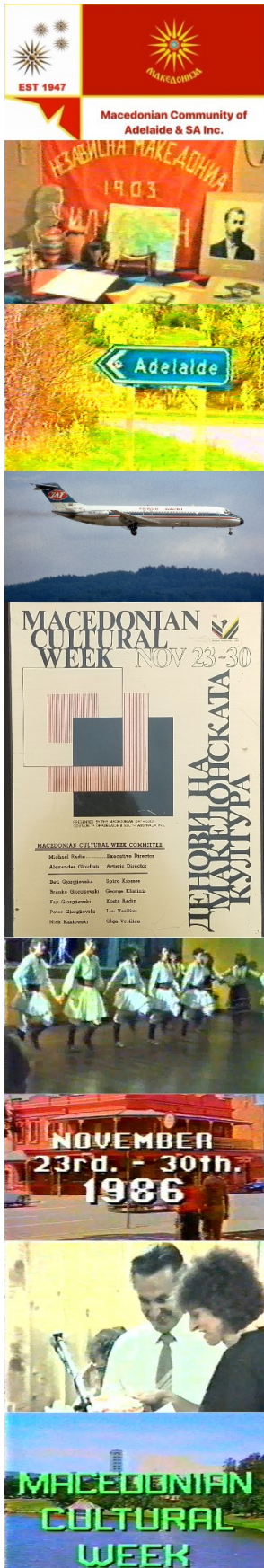


MACEDONIANS CELEBRATE THEIR NEW HOMELAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA !!!!

MACEDONIAN CULTURAL WEEK 1986 – OUR MOST SPECTACULAR MOMENTS EVER !!!!



VISIT OUR MCASA WEBSITE ARCHIVE PAGE TO SEE THE VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS MAGNIFICENT EVENT BY CLICKING ON THE LINK

<https://macedoniancommunitysa.org.au/archive>

OR BY VISITING OUR [MCASA YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#) !!!!

In the year **1986**, South Australia celebrated the **sesquicentenary** of the State's proclamation as a colony of the United Kingdom in 1836, namely, the **150th** year since the arrival of the first European settlers, to join the region's long-settled indigenous inhabitants. Not long after, the city of Adelaide was founded as the capital of South Australia, a city which is today a vibrant and growing municipality of some 1.4 million inhabitants, and which was recently proclaimed in 2021 in a prestigious industry survey as the third most liveable city in the world, and the first in Australia!

The South Australian government, headed by then Labor Premier John Bannon MP, and Attorney-General and Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs, Chris Sumner MLC, resolved to orchestrate a year-long celebration of the sesquicentenary, and appointed well known business entrepreneur Kym Bonython as Chairperson of the Board responsible for that year's activities.

In turn, the "**Jubilee 150**" Board, as it became known, invited South Australian organizations, communities, local councils, businesses, trade unions and individuals to widely participate in a spectacular array of events organized throughout the year to commemorate the achievement. Indeed, South Australians were encouraged to organize their own events, and to register them with the Board as a formal part of the SA sesquicentenary celebration. Strategic advice and assistance was provided by the Board and other SA government agencies, together with some administrative and financial support.

Numerous dignitaries visited Adelaide and South Australia during the year, from interstate and abroad, with perhaps the most recognized being **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** and **Pope John Paul II**.

The Macedonian Community of Adelaide and South Australia Inc., at that time entering its 39th year as an organization, responded to the invitation and organized "**Macedonian Cultural Week**", a daily series of functions and events held between **23 and 30 November 1986**, and registered as a formal part of the SA Jubilee 150 calendar. Macedonians showcased their wonderful history, language and culture, and the contributions to South Australian multiculturalism made over many years in every aspect of community life, right across the full scope of these many and varied activities.

Here are some of the extraordinary and never-to-be repeated features of an event which clearly has been to date the highpoint of Macedonian community life in Adelaide, South Australia :

- The events organized during the week included an **Historical Exhibition of heritage items and cultural artefacts**, including a component relating to the *“Life and Times of Goce Delchev”*, held at the Migrant Resource Centre (for the entire week) ; a **Concert of traditional music, song and dance**, featuring a delegation of artists and performers from the Republic of Macedonia, held at the Woodville Town Hall ; a **Seminar on Macedonian historical themes**, featuring Prof. Dr Blaze Ristevski, a leading Macedonian academic (and later Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia), held at the Macedonian Community Centre at Findon ; a **Macedonian Literary Evening**, featuring prominent Macedonian poets and writers from both across Australia and Macedonia, at the Community Centre ; a traditional **Social function** (or *“Vecerinka”*), held at the Community Centre, again featuring musicians and performers from both Adelaide and Macedonia, as well as the delegation from the *‘Matica na Iselenicite od Makedonija’* (‘Council for Macedonian Emigrants’) ; a traditional **Macedonian Culinary evening**, at the Community Centre ; a **Macedonian Film Night** at the Woodville Town Hall ; a **Gala Ball** to conclude the week, held at the Latvian Centre ; a special **Religious service** in the (new) Macedonian Orthodox Church “St, Naum of Ohrid” at Findon ; and a special **Football (soccer) match**, featuring players from the Macedonia United Soccer Club.
- Around **2,000 persons** attended the various functions and events during *“Cultural Week”*, with the largest attendance being at the Gala Ball, in the Latvian Centre, Wayville, with almost 650 persons present, including in addition to local Macedonian members and families, numerous VIPs, headed by the Federal Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Minister, **Hon. Chris Hurford MP**, (representing Prime Minister Bob Hawke MP), former Immigration Minister in the Whitlam government and the *“Father”* of Australian Multiculturalism, **Hon. Al Grassby**, and the Chairperson of the SA Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, **Michael Schulz AM**
- The Event was professionally organized and supported by numerous SA businesses, both Macedonian and non-Macedonian, and government grants, as well as many, many patrons! A turnover of almost **\$49,000** was achieved (in 1986!), and a healthy profit declared following independent audits!.
- The **‘Macedonian Cultural Week’ Board**, under the direction of **Executive Director Michael Radin**, and **Artistic Director, Alexander Glafchev**, worked tirelessly for a period of 18 months leading up to the event, with increasingly regular meetings and significant voluntary activity and responsibilities, including of course, during the week’s events and functions.

(Board Members : Michael Radin, Alexander Glafchev, Kosta Radin, Lou Vasiliou, Olga Vasiliou, Spiro (Peter) Kiosses, Fay Gjorqjievski (Petre), Peter Gjorqjievski, Branko Gjorqjievski, Beti Gjorqjievska, Nick Kaziowski, Jennie Manevski (Trampeva-Radin), George Klestinis)



- In addition to thousands of **photos** and many hours of **video recordings** (condensed by way of a highlights package into the linked video), commissioned from a professional photographer and videographer, many **souvenirs** of the event were produced, which were snapped up as valuable ‘keepsakes’ by keen attendees, as well as a formal **publication**, featuring relevant information about Macedonia, Macedonians and the Community, and listing the many volunteers and sponsors without whom the enormous success of the events would not have been possible.
- Added to the great work of the MCW Board members, the support provided by the Executive Committee of the Macedonian Community of Adelaide and SA Inc., headed by President Lou Vasiliou, must be noted, as well as the various Sections of the Community, such as the Womens’ Committee, the Macedonian Folkloric Ensemble “Sloboda”, the Macedonian Community Media Program, the Cultural Society “Iskra”, and the Language School “Sts Kiril & Metodi”, amongst others.
- The members of the Cultural Week Board held a **reunion in 1996** to commemorate the event’s 10th anniversary, while a large-scale 20th **anniversary celebration**, attended by over 250 patrons, was held at the Hyatt Regency in Adelaide, in **2006**.
- A smaller scale but equally successful celebration of the Bi-Centenary of Australia’s settlement by Europeans in 1788 was organized by the Macedonian Community in Adelaide in **1988**, at the Community Centre. This was undertaken by the Executive Committee of the Community, the various Sections of the Community (see above), and the local SA Association of former Refugee Children from the Aegean region of Macedonia (“Deca Begalci”), for whom 1988 was a significant year, marking 40 years since the tragic dispersal. The Macedonian Cultural Centre was also established during that year, situated behind the newly-built Macedonian Orthodox Church “St.Naum” and adjacent to the Macedonian Community Hall.

PLEASE ENJOY THE VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS !!!!

A. Michael Radin

Executive Director, “Macedonian Cultural Week”

President, Macedonian Community Media Program

June 2022

