



Macedonian Community of Adelaide and S.A. Inc.

MACEDONIAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

15 September 2021 (No.4)

SUCCESSFUL COMMEMORATION OF IMPORTANT NATIONAL DAYS IN THE MACEDONIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

National Days Celebration

On **Sunday 12 September 2021**, well over 100 Macedonians attended a luncheon in the Community Hall at Findon, commemorating two important days in the national calendar - **"Ilinden"** (which



had been postponed from 02 August 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions), and the 30th anniversary of **"Independence Day"** (08 September 2021), when a plebiscite held in the Republic of Macedonia on that day

in 1991 resulted in an independent and sovereign state being established.

Following the observance of the national anthems of Macedonia and Australia, **Michael Radin**, President of the Macedonian Community of Adelaide and South Australia, who was the MC for this event, formally opened proceedings and welcomed all patrons to this important occasion. He spoke about the significance of the 30th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic, by a huge majority of the resident population there in 1991, and stated that this landmark milestone was simply an organic progression of our evolving Macedonian nationhood, which had passed through a number of milestones during the past century, in generally challenging and confronting times for the Macedonian population. This included of course the iconic **"Ilinden rebellion"** against the Ottoman Turks, on 02 August 1903, when after a ten-day period of liberation, the Macedonians were once again subjected to violent and oppressive Ottoman Turkish tyranny.

Nonetheless, that event marked the birth of a newfound, modern national spirit amongst Macedonians, in a manner not dissimilar to the legacy of the failed Gallipoli campaign for Australian forces in April 1915, just over a decade later.

Despite the subsequent partitioning of Macedonian territory a decade after 'Ilinden', and the resulting national and cultural anonymity, during acute political repression in each region of divided Macedonia, which prevailed until the end of the second world war, Macedonians in one part of their country ultimately found another opportunity to advance their self-determination, with the establishment of the Republic of Macedonia in 1944, within the new Yugoslav federation. The ensuing period culminated with the dissolution of that federation, and a subsequent war, prior to which, fortunately, the Republic of Macedonia had been able to establish its independence in peaceful fashion through the successful referendum.

Michael Radin reminded those present that despite recent governments in the Republic having lost their way, in a national, political and perhaps economic sense, the Macedonian movement, of which we are all an integral part, must continue to struggle and agitate on a global basis until our complete national aspirations are fulfilled.

Cultural Program and Awards to prominent Community members



During an excellent 4-course luncheon, the **Adelaide Macedonian Folkloric Ensemble "Sloboda"**, a key part of the Macedonian Community (MCASA), performed a superb medley of traditional Macedonian folk dances, with the outstanding principal choreographer for the Ensemble, **Lisa Georgiou**, leading the dancers through the performance in front of a rapt audience. It was pleasing that four new members of the Ensemble have joined in recent weeks, which augurs well for the future, as "*Sloboda*" once again enlarges its ranks, and performs Mac-

edonian "ora" at a variety of events and venues across Adelaide.

After a brief interlude, **Michael Radin**, and the Chairperson of the Life members of MCASA, **Peter Unerkov**, presided over the awards to newly-appointed Life members, which is a tradition observed at the annual 'Ilinden' function. In 2021, three (3) new members have been deservedly inducted into the ranks of Life membership of the Community, and an award ceremony proceeded before the patrons assembled at the luncheon :

- **Ms. Fay Petre**, Australian-born with origins from the Macedonian villages of Kuckovine and Peshoshnica, Lerinsko, Aegean Macedonia, a MCASA member for almost 50 years, who has been variously involved in the Community, from traditional musical performance when she was very young, through to the holding of various positions on the Executive Committee (secretary, treasurer, acting president amongst others) in more recent times ; Fay was inducted by her brother **Jim Petre**, a Life member and member of the Executive Committee.



- **Ms. Jennie Trampeva-Radin**, born in Bitola, Republic of Macedonia, with origins from the Macedonian village of Smilevo, Demir Hisar region, a MCASA member for 35 years, and the



current treasurer of the Community, who also has held various other positions during that time, including community welfare officer, president of the womens' section, and producer/presenter (since 2017) of the Macedonian Community radio program, at community radio station 5EBI 103.1 fm, and previously a presenter of the Macedonian language TV program "Makedonski Horizont 21" at community TV station Channel 31. Jennie was inducted by the President, her husband **Michael Radin**.

- **Mr. Trajan Milosevski**, born in Tepavci, Mariovo, Republic of Macedonia, a MCASA member for almost 50 years, currently a member of the Executive Committee, chairperson of the Macedonian Orthodox Church "*St. Naum of Ohrid*", a former secretary and president of MCASA, amongst numerous other positions held, and the founder of the Macedonian Community radio program in 1976. Trajan was inducted by the President, **Michael Radin**.



All three recipients gave excellent acceptance speeches, in front of their own families and friends, and the event's patrons, and each were presented with a Life members' badge, certificate and membership card. In short course, their names will be inscribed onto the Honour Board in the Macedonian Community Hall, and their photos placed into the Life members' gallery in the Cultural Centre.

After a brief interlude, during which time guests enjoyed Macedonian music, and participated in a lottery and auction, two new recipients of the "**Goce Delchev**" medal, awarded only four times previously, were introduced by **Steve Kostoff**, Life member and current member of the Executive Committee:

Mr. John Papas, with origins from the Macedonian village of Peshoshnica, Lerinsko, Aegean Macedonia, and a MCASA Life member, was awarded the "**Goce Delchev**" medal for 72 years of active involvement in the affairs of the Macedonian Community, and in many of its branches and sections. He was inducted



by **Michael Radin**, President of the Community.



Mr. Michael Radin, Australian-born but with origins from the Macedonian villages of Visheni, Kostursko, and Dolno Kotori, Lerinsko, both in Aegean Macedonia, currently MCASA President and Life member, with 40 years of unbroken membership

of the Executive Committee, was also awarded the “Goce Delchev” medal for both his service to MCASA across many areas, and as a representative of the Community in Adelaide, and as an activist for the Macedonian cause both nationally in Australia and internationally. He was inducted by **Chris Milanko**, MCASA member.

The function ended in the latter part of the afternoon with the sharing of a birthday cake for two MCASA veterans, both Life members and also prior recipients of the “Goce Delchev” medal, **Mr. Simo Kolachkov** (95 years) and **Mr. Pandil Filipov** (90 Years). **Mrs. Fana Ouslinis**, also present, had recently turned 92 years. It was noted that Mr.Ilo Koufalis, who was unable to



attend on the day, had recently turned 100 years, and had received a



congratulatory letter from Queen Elizabeth II on this outstanding achievement!

The event was hugely successful, and a great time was had by all! Many thanks to the large number of patri-

otic Macedonians who attended the function in great spirit. Thanks are also due to the following persons for their assistance in organizing and carrying out the key responsibilities for the function :

Jennie Trampeva-Radin, Jim Petre, John Petre, Steve Ognenovski, Marija Ognenovski, Rina and Tammy Milanko, and Nicky Lengs, Grujo, Trajan and Menka Milosevski, Steve Kostoff, Caz Saunders, Goce Mitev, Peter Unerkov, Sevda Papas, Velika Popovska, Fay Petre, Skye Gjorgjievski, Lisa Georgiou, Mattia Cirulli, Cveta Bakusovski, Eleonora Rizovski, Chris Milanko, Michael Radin, Julian Cole, Deni Georgievski, all donors for the lottery and auction, and for the various Macedonian sweets, and all others who assisted, including the AMFE “Sloboda” performers on the day!

A.Michael Radin

President

Together We Are Stronger!

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Macedonian Community of Adelaide and SA Inc.

148 Crittenden Road Findon 5023

P. O. Box 291 Findon SA 5023

Tel: 08 8347 1401

Fax: 08 8347 1401

Email: mcasapresident01@outlook.com

www.macedoniancommunitysa.org.au

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