



Greek NATIONAL DAY

MARCH 25
Advertising Feature



Bringing nations together

Haris D Dafaranos
Ambassador of Greece

WE are honoured to present the current supplement to the readers of the Canberra Times in an effort to bring closer to our Australian friends the Hellenic culture in her multiple facets.

Many thanks to all the Greek-Australian friends from the business community of Canberra who sponsored the supplement again this year.

We are very happy to focus on interesting dimensions, such as the Greek presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, and angles regarding Greek studies in Australia, as well as the contribution of eminent Greek-Australian intellectuals, such as Christos Tsiolkas and George Megalogenis.

Last but not least, it is due to the hospitality and democratic ethos of Australia that the Greeks, among different ethnic groups, have put down roots many years ago, blossomed and evolved as Greek-Australians.



Ambassador:
Haris D
Dafaranos.



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Greece looking forward to a united future

A new year's message from Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Evangelos Venizelos as Greece assumes the Presidency of the Council of the European Union



GREECE assumes the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and it

does so with a keen sense of its responsibility to its EU partners and all European citizens. Because the next six months will be a major turning point, not only for Greece itself, as it emerges from a crisis that has exacted many hard sacrifices from the Greek people, but also for the Union as a whole, as we make our final arguments in the debate on the future of our Union, ahead of the May 2014 European elections.

The Hellenic Presidency's priorities reflect the needs and concerns of all European citizens: growth and jobs, with a focus on alleviating unemployment particularly among the young, and boosting job-creating investments in the real economy; deepening European and Eurozone economic governance, which means working towards implementation of the agreement on the banking union and pursuing the European deposit guarantee scheme; and security of our common borders,



Leaders: Greece assumes the Rotating Presidency of the European Union Council of Ministers for the fifth time.



including policies and initiatives for confronting illegal migration, as well as for promoting growth-oriented mobility within an area of freedom, security and justice.

Recognising the vital role the multifaceted maritime sector must play in Europe's recovery

from the current crisis and its return to long-term sustainable growth and competitiveness within the global economy, our presidency has also adopted a horizontal priority that overlaps all of our other focal points: An integrated maritime policy for the European Union. This

includes pursuing the adoption of an EU Maritime Security Strategy, as well as building the framework for "blue growth" in sectors from fisheries and tourism to transport, maritime spatial planning, and alternative forms of energy.

The Hellenic Presidency's

objectives are ambitious, but feasible, and our partners may rest assured that we will pursue them effectively and with resolve. However there is very real uncertainty as to the new European social and political landscape into which the labours of our presidency are to be absorbed; the landscape that will result from the European elections in May.

The citizens of Europe are experiencing this uncertainty on the levels of diminishing financial and job security, eroding social cohesion and rising Euroscepticism. They are in need of a new narrative that reasserts the values of the European social state, democracy, solidarity, and a European model for competitiveness and sustainable growth.

So the Hellenic Presidency will also be an institutional voice in the crucial political conversation Europe will be carrying out over the next five months. On behalf of the Hellenic Presidency and the Greek people, I wish all European citizens – not just politicians, civil society and interest-group actors – the fortitude and vision to participate actively and productively in our conversation on the future of Europe, which is our common quest.

As our motto says, united we sail further.

A happy and healthy new year to all.

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*wishes all our members of the
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We would like to
congratulate the Greek
Community of Canberra
on the National Day of
Independence of Greece
25 March 2014

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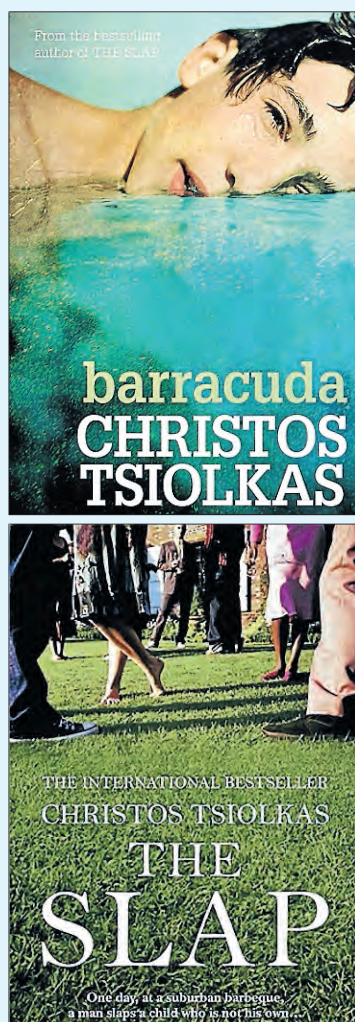


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Voice: Greek-Australian author Christos Tsiolkas.



An Australian humanist

CHRISTOS Tsiolkas is one of the most important writers in modern Australia – an intellectual of distinction who feels strongly for his country and its people and touches with a deep sense of humanism on aspects of contemporary Australian life.

In a country which has not only been blessed with abundant natural resources but which has made the best of multicultural osmosis, it is extremely encouraging that lit-

erary voices such as that of Tsiolkas promote new ways of thinking, promoting tolerance, solidarity towards the weak and the needy, and culture without the excesses of materialism, contributing to the further deepening of the democratic ethos of the country.

It is not only his novels but also the power of his articles, his interviews, the advanced aesthetics of his critiques and the strength of his lectures and essays that release his sensib-

ility for the human. Tsiolkas feels deeply about the evolution of the Australian collective psyche and dares to touch on major issues by exposing misperceptions and freeing his audience from sterile stereotypes.

For Tsiolkas, the hardest failure is moral failure. His emphasis on a less material narrative and on the necessity for a discussion on the future of social democracy in Australia is of particular importance for younger generations.

A visionary for a modern nation

GEORGE Megalogenis is an intellectual whose vision for Australia exudes a strategic optimism and a strong realism.

A deep political thinker, he is vocal in acknowledging the achievements of modern Australia, both in terms of building a democracy as well as a promising economy, and invites his fellow citizens to be confident for the future but also to engage actively both as citizens and leaders in the realisation of the Australian dream.


His emphasis is on the coming 20 years and the opportunities

for Australia resulting from its geostrategic proximity to Asia and its proven resilience against international shocks.

Thinking big as a country and growing a brain economy for the challenges of the near future is George Megalogenis' contribution to the current narrative on contemporary Australia. His intellectual footprint not only intrigues but also provides a most timely platform for reflection on the future of this great country.




Political thinker: Greek-Australian intellectual George Megalogenis.

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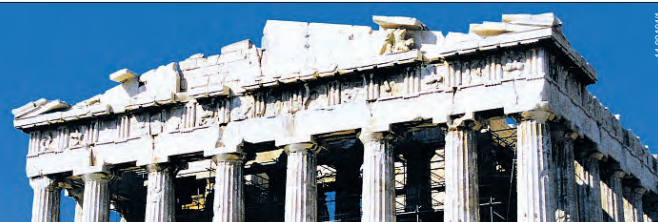
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From the cycle of poems
Humans and Statues,
written by Her Excellency
Eyvah T Dafaranos

Watching humans
at day's dawn
a tear dropped.
This tear
spoke of Love.
The Statue reverberated
and cried out: "If you love me,
don't sell me out
to the so called ones...!
I will perform for you
a zeibekiko dance,
a taksimi song dedicated to the
life you gave me,
Oh Human,
to adore you...!"



Contemporary Greek folk dances steeped in history

HASSAPIKO is traced as a dance in the Byzantine period on the occasion of the annual guild of meat sellers of Constantinople.

The dancers touch each other on the shoulder and with their feet make four steps on the ground and a fifth in the air.

Hassapiko is a group dance which demands precision, coordination and discipline.

Internationally a variation of the Hassapiko dance, is well known in the '60s as Syrtaki dance, through the success of Jil Dassin's film *Never on Sunday* at the Cannes International Film Festival.

Zeibekiko is the second dance which follows and is an improvisational solo dance.

Its name derives from the Zeibeks, Greeks of Thrace who migrated to Asia Minor.

Initially a purely male dance, Zeibekiko is slow and heavy, and includes a martial art capability expression.

Later on, women were permitted to dance as well. The dancer is surrounded by other dancers who crouch on their knees while clapping their hands for him or her.



Expression: Hassapiko and Zeibekiko are both contemporary Greek folk dances.

Χρόνια Πολλά
25 MARCH 1821
PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE GREEK
COMMUNITY ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

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The 200th anniversary of Filiki Etairia

FILIKI Etairia (meaning society of friends) was a secret organisation established in 1814 in Odessa by eminent Greeks of the diaspora to prepare for the struggle of Greek independence in 1821.

The three founders were Nikolaos Skoufas from Arta, Emmanuil Xanthos from Patmos and Athanassios Tsakalof from Ioannina. This team of leaders was called the Invisible Authority and acted in utmost secrecy.

In a pyramid-shape internal structure, the Invisible Authority led from the top. The members had to adhere to the principles of the society and carry orders. There were four levels of initiation: brothers, vlamides, priests and

shepherds. The priests had the task of initiating members.

The traditional oath of initiation was given in the name of truth and justice and before the Supreme Being and entailed secrecy at any cost. At another stage, the oath was given to the sacred and suffering country as an expression of devotion to the task of her liberation.

The society blossomed within the Greeks of Russia and the Danubian Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia and afterwards to all regions of Greece. Among its members numbered many non-Greek philhellenes.



History: The Oath of Initiation into the Society, painting by Dionysios Tsokos (1849).

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Savills wishes the Greek Community of Canberra and District all the best on Greek National Day 2014
Χρόνια πολλά

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