



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY & CHURCH

of Canberra and District

2021 Annual Report





President's Report

It gives me great pleasure to present my second annual report for the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra (GOCCC), in this, the year of the 200th anniversary of Hellenic Independence.

It has been another difficult year for us all with several lockdowns and rising COVID-19 numbers both locally, nationally, and globally. Our prayers, thoughts, and love go out to everyone who has directly or indirectly been impacted by this pandemic. The Greek Community and Church of Canberra have worked closely with the ACT Government and VolunteeringACT to help those in our broader Canberra community with food donations and deliveries during the lockdown.

For another year, we have continued building on our strong relationships with local and federal politicians, improving the perception of our community and growing our reputation as a can-do organisation. We have worked closely with ACT Health and delivered a robust and compliant COVID-19 plan for our church that successfully passed all inspections.



Our Three Pillar program has provided us with a secure road map for the year just passed – further strengthening the importance of our Faith, Culture and Language programs – especially with respect to our language program. Key highlights from the Greek School this year include:

- 140 children enrolled in the Greek School aged between 5 to 18 years old.
- 60 Adults around Australia registered on Greek School of Canberra online classes.
- The ACT Community Languages Program advised in May 2021, that the Greek Language was the fastest growing language program in Canberra in the last 2 years.
- Over \$30,000 in Government Grants were received for the Greek School.

Nothing makes me prouder than seeing our children coming to class every Tuesday and Friday, ready to learn Greek with their friends. Having said that, I have been pleasantly surprised with the uptake of our adult ZOOM classes since taking this over from the Hellenic Club, with students logging in to learn Greek from Tasmania, Goulburn, Adelaide, regional Victoria, regional NSW, and Darwin. None of this recognition, growth in numbers, and excellent education would be possible without our amazing Greek school teachers. Their commitment to the program and to our children. We say a very big thank you to them. I would also like to thank the Hellenic Club of Canberra, for their continued support and generosity in providing light dinners for all the children during their class breaks, for the second year in a row.

During the month of March 2021, I was extremely proud to see Greek and Australian flags flying strategically around Canberra, as did many members of the public including politicians who commented on the excellent work and commitment of our committee to have this arranged. We also successfully negotiated to have 10 ACT landmarks, illuminate blue and white on the night of the 25th of March 2021, to recognise the Bicentenary of Greek Independence. This not only raised awareness of the Hellenic Independence celebration to the non-Greeks in ACT but made them more aware of our strong Greek community at large.

President's Report

We liaised with several Parliamentarians to talk about the 200-year anniversary of Hellenic Independence and highlight to them the significant contribution the Greek Community has made to their newly adopted home, Australia. A special thanks to Mr Steve Georganas MP and to the Attorney General of Australia, Ms Michaelia Cash for their efforts and support on the day with Parliament.



I would publicly like to thank all the ACT landmarks that worked closely with us over a period of two months, the National Capital Authority and ACT Governments Flags and Banners Department for their understanding and cooperation, as well as the Prime Minister's office for their complete support of this momentous occasion in Greek history. Their assistance and patronage helped us promote our Hellenic Culture and History in the Nation's Capital and beyond. Photos as well as our press release to the Prime Minister of Australia have been included in this report for our current and future generations to appreciate and be proud.

Here in Canberra, unlike other parts of Australia, we were blessed to have been able to enjoy more church services than our family and friends living outside the Capital.

We were privileged to have His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios of Australia as well as His Grace, Bishop-elect Father Prochoros, attend both the St Nicholas Day celebrations on 6th December 2020 as well as during Easter Holy Week to preside over these church services.

On behalf of our life members of the Greek Orthodox Community and St Nicholas Church Canberra – I pass on our worthy congratulations to the Very Reverend Father Prochoros for being promoted to His Grace, Bishop-elect Prochoros of Charioupolis on Tuesday, 31st August 2021.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Very Reverend Father Petros Kipouros for all his hard work and commitment to our community during this most difficult and uncertain year, with lockdowns and COVID-19. Our committee has had a great working relationship with him, especially when it comes to liaising with him around spiritual, language, and cultural events for our community. We are very blessed, and we cannot thank Father Petros enough for always being there for everyone in our community. Thank you, Pater, you are truly appreciated.

One of the highlights for the year for the Canberra Greek Community was the arrival and live performance of popular Greek singer, Giorgos Tsalikis in May 2021. We had 420 people attend his concert. Canberra was not originally on the Tsalikis Australian Tour, but with an abundance of hard work and diplomacy, we managed to organise a much-deserved night out for many of our members and friends at the Hellenic Club. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Giorgos Tsalikis and his management both in Athens and in Sydney, for their commitment and dedication in making this event happen. Also, a huge thank you to the sponsors, who without their generous contributions, the night would not have been as successful as it was. Finally, a massive thank you to Lisa Andonaros and the staff at the Hellenic Club of Canberra, for working closely with me and my committee to ensure everyone had an amazing, entertaining, and memorable night.

President's Report

From a financial and business perspective, this year has been one of the busiest and most exhausting for everyone involved given the current economic pressures stemming from COVID-19. However, for the second year in a row, the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra financials are the healthiest and most pleasing they have ever been. We are very proud to have brought some much-needed financial stability, organisational structure and transparency to the daily running of our organisation and will ensure to continue this success and progress for many years to come, as long as our tenure allows it.

On behalf of my committee and the life members of the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra, I would like to thank the Board and staff of the Hellenic Club of Canberra for their ongoing love and support, collaboration, and partnership with respect to all aspects of community contribution, assistance with events and education. We are so very grateful for their professionalism and backing to everything we have presented them. From the continued support of the Greek School of Canberra to the finalised works at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church – we appreciate everything the club has done for us and look forward to continuing this strong hard-working business relationship into the future. This will no doubt help build a stronger, more thriving Hellenic community for years to come.



Thank you to all our sponsors both here in Canberra and Interstate for their continued support of our vision and journey, and to every one of our life members for their love and understanding of what we do. I want to again reiterate to everyone, our ethos to be a united, transparent, and supportive community, one that excels and leads by example. In saying that, I remind you that our committee volunteers many hours to ensure the smooth management and growth of the Greek Orthodox Community and St Nicholas Church here in Canberra and appreciates all your help and encouragement.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge and provide a special thank you to our committee members who have worked tirelessly on a voluntary basis. Their dedication and professionalism have again allowed our community to make great progress within the broader Canberra community with some amazing work completed to date. Once again, we have seen another year of financial stability, stable organisational processes, and a transparent operating system to continue our march onwards and upwards for the future.

Thank you and God Bless you all. Wishing everyone much health and strength in the year to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Loukadellis'.

John Loukadellis
President of Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra and District Inc

Committee Members

John Loukadellis - President



John is an Associate Director with Macquarie Bank and has been with them for over 20 years. He is a multi-award-winning national mortgages business development manager. John was President of the Antissian Association of NSW (Lesvos) for 10 years and was involved with a number of other charities. The Archdiocese of Australia selected John as the ACT representative for the March 2021 National Committee. He has strong communication, negotiation, and organisational skills and a strong ability to bring people together and change processes business/financial strategies of organisations for the better. John relocated to ACT in 2014 and now calls Canberra home with his wife Natalie and 3 sons.

After being elected on the 10th of November 2019, John has worked tirelessly on the vision to expand Canberra's Greek community by revitalising the 3 mantras that mean the most to the community; "faith, "culture and tradition" and the "Greek Language".

Theo Dimarhos - Vice President

Theo is a well-known businessman and community volunteer in Canberra and its district for over 30 years. He has many years of experience as a board member including serving as Vice President for Diabetes Australia and President and Vice President for the Hellenic Club. Theo has always had a passion for family, the Greek Community, and the greater Canberra community and how they can all be brought together to better our future generations.



Pana Tsironis - Secretary

Pana was elected as a committee member in 2019. He has over 20 years experience in the construction industry and has represented financial institutions such as ABN Amro, RBS, and Macquarie Capital on large-scale public infrastructure projects including schools, hospitals, jails, and courts. Pana and his wife Katia decided to call Canberra home in 2015 as they saw it as the perfect place to start and raise a family. As secretary, he strives to work with his committee and the community to encourage its growth and ensure it thrives for future generations.



Yvonne Varela - Treasurer

Yvonne has over 20 years of finance expertise as a Chartered Accountant and is a Registered Tax Agent. Yvonne has worked with a variety of business owners from small family operations to publicly listed companies. Yvonne was elected as Treasurer in 2020 and brings her knowledge and skills in multiple areas of finance including business advice and transformation, business technology, legal compliance, audit, and governance for the profit and not-for-profit sectors, as well as Federal Government agencies. Yvonne is currently working at Gillespie Advisory as their Senior Manager.



Committee Members



John Tzavaras - Committee Member

John has over 20 years of accounting and finance experience both in the corporate and public practice settings where he first commenced his career. John is the Financial Controller for Howden Insurance Brokers Australia and prior to this held numerous senior finance roles within the Insurance industry. John moved to Canberra with his wife and two children in 2020 and was appointed to the committee in March 2021. John's pride in his Greek roots and an enthusiasm to preserve Greek culture, language, and traditions inspires him to push for continual growth and constant improvement, unity, and leadership within the community. This in turn will create a strong and robust platform for future generations to build upon.

Dimitri Saragas - Committee Member

Dimitri is our local Greek voice and advocate for over 20 years, broadcasting the Hellenic Program on Cms 91.1 fm. He is a well loved and respected member of the Greek Community in Canberra and has served as committee member for over fifteen years. His ability to reach out to the broader community to keep them up to date with local news and events is pivotal to our Greek Community success.



Stan Piperoglou - Committee Member

Stan brings a wide range of experience to our Board, having served as board member with other not-for-profit organisations such as Suicide Prevention Australia. Stan has worked in Melbourne and Canberra in areas including education, multi-cultural affairs, aged care, biosecurity, chronic disease, mental health, and suicide prevention. He has also worked in ministerial offices as adviser and Chief of Staff. Stan is interested in further developing the role of the Greek Community across the generations ensuring that the Community has an innovative outlook to meeting the needs of its members and presenting a positive role in the further development of Canberra as a culturally diverse city.

George Pertsinidis - Committee Member

George was born and raised in Canberra and has been involved in volunteer work with the Greek Community of Canberra for many years. He is an experienced Electronic Engineering Technician and has been a member of the committee since 2009.



Leon Merkoureas - Committee Member

Leon has worked in the Public Service, both ACT and Federal Government. He is an experienced Project Manager, undertaking and successfully delivering projects in the fields of Construction, such as the design of CIT training facilities, IT restructure projects, as well as private renovating/refurbishing projects. He grew up and raised a family in Canberra, and has participated extensively in the local Greek community. This has included serving as a board member for the Greek Youth Club of Canberra, GOCCC and Hellenic Club of Canberra.

Holy Blessing



Μέσα σε αυτή την δύσκολη περίοδο της πανδημίας που ζούμε, η ενορία μας, η εκκλησία μας και η κοινότητα μας μπόρεσε και ανταποκρίθηκε πάρα πολύ καλά με τον πρόεδρο μας και το συμβούλιο.

Αντιμετώπισαν όλες τις δύσκολες οικονομικές και άλλες προκλήσεις άριστα.

Τα νούμερα και ο απολογισμός δείχνουν ότι πήαμε μπροστά και γίνεται καλή δουλειά.

Όλα τα πράγματα και τα έργα της εκκλησίας μας και της κοινότητας θα ολοκληρωθούν.

Με την βοήθεια του Χριστού, της Παναγίας και του Αγίου Νικολάου και φυσικά του συμβουλίου και όλων εμάς των ενοριτών θα γίνουν πραγματικότητα.

Είμαστε στο πλευρό σας. Μόνο ενωμένοι και δυνατοί θα τα καταφέρουμε.

Υπομονή, εργατικότητα και πίστωση χρόνου χρειάζεται.

Ευχομαι στον πρόεδρο και στο συμβούλιο καλή δύναμη, υπομονές και όλα κατ'ευχήν.



During this difficult period of the pandemic we live in, our parish, our church and community have been able to respond proactively and in accordance with government requirements thanks to our president and his committee.

They faced and perfectly managed all financial difficulties and other challenges throughout the year.

The financials provided in this report show that we are moving forward and the committee is doing a good job managing our progress.

I have all the confidence that the obligations surrounding our church and community will be managed and completed in a timely manner.

With the help of Christ, the Virgin Mary, St. Nicholas, the committee and all of our parishioners, I am confident this will become a reality.

We are by your side. Only united and strong will we succeed.

Patience and hard work are needed.

I wish the president and his committee strength, patience and all the best for a successful year ahead.

200 Years of Independence



COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF HELLENIC INDEPENDENCE

This year, Greeks around the world celebrated, remembered, and commemorated 200 years of Hellenic Independence from the Ottoman occupation in 1821.

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia formed a National Committee around the country, to help organise and promote local events in all states and territories.

In the ACT, our President, John Loukadellis, was very proud to represent both the National Committee on behalf of His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios, and the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra in the 200-year celebration events committee.

The following events were held in the ACT in honour of the Bicentenary of Independence:

- On 28 October 2020, in collaboration with the Greek Embassy of Australia, we celebrated OXI day. This event was held in the Embassy's Garden at Yarralumla, filled with commemorative speeches from our Greek and Cypriot dignitaries, poems and songs by the Greek school children, dancing by the Hellenic dancers of Canberra, and food provided by the Community.
- On 8 November 2020, in conjunction with the Mytilenian Association of Canberra, we held a successful 'Liberation of Lesbos' event on the grounds of our church, celebrating the 108th anniversary since the liberation of the island.
- On 6 December 2020 after the celebration of St Nicholas Day on the grounds of our church, His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia, His Grace Bishop-elect Prochoros, our Very Reverend Father Petros, and members of our Community attended a memorial service at Nimmitabel, at the gravesite of Ghikas Voulgaris. As part of the National Committees events, Ghikas Voulgaris was honoured as one of the 1821 revolutionaries and pioneers who settled in Australia.
- On 20 and 21 February 2021, we launched the National Evzones Photo Exhibition at the Hellenic Club, thanks to Nick Bourdoniotis, the official photographer of the Evzones Australia exhibit. This event also raised \$15,000 for the Greek School of Canberra and was an amazing success that featured the Greek Community of Canberra at the helm.
- On 20 and 21 March 2021, working in conjunction with the Hellenic Club of Canberra, we held the Inaugural two-day Hellenic Festival at the Hellenic Clubs carpark. This was marketed as a modest version of the Multicultural Festival and Greek Glendi, with the main focus on the 200 years of Hellenic Independence but also welcomed and celebrated other cultures. We had a successful weekend with over 6,000 people walk through the gates, celebrating the many diverse cultures of the broader Canberra community, whilst commemorating our Hellenic Independence through faith, culture, food, entertainment, and KEFI. During this two-day event, the Greek community was proud to launch the National Roadshow of the 1821 Painting Exhibition by local Sydney artist Angela Konstantinopoulou. Many paintings were displayed including, heroes of the 1821 revolution and battles. We also hosted four (4) lecturers from the Australian National University, who gave talks on the Greek revolution, the Influence of the Greek Orthodox Faith during 1821, Lord Byron, a proud Philhellene and what it meant to be Greek during 1821. These lectures were very successful, with all four talks selling out.

200 Years of Independence

- On 28 March 2021, we held a successful 200 year anniversary Luncheon at the Hellenic Club of Canberra to officially conclude celebrations of the 25th March for the month. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this magnificent event that helped us raise funds for the church and our Greek School. It was an exciting, momentous and successful fortnight for our community.
- From 20 March 2021 to 28 March 2021, there were forty Greek and Australian flags flown side by side around the ACT to celebrate our 200 year of independence. This was not only a first for the nation's capital but a proud and significant event that obtained much publicity and awareness from the broader Canberra community. A special thanks to the ACT Government's Banners and Flags Department for their support of our event.
- On 25 March 2021, with special thanks to the Ngunnawal People of our region, for the first time in history the Aboriginal flag was replaced with the Greek flag at the main entrance of the ACT Law Courts. We would like to thank the leaders of our Aboriginal community, the Chief Judicial Officers, the ACT Sheriff and everyone involved in making this happen.
- On the night of 25 March 2021, with the cooperation and understanding of the National Capital Authority and ten ACT Landmarks (including the Hellenic Club of Canberra and The Embassy of Greece in Australia) we successfully illuminated landmarks Blue and White in recognition of the 200yrs of Greek Independence.
- On 5 June 2021, as the member of the National Committee representing Canberra, The Very Rev Father Petros and I attended the Launch of the collectible coins of the Holy Archdiocese, dedicated to the Secret Schools during the 1821 Revolution.

It has been a very busy and momentous Bicentenary year in Canberra and without question incredibly challenging due to the global pandemic and lockdowns. However, we look forward to many more events in the near future, restrictions permitting, and a successful and prosperous year ahead.





COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF HELLENIC INDEPENDENCE



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY & CHURCH of Canberra and District

19 March 2021

MEDIA RELEASE – 200 YEARS SINCE THE GREEK WAR OF INDEPENDENCE 1821-2021

This year on Thursday 25 March 2021 Greeks around the world commemorate and celebrate 200 years since the heroes of the Greek War of Independence won their freedom and allowed us to live our best lives today as a free people across the world.

The Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra have worked with various departments of Government in Canberra (both Federal and Territory) to assist in commemorating this occasion and ensure that our Hellenic heritage, culture, and history is able to be shared with all Canberrans (and the rest of the world through various news outlets and social media).

With the assistance and approval received from these various government departments we confirm with much delight and gratitude that the following will be in place to help celebrate and signify this historic milestone

- Greek and Australian flags will fly in various locations across Canberra including:
 - Vernon Circle
 - Allara Street (across the foot bridge)
 - Nangari Street
 - Petrie Plaza
 - Gold Creek Village
 - Canberra Shopping Centre
- A number of buildings will be illuminated in Blue and White on the night of 25 March 2021 including:
 - The National Carillon Bell Tower
 - Black Mountain (Telstra Tower)
 - Questacon
 - Ian Potter House
 - The National Museum of Australia
 - The Hellenic Club of Canberra
 - The Greek Embassy in Australia

As the proud President of the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra, on behalf of my Community, the Hellenic Club of Canberra, the National Committee under the auspices of the Holy Archdiocese of Australia, we thank everyone involved in making this possible and assisting making this 200-year milestones of Hellenic Independence a special and memorable occasion here in Canberra for all to enjoy.

Χαίρε, ω χαίρε, ελευθεριά!

“Hail, O Hail, Liberty”

Yours sincerely,

John Loukadellis
President

ABN: 89 259 636 804

GPO Box 4970 Kingston ACT 2601
Wentworth Ave & Telopea Park, Kingston ACT 2604

e greekcom.act@bigpond.com
t +61 6295 1460 (St Nicholas Church)

2

1821 † 2021
GREECE AUSTRALIA

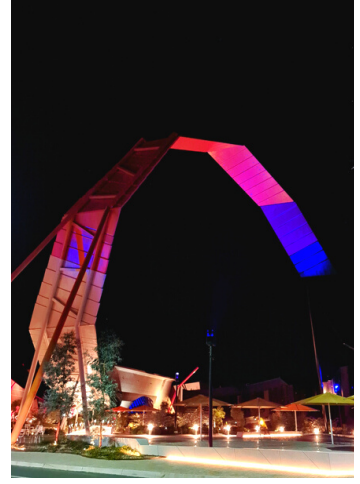
COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF HELLENIC INDEPENDENCE





1821 † 2021
GREECE AUSTRALIA

COMMEMORATING 200 YEARS OF HELLENIC INDEPENDENCE



Greek School of Canberra



This year, the Greek School of Canberra had another impressive year of growth with enrolments reaching over 140 children attending face-to-face classes. For the first time, we had children with one or no Greek parents enrol into our Greek languages program, which was quite surprising and encouraging for the staff and management of the school.

The Greek Community and Church of Canberra also took over the adult learning classes from the Hellenic Club, managing and conducting all the classes via ZOOM. We also took to promoting the program in the Greek Herald and SBS Radio and managed to launch a National Greek Languages program via ZOOM, which saw this grow to 60 adults in 2021. We had adults learning Greek from Tasmania, Adelaide, Goulburn, regional Victoria, regional NSW and Darwin.

Highlights for the year included:

- The second successive year we held face to face classes for children two nights a week - on Tuesday and Friday.
- We have a total of nine Greek school teachers employed, including one that conducts lessons for adults via ZOOM. This program will continue to grow as interest and promotion in our Greek language propagates throughout the wider community.
- We have seven families with one or no parents of Greek background enrolled.
- AHEPA provided the Greek School of Canberra with a \$5,000 upfront donation and have endorsed and supported our Student of the Month Award, which includes a \$50 Officeworks voucher plus Evzones Photobook.
- We held our first parent-teacher interviews in June this year in order to provide relevant feedback on the children's learning and progress.
- Our Very Rev Father Petros periodically attended our Greek school to pass on his religious teachings to our children.
- Children from the Greek School performed songs and poems to celebrate Greek National day on 28 October 2021, held at the Greek Embassy.
- During the ACT Community Languages conference in May 2021, Dr. Fuxin Le (President of Community Languages) advised that the Greek language was the fastest growing language to be learned in Canberra over the last twelve months.
- We received a Multicultural Languages Grant of \$18,000 from the Department of Home Affairs.
- We received an ACT Community Languages Grant of \$10,000 based on our current years' enrolments, which was the maximum grant available.
- Thanks to the Hellenic Club, all children and teachers were provided with dinner every Tuesday and Friday night during their class break.
- The Greek School of Canberra incorporated a new logo with the voluntary help of Billy Billiris of JVB Marketing Group. We would like to officially thank Billy and his team for donating their time and expertise.





Τρίτη 23 Μαρτίου 2021

Επίθετα
 η Βασιτάς
 όνομα = name
 επώνυμο = last name
 διεύθυνση = address
 επικοινωνία = phone number
 αριθμός = number
 επώνυμο = last name
 διεύθυνση = address
 επικοινωνία = phone number
 αριθμός = number

• When is Greek Independence day? = 25th of March
 • How many lines are on the Greek flag? = 9
 • What does the blue represent on the flag? = Sea
 • What does the white represent on the flag? = purity
 • 2021 = 2021

ΚΑ ΛΗ
 2021
 ΧΡΟΝ Α



St Nicholas Community Hall

The GOCCC committee met with St Basil's on numerous occasions throughout the last two years to discuss matters relating to the building of a Community Hall.

After receiving funds from our insurer as a result of the extensive hail damage to the hall, and confirmation from St Basil's of its intention to build us a new Community Hall, St Basil's arranged and paid for the demolition of the existing hall in October 2020.

Notwithstanding its previous promises that it would construct a new hall, in early 2021, St Basil's advised us that they were no longer in a position to do so. No reasons were provided at the time but we were aware that St Basil's had encountered a number of significant issues over the last two years including 46 deaths in their facilities in Victoria due to COVID-19, allegations of failures to meet the standards of the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission at their Randwick facility, and is facing a class-action lawsuit arising from the management of its facilities.

As a result of this changed position by St Basil's, the GOCCC committee arranged to meet the St Basil's board on 15 June 2021. At that meeting, the CEO and Chairman of St Basil's advised that there was no legal agreement to construct the hall, that the previous CEO had no authority to make such representations and as they are a registered Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) they were not legally in a position to contribute funds towards the construction of the Community Hall for GOCCC.

GOCCC has since received written confirmation from St Basil's advising of the following:

- Funding the construction of the Community Hall would breach St Basil's deductible gift recipient status
- There is no written agreement in place in relation to the construction of the Community Hall
- The "commitment" made by St Basil's previous CEO (Father Nicholas Stavropoulos) to build the Community Hall was not binding on St Basil's "as it was not endorsed by the Board"
- Rather than building a Community Hall on GOCCC's land, St Basil's proposed to build a hall as part of the development of a residential aged care facility on its site, adjacent to GOCCC's land, and it would make the hall available for limited use to GOCCC but could not provide a timeframe for construction of the facility

As our community members would appreciate, the change of position by St Basil's is concerning, and GOCCC is seeking professional advice regarding this matter.

Given that St Basil's have emphasised that they will not be building the Community Hall, as a committee, we have now taken reasonable steps to extend the building and development approvals (that were due to laps in September 2021) until September 2024. We are also reviewing our options including how we can facilitate the construction of our own Community Hall. We aim to have an information session with the community during Financial Year 2021/2022 (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) once we have explored various options including their economic viability.

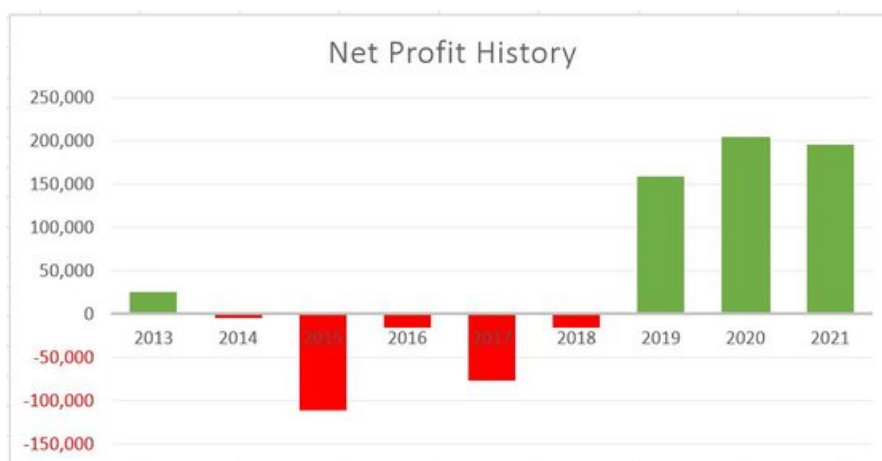
Financial Report

The 2020/21 financial year was once again plagued by the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canberra was no stranger to this as it brought in the new financial year under the continuation of the ACT Government's declaration of a public health emergency and numerous restrictions and lockdowns.

Despite these challenges, the association under its new stewardship has completed its second financial year with adequate reserves and continues to build on the hard work initiated in the previous year. We have continued to focus on building a good financial foundation for the community's future benefit and avoiding the financial troubles that had plagued the association for so many prior years. We are pleased with this year's successful results and present them to our members.

The current year has provided a net accounting surplus of \$195,826 as compared to the prior year's normalised surplus of \$203,032. The surplus provided this year was achieved under the continued target of operating with a similar mindset to that of a for-profit business. The results achieved confirm that the association can sustain a profitable position when managed efficiently and effectively.

The accompanying graph has been adapted to include a normalised 2020 net profit figure without the insurance proceeds of \$255,000. When comparing last year's results without the insurance proceeds, there can be no doubt that the new financial and overall business strategies that have been adopted continue to be successful.



The new approach to business indicates a positive trend for the future.

The cash position has also been maintained in a healthy manner with a balance of \$508,342, which is an increase of \$20,767 of funds held after all expenses were paid. The cash ratio is currently positioned at 3:1 which indicates a healthy ability to pay current liabilities three times over, and the ability for the association to make payment of its long-term commitments such as the community loan provided by the Hellenic Club. During the 2020/21 financial year, the association has repaid \$100,000 of its 7-year community loan commitment to the Hellenic Club.

Strong revenues were experienced this year predominantly from donations (\$279,198) provided by both businesses and individuals. This showed continued support and goodwill of the community in assisting the association to achieve its overall objectives. Without the kind donations provided by the community, the activities underpinning the 3-pillar program of Faith, Culture and Language could not succeed.

Financial Report

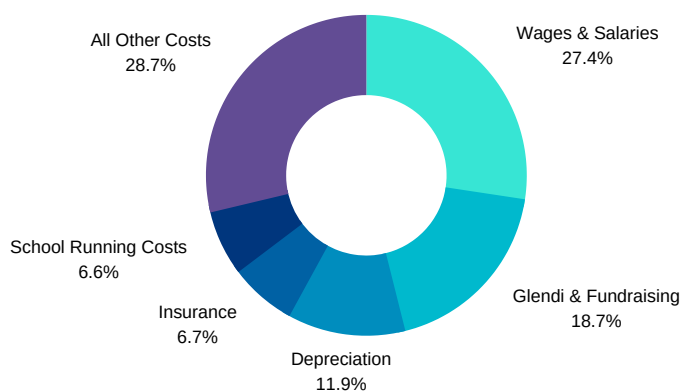
Contributions from parishioners at St Nicholas Church had also increased to pre-COVID-19 levels. However, it is noted that future lockdown measures or other mandated attendance restrictions could see a future tightening of contributions likely to be received.

Fundraising activities increased thanks to successful partnerships with the Hellenic Club of Canberra. Events held this year include the Hellenic Festival, the Evzones Exhibition and the sold-out Giorgos Tsalikis concert. We wish to thank the Hellenic Club of Canberra, its Board and staff members for the continued support and guidance provided to our committee to allow our association to prosper and deliver on our 3-pillar program.

\$457,859

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

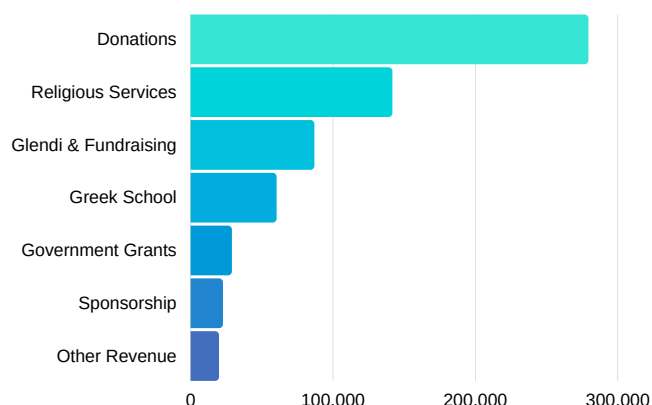
Expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year was primarily related to salary and wages covering the Church and the Greek School, and fundraising activities including the celebrations for the 200 years of Independence.



\$665,185

TOTAL REVENUE

The major classes of revenue and their contribution to the total revenue is illustrated from highest to lowest.



Our Greek School of Canberra expanded its operations this year to include the online delivery of language and cultural classes to adults. This has been an enormous success with all class offerings fully booked throughout the year. This expansion of course needed the use of added funds for the employment of a dedicated teacher that specialises in the delivery of adult language classes modelled after the levels of Greek learning required for the Greek Proficiency Certification that is administered by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Greece.

Costs also increased as a result of fundraising activities, Hellenic awareness, and celebrations due to the historic 200-year anniversary of the 1821 Greek War of Independence. After many months of planning and negotiations with government officials, revelries included lighting up Canberra's prominent landmarks in blue and white, raising of Greek flags in numerous locations around Canberra and media talks both in Australia and Greece. Our leadership in the celebrations in the nation's capital was a proud moment in history and helped to continue our Hellenic story in Canberra for many generations to come.

Overall, this year's financial results illustrate that with good management and oversight, the association can conduct activities in a viable manner that benefits our Church and Community for years to come.

Yvonne Varela

Treasurer of the Greek Orthodox Community & Church of Canberra & District Inc.

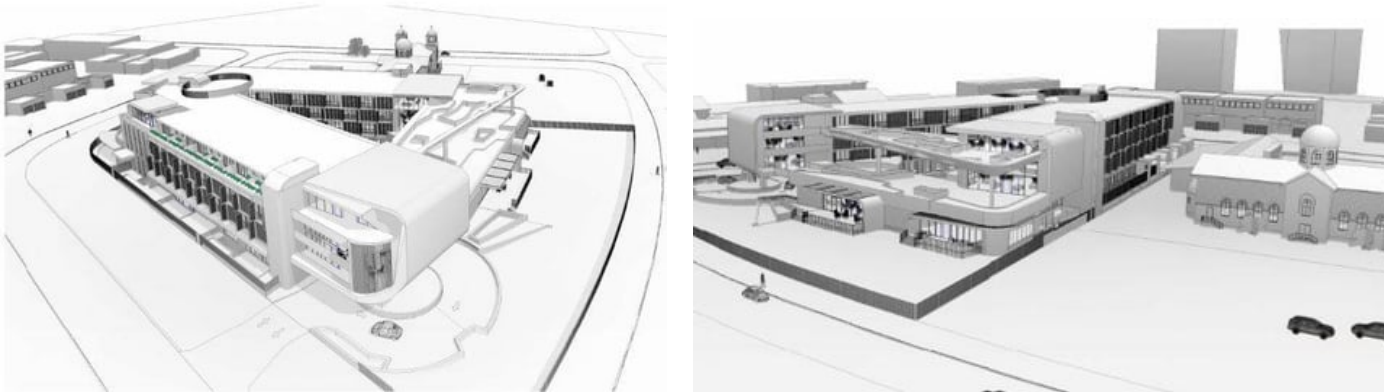
Aged Care Facility

History

The St Nicholas Home for the Aged was a 20 bed aged care facility located next to the St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. It was operating from the late 1990s and closed early March 2017.

In 2014, with the St Nicholas Home for the Aged making a loss for consecutive years, previous committees entered into discussions with St Basil's to seek their expertise in operating the facility. An agreement was executed in September 2014 that gave rights to St Basils to take control of the Aged Care Facility and the land that it was on.

St Basils saw and pursued the opportunity to improve the aged care facility by preparing a new facility design that required the redevelopment of the site and lodged a DA for a new 129 bed facility. The DA submitted to ACTPLA for the 129 bed facility was approved.



Current Status

The 2020/2021 year has continued to be a very difficult year for everybody and has resulted in yet another delay in the redevelopment of the Aged Care Facility. St Basils have advised the Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra that they have been financially impacted by COVID-19, and we understand they are currently reviewing how and when they will be progressing with the redevelopment of the Aged Care Facility.

The committee executives have continued to work with St Basils to encourage the prompt delivery of the new proposed Aged Care Facility. We have also tried to keep other surrounding members of the community informed of the progress, including the Kingston Neighbourhood Association. However, we wish to reiterate that the responsibility of the Aged Care Facility and its eventual rebuild is that of St Basils and not of the GOCCC. We can only communicate to our members what is provided by St Basils as we are informed ourselves.

We are hopeful that 2022 will bring about the much-desired forward momentum of the rebuilding of the Aged Care Facility, as this will provide our Greek Community and the Kingston region with the much-needed facilities as demand rises because of Canberra's aging population.

Next Steps and Future updates

St Basils will provide updates on the status of the building of their Aged Care Facility via their various media and communication methods. Any questions or requests for further information should be directed to St Basil's. It is likely that the Aged Care Facility will not be mentioned in future reports as it sits outside of the responsibility of the committee.



GIORGOS TSALIKIS

Sunday 30 May

HOSTED BY
GREEK ORTHODOX
COMMUNITY & CHURCH
of Canberra and District

LIVE at
Hellenic Club of Canberra
from 7:30pm

ON SALE NOW
\$120+BF (includes mazzettes)

BUY TICK ONLINE VIA
trybooking.com/BOQNN
Tickets available until 25 May 2021



urmet **HELLENIC FESTIVAL** **EPSILON SECURITY**

Proudly sponsored by The Urmet Group in Australia
We create smarter, safer and more connected buildings.

www.urmet.com.au www.epsilonsecurity.com.au

Connect and Support

SUPPORT US AND YOUR COMMUNITY!

What are you waiting for? Join us and your community online to keep up to date with news, events, important announcements, connecting to others in your community and much much more!



Visit our websites

www.stnicholascanberra.org.au

www.greekschoolcanberra.com.au



Send us an email greekcom.act@bigpond.com



Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/SaintNicholasGreekOrthodoxChurchCanberra



Follow us on Instagram [@stnicholascanberra](https://www.instagram.com/stnicholascanberra)



Follow us on Twitter [@stnicholascanberra](https://twitter.com/stnicholascanberra)



Watch and subscribe at YouTube

Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra



Visit our LinkedIn

[linkedin/in/Greek Orthodox Community and Church of Canberra](https://linkedin/in/GreekOrthodoxCommunityandChurchofCanberra)



GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY &
CHURCH OF CANBERRA & DISTRICT INC