



## *Macedonian Community of Adelaide and S.A. Inc.*

### MACEDONIAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

10 November 2022 (No.9)

Welcome to the latest edition of our Community Newsletter, as we fast approach the end of year festive season. Yet another year flies by! For the members of the Macedonian Community, the year has recently accelerated in pace, with significant events held, and some others shortly to follow! Please read on, and thank you for your interest and support of our Community!

#### **Macedonians in Adelaide & SA celebrate the Community's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in gala style!**

On Saturday evening, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022, a good crowd of patrons attended at the Macedonian Community Centre at Findon to celebrate, in fine style, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Macedonian Community organization here in Adelaide. In 1947, the world was a



vastly different place, recovering from the acute tragedy of a world war which had visited ruination on many countries, peoples and economies. As Australia subsequently opened its borders to many non-British Europeans, including Macedonians, in order to deliver much needed labour to the growing Australian economy, our hard-working pioneers, almost exclusively in those days from a small collection of villages in the north-western region of Aegean Macedonia, banded together in the western suburbs of Adelaide to build homes, start families, and to found a community organization, then known as the "*Macedonian Society 'Alexander the Great'*". Incorporated in 1958 as the "*Macedonian Community of South Australia*", our Community organization has witnessed many generations, numerous high points and some low ones, as it endured evolutionary growth characterized by rapid changes in socio-economic and political circumstances, relative to other comparable groups in the broader community, and relative to the global family of nations.



There was therefore much to celebrate on 29<sup>th</sup> October, when we gathered for a fully-catered event in the Macedonian Hall to enjoy good company, food and drink, traditional music and dancing, and a wonderful cultural program, amongst special and very eminent guests from South Australia's mainstream political life, as well as delegates from sibling Macedonian organizations from Melbourne and Sydney.

*"Makedonski Merak"*, from Perth, kept patrons happily dancing traditional "ora" for much of the evening, and the program featured wonderful performances from our own dance ensemble *"Sloboda"*, as well as a guest performance from the popular ensemble from Melbourne, *"Tose"*. A rolling pictorial display



highlighted important moments from our Community's past, and there were numerous other activities such as an auction, raffle and the offering of souvenirs to make the event truly unforgettable. To round things out, guest speeches briefly pointed to the important contribution made by the Macedonian Community to South Australian society, and to our evolving brand of cultural diversity here, as well as the reading of heartfelt messages of support from Macedonian organizations across the entire country!

In reality, 75 years of rich history is an extraordinary achievement for an organization which, despite the comparatively small size of the Macedonian-origin population in this city and state, is one of the oldest and most respected organizations in the Commonwealth, something to be very, very proud about!



### **"Cultured" Festival II – Sunday 30 October 2022**

The second annual "Cultured" Festival, again hosted by our organization in our Community Hall, and once again kindly supported by a grant from the SA government, proved to be another outstanding success. Well over 300 patrons attended from diverse backgrounds to witness and enjoy performances of traditional music, song and dance by young performers from Ukraine, Macedonia, Mexico, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Africa, India and Latin America. The Macedonian Community Centre was a wonderfully intimate venue for the Festival, with all participants happily engaging with each other, while enjoying traditional Macedonian foods, and lots of activities for the entire family, including children.



**Video and pictorial highlights, professionally edited, from both October weekend functions, will soon be featured on our website, social media platforms and YouTube channel, so please keep an eye out for our fantastic 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event selection!**

A final word about the many volunteers who worked tirelessly over the weekend (and not to mention during the organizational lead-up over several months), without whose efforts the successes of these events would not have been possible. Too numerous to mention in this space, every one of the volunteers have been appropriately acknowledged on our Community radio programs, posted on our website, and profusely thanked publicly!



### **A Word about the 2021 Census in Australia and Macedonia**

Results of the 2021 Census of the domestic Australian population have gradually been published over recent weeks. Again, as in previous Census, persons of Macedonian origin have been understated. A total of 111,352 people of Macedonian “ancestry” were counted, while of that number, 66,173 speak the Macedonian language at home. Full figures for country of birth and religion are not yet available, but no doubt will again prove unreliable. While it is difficult to accurately reconcile “ancestry” with language spoken at home, there is considerable force behind the proposition that persons of Macedonian origin who live permanently in Australia number, in reality, closer to double the published figure, and this is verified not only by scholarly works undertaken and published in the area of historical and demographical analysis, but also from reliable Community statistics themselves.



It is vitally important not only for our broader Community itself, but also for government service-delivery, that a more accurate collation of data relevant to Australian-Macedonians is finally achieved. In this regard, the federal body, the Macedonian Communities Council of Australia Inc., will focus over the next year on an important project based upon the preparation of a comprehensive submission to the ABS, and an active engagement with that federal body around this issue, well before the next Census is due in 2026.



A national Census was also held in 2021 in the Republic of (North) Macedonia, for the first time in twenty years! Published results show a shrinkage of the overall population in Macedonia, somewhat akin to the data from other Balkan states. Younger persons continue to leave the Balkans, including Macedonia, permanently in search of better working conditions and greater opportunities.

Although the domestic population is now numbered at under 1.9 million, over 2.1 million “citizens” of the Republic, including those based permanently overseas, participated in the Census, which is a ridiculously cynical proposition, given the inherent nature and purpose of a Census based upon a permanent domestic population in the places where it lives. Of course, given its ongoing rejection of the policies and practices of contemporary Macedonian governments, almost the entire Macedonian population in the diaspora refused to participate, notwithstanding the ludicrous inclusion of ‘non-resident’ citizens in the Census in this regard. Of course, the great bulk of participants residing overseas, who were strongly encouraged to and did participate, were of Albanian ethnic origin, thus leading to a “total” Albanian figure for the Republic of over 30% of the population, whereas, with this figure appropriately adjusted for domestic residents only, the true figure is under 23%.

Interestingly, given the hotly contentious issues about history, ethnicity and language being debated between Macedonia and Bulgaria in recent times, and the escalatingly threatening postures of the Bulgarian state and its governments, it is not surprising to note the sudden emergence of 3,504 self-declared “Bulgarians” in Macedonia, who no doubt understood clearly the utility of taking up Bulgarian citizenship and EU passports to enable them to move around more freely in Europe to pursue business activities and so forth. Many more have applied. A reciprocal encouragement of Macedonians living permanently in Bulgaria to declare themselves ethnically as such, and to be accorded minority rights, remains curiously absent from the official Bulgarian state agenda.

Should the Republic ultimately secure membership of the EU, it seems self-evident that the potential drain of young persons from Macedonia seeking better opportunities in the West will dramatically accelerate, resulting in a potentially drastic reduction of the domestic population there. Food for thought, and concern!

### **The Orthodox Church – All Equal Under God !!?!!!**

In May 2022, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople (Istanbul) (EPC), Bartholomew, the contemporary but largely ceremonial-only “Pope” of Eastern Orthodoxy, welcomed the until-now unrecognized and “schismatic” Macedonian Orthodox Church – Ohrid Archbishopric (MOC-OA) into “eucharistic communion” (recognition). Bartholomew referred to our Church only as the “Church of Ohrid”. He referred the issue of recognition of the autocephaly (independence) of the MOC-OA back to the Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC), from which the MOC-OA had unilaterally separated in 1967. Surprisingly, the SOC immediately recognized the MOC-OA as autocephalous, and explicitly recognized our Church’s right to use and control its properties across the world, with unfettered jurisdiction internationally.





The EPC however has limited recognition and jurisdiction to date only within the boundaries of (North) Macedonia. This has been followed by the Greek Orthodox Church (GOC), which refers also to our Church as the (North Macedonian) "Church of Ohrid", while welcoming the Church into the "Family" of Orthodox Churches. As has happened with the newly independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), recognized by the EPC and other Orthodox Churches (except for the powerful Russian Orthodox Church (ROC)), the GOC would prefer the "Ohrid Church" to be placed under the administrative control of the GOC Dioceses in Australia !!! For its part, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church (BOC) has stated that it has no issue with recognizing the autocephaly and global jurisdiction of the MOC-OA, except that it will not do so unless the MOC removes the "OA" suffix in its name, because the "Ohrid Archdiocese" was/is an inseparable part of Bulgarian national and religious history" !!!

To preciously top matters off, the ROC unexpectedly also recognized the autocephaly of the MOC-OA, and its jurisdiction, without condition, presumably as payback for the EPC and the GOC instigating the recognition of the independence of the UOC !!!

As yet, there is no further, definitive word from the largely ineffectual EPC, nor indeed from other national Orthodox Churches !! All equal under God ???

## Coming Events

### **Annual General meeting 2022**

The AGM of MCASA Inc. will be held at the Community Centre on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022, commencing at 1.00 pm, with a half-election for the Executive Committee due. All members are encouraged to attend, and participate in the proceedings. Reports from office-bearers will be given, and an audited financial statement for 2021-22 distributed and discussed, as well as open discussions about the 2023 program.



### **Xmas Cocktail and the Unsealing of the Time Capsule of 1997 !**

Dear friends, please do not miss this important event, on Xmas Eve, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 ! On Xmas eve, 1997, many Macedonian individuals and families placed items of value into a time capsule, which was then buried in concrete for 25

years at the foot of the Goce Delchev statue, in the forecourt of the Macedonian Orthodox Church "St. Naum of Ohrid" in Findon, adjacent to the Community Hall and the Macedonian Cultural Centre.

Sadly, many of those persons who placed items into the capsule are no longer with us. So we urge members of their families, who registered



for the activity, to attend and be present for the great unveiling! It is certain that many poignant memories will be invoked, and who knows what sort of 'buried treasure' may be unearthed!

Be there to find out, and then please join other Community members and supporters, as well as the Executive Committee, to celebrate the event, and the impending festive season, on Xmas eve, with a Cocktail reception in the Cultural Centre. Further specific details will be posted on our website closer to the event, on our social media platforms, and broadcast on the Macedonian radio program. However, if you have any queries in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact us at your convenience on the contact references provided.

### **MCASA Weekly Radio Programs and YouTube Channel**

Don't forget that our three (3) weekly radio programs, broadcast in the beautiful Macedonian language, are featured amongst the 44-strong language groups which broadcast weekly from **Radio Station 5EBI 103.1fm**, which is now itself over 45 years old!

**Program times** are each **Friday (8.00 – 9.00 pm)**, **Sunday morning (11.30 am – 12.00 noon)**, with a repeat at **7.00-7.30 pm** on **Sunday** evening. Our Program producer, **Jennie Trampeva-Radin**, who has a long broadcasting history in the Macedonian language in both the Community TV and Radio formats, would welcome, in particular, from younger persons, any assistance in researching and producing the weekly programs, and indeed as supporting presenters, so please contact Jennie in this regard if you have interest (Mob. 0430 92124).



**Radio Podcasts** are readily accessible from either the 5EBI Website, or the MCASA Website, on various platforms including Apple & Google Podcasts.

We also hope that you are accessing regularly up-dated content on our **MCASA YouTube Channel**.

We can now reach an instant and much larger global audience in presenting MCASA, and its rich history of contributions and achievements, to the entire Macedonian world! Much of this is attributable to the diligent and skilled work of our MCASA website and Internet administrator, Steve Ognenovski.

Best Wishes to all, good health, stay safe, and we hope to see you very soon !

**A. Michael Radin**

**Secretary, MCASA Inc.**

**President, Macedonian Community Media Program**

**Convenor, Management Committee, AMFE "Sloboda"/AMVG "Sedenka"**

**Chairperson, Church Committee, MOC "St. Naum of Ohrid"**



*Together We Are Stronger!*

## **Macedonian Community of Adelaide and SA Inc.**

**(Reg. A1880) ABN: 34053674903**

**142-148 Crittenden Road Findon 5023**

**P. O. Box 291 Findon SA 5023**

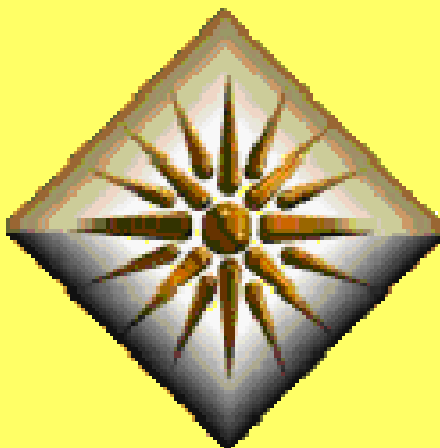
**Tel. & Fax 08 83471401 Mob. 0433 128400**

**Email: [mcasasecretary01@outlook.com](mailto:mcasasecretary01@outlook.com)**

**Website: [www.macedoniancommunitysa.org.au](http://www.macedoniancommunitysa.org.au)**

### **Macedonian Orthodox Church “St. Naum of Ohrid”**

- Macedonian Council of SA
- Association of Refugee Children from the Aegean region of Macedonia (SA)
- Board of Life Members
- Macedonian Social Club “*Ilinden*” Inc.
- “*Macedonia United*” Soccer Club
- Cultural Society “*Iskra*” \* Macedonian School “*Sts. Kiril & Metodi*”
- Macedonian Senior Citizens
- Womens’ Section \* Youth Group
- Society of Macedonian Professionals “*Vox*”
- Macedonian Heritage Movement “*Spas*”
- Folkloric Ensembles “*Sloboda*” & “*Sedenka*”
- Macedonian Community Media : *Radio & TV Programs*
- Human Rights Committee (SA) \* Welfare Committee
- Village Committees - “*Kotori*” “*Peshoshnitsa*” “*Visheni*”



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