

The West Australian Modern Greek Language Teachers' Association Inc.

<https://wamglta.weebly.com>



WAMGLTA Annual Report 2022

In 2022, the West Australian Modern Greek Language Teachers' Association Inc. (WAMGLTA) completed its sixth year of existence, having been incorporated on 24 August 2016. As its inaugural and ongoing Chairperson, I am once again delighted to be writing the Annual Report for the members of the Association.

This year, our first meeting was held on Saturday 12 March at 1.30pm at The Graduate School of Education, UWA. It was attended by members of the Executive Committee who met to prepare for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). At this meeting, it was announced that WAMGLTA had seven new members, six from the newly established Greek Language and Culture Institute (GLCI) of Evangelismos, and one, Ms Kate Reitzenstein, who became a member through the Modern Language Teachers Association of WA. We were thrilled to have Kate on board as she is well-known in the Languages Education field and a great supporter of all Language Associations.

Our AGM was held on Thursday 31 March at 7.00pm in the Lower Hall of the Evangelismos Church, corner Carr and Charles Streets, West Perth. After an amendment to the previous year's AGM minutes, these were accepted and passed as a true and accurate record of the 2021 WAMGLTA AGM. The Annual Report and the Financial Report for 2021 were tabled. The election of Office Holders and other Committee Members followed.

Executive Committee of 2022

The following Association members were elected to their Executive position at the AGM:

Chairperson: Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis

Deputy Chairperson: Ms Maria Svarnou

Secretary: Mr Nino Raju

Treasurer: Mr Nick Gile

Committee Member: Mr Fragkiskos (Frank) Gile

Meetings in 2022

This year, and aside from the AGM, there were five regular meetings, all of which comprised a quorum:

- Saturday 12 March at 1.30pm at The Graduate School of Education, UWA
- Saturday 7 May at 1.30pm at The University Club Meeting Room, UWA

- Saturday 23 July at 10.30am at The University Club Meeting Room, UWA
- Saturday 22 October at 9.00am at The University Club Meeting Room, UWA
- Saturday 3 December at 10.00am at The University Club Meeting Room, UWA

Key events that arose from these meetings, and business that was dealt with during 2022 are outlined below.

WAMGLTA Representation in 2022

During the year, WAMGLTA was represented by its Chairperson and, at times, other members of the Executive at the following events:

- **4 January:** The Cutting of the Vasilopita Event at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Offices in Dianella
- **12 February:** The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Western Australia (MLTAWA) Single Language Association (SLA) Presidents' Breakfast
- **27 March:** The National Day Doxology and Wreath-laying Ceremony at Kings Park
- **5 May:** The Professional Teaching Council of Western Australia (PTCWA) AGM and Professional Learning
- **29 May:** The Battle of Crete Wreath-laying Ceremony at Kings Park
- **29 & 30 July:** The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Western Australia (MLTAWA) State Conference, and where I also presented on the topic: "Shifting Paradigms in the Teaching and Learning of Modern Greek in WA: An historical overview"
- **27 August:** The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Western Australia (MLTAWA) Single Language Association (SLA) Presidents' Breakfast
- **10 September:** WAMGLTA Speak Greek in June Certificates issued to participating candidates at the Centre for Hellenic Studies, WA, Dianella
- **24 September:** WAMGLTA Speak Greek in June Certificates issued to participating candidates at the Greek Language and Culture Institute of Evangelismos, North Perth
- **19 October:** PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Awards Event, and where Mr Nino Raju received his Award for his work on WAMGLTA
- **4 November:** The Council House Reception for the Greek Presidential Guard (Evzones)
- **6 November:** The Doxology and Wreath-laying Ceremony for OXI Day, and in the presence of the Greek Presidential Guard (Evzones)
- **19 November:** The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Western Australia (MLTAWA) AGM and Professional Learning, and where I also presented on the "Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling (TPRS) Approach"
- **27 December:** The Consular Reception for the Greek Tennis Team

Active participation at these events and, in some cases, the delivery of a brief report by the Chairperson on WAMGLTA activity meant that our Association's profile continued to be raised during 2022 to a wide cross-section of our community.

PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award for Mr Nino Arvind Raju

This year's WAMGLTA nominee for the prestigious PTCWA Outstanding Professional Service Award was Mr Nino Arvind Raju for his work as Secretary of WAMGLTA, taking on the role of webmaster of WAMGLTA's website, for his support of the Modern Greek Language and Culture program at Immaculate Heart College, and his participation in all Wreath-laying Ceremonies during the year. The event was attended by WAMGLTA Chairperson, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Deputy Chairperson, Ms Maria Svarnou, Secretary, Mr Nino Raju and his wife, the Honourable Consul of Greece, Mrs Georgia Karasiotou and, from Immaculate Heart College, the Principal, Mrs Sammantha Da Luz and the Registrar, Mrs Tamara Carpenter.

At the event, Nino's citation was read out aloud and was included in the event booklet. This promotion of WAMGLTA in the presence of an eclectic audience of educators is invaluable for the recognition of the efforts being made by the Association to support the teaching and learning of Modern Greek in WA.

WAMGLTA Speak Greek in June Event

In 2022, the annual WAMGLTA Speak Greek in June Competition changed to being an 'Event', removing in this way the competitive element so that participating students could be more relaxed about speaking Greek whilst being video recorded. The topics were open and subject to teacher approval. There were 26 participants from three educational providers – 2 from the Centre for Hellenic Studies, WA; 19 from the Greek Language and Culture Institute of Evangelismos; and 5 from Immaculate Heart College.

All participants received a Certificate of Participation, encased in a document wallet, along with a USB and a confectionary. These gifts were made possible through the sponsorship offered by Dr Con Berbatis and his family in support of WAMGLTA's efforts to encourage the speaking of Modern Greek among students.

Membership of Other Associations

During the year, two members of the WAMGLTA Executive Committee became members of the committees of two other Associations:

- Ms Maria Svarnou (Deputy Chairperson) became a member of the PTCWA Committee in May; and
- Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis (Chairperson) became a member of the MLTAWA Executive Committee (Vice President) in November.

WAMGLTA's representation on each of these committees is enhanced further through this membership.

Closing Balance of Funds for WAMGLTA for 2022

On 31 December 2022, the closing balance in the WAMGLTA account was \$2,525.35. There is a total of \$60 in cash to be added to the account, being for the renewal of membership of three existing members, and the capitation fee of \$20 to be transferred from the MLTAWA being for the membership of Ms Kate Reitzenstein. Therefore, the pending amount is \$2,605.35.

WAMGLTA Activity and Membership in 2023

The WAMGLTA AGM is scheduled to take place on Friday 10 March at 5.30pm at The UWA Club Meeting Room. The date, time and venue will be confirmed early in 2023. The event will be promoted through our regular channels, hopefully attracting new members, and inviting existing members to renew their membership. Plans for offering Professional Learning through WAMGLTA are in progress.

I would like to close my report by thanking the members of the Executive Committee for their enthusiastic and ongoing commitment to WAMGLTA: Deputy Chairperson, Ms Maria Svarnou; Secretary, Mr Nino Raju; Treasurer, Mr Nick Gile; and Executive Committee member, Mr Frank Gile. I also extend my gratitude to fellow co-founder of the Association, Mr Pavlos Iosifidis for his ongoing membership, to all our original members who are still with us, and to our newest members, including Ms Kate Reitzenstein, who have invigorated our Association with their fresh outlook and input to meetings. Such efforts ensure that the objectives of WAMGLTA continue to be met.

Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis
WAMGLTA Chairperson

31 December 2022