meet incredible women sharing their much-loved traditional recipes and techniques, prepared the way it's been passed down through generations — with care, experience, and a generous sprinkle of “just enough until it feels right.”

More than just cooking, this is about preserving culture, sharing stories, and celebrating the warmth and spirit of our community. **Fair warning: you will get hungry watching this!**

Watch the Video

Football Fever: from Glory to Glory



Football fever is on a marked rise in Dianella, with student triumphs and registration numbers growing.

This years' St. Andrew's Perth Glory School Academy try-outs saw record numbers (91) register to attend the Open Day trial on the 18th of May – *the word is out!* Yet, what was more impressive than the quantity of online registrations, was the **exceptional quality** of those who turned up on the day.



A cohort of coaches attending from both our St. Andrew's Perth Glory School Academy and the Perth Glory Football Association commented throughout the Open Day on the exceptional calibre of talent trying out for St. Andrew's Perth Glory School Academy – the only school academy in a special partnership with Perth Glory. All echoing a common theme – **this is the best year yet!**



State and Country Call for St. Andrew Rising Stars

Meanwhile, our young St. Andrew's Grammar footballers are making waves on a state and international level, showcasing the benefits of years of dedication and skill development. [Read more](#) on our rising football stars below!



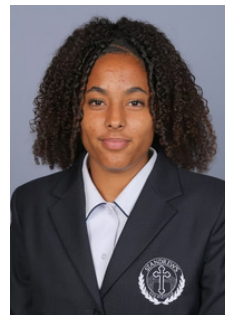
Angelina Kalantzis was selected for the **WA Under 15s State Team**, representing Western Australia at the 2026 CommBank Emerging Matildas Championships in Melbourne in April.



Tatem Spencer was recently selected for the state's **School Sport WA Football (Soccer) 18s Girls Team** and was also selected for the Australian Women's Futsal team.



Will Taylor represented **WA Futsal** in Sydney in January where he was then selected for the **national Futsal team** in Brazil this November!



Xuri Dalton was recently selected for the state's **School Sport WA Football (Soccer) 18s Girls Team**, playing in the Championships in Melbourne this July.

Interest Blooms in New Gardening Club



Our Aged Care gardens are truly flourishing thanks to our incredible onsite gardeners, Petros and Sharon, whose creativity and care have brought our outdoor spaces to life with beautiful landscaping and vibrant floral displays. And NOW, Sharon has taken things one step further with the launch of a wonderful NEW Gardening Club for our residents!

During the club's first meeting this May, residents got hands-on with the planting of their very own herb seedlings. From gently digging into the soil, to carefully potting their plants and giving them a light watering, the simple joy of gardening was revived.

The session sparked lively discussions about the best pot sizes for thriving coriander and parsley, as well as tips on fertilisers. We were delighted to hear from residents who generously shared their expertise.



Domanico who had been a thriving market gardener shared his expertise on the best growing conditions for tomatoes, with Giovanni a former farmer joining in the conversation on the best fertilisers for a good vege-growing soil. Both provided the group with invaluable insights passed on from years of knowledge and passion.

Beyond the practical tips, the club also blossomed into beautiful conversations about past gardens, favourite plants, and cherished memories of parents and relatives with stunning gardens.

We're so proud of Sharon and the Hellenic Aged Care team for bringing this initiative to life and can't wait to see our Gardening Club, and our residents' herb gardens, as it takes shape and grows.



Have Your Say: ANU Research Survey on Worldviews and Ways of Life in Australia



Researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) are conducting a study exploring worldviews, participation, and inclusion in Australia and are seeking responses from adult Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Members of the Greek community are encouraged to take part to help ensure our community is represented in this important research. The anonymous online survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete, and participants can enter the draw to win a \$100 voucher.

[Survey 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.**

