JOAN KIRNER

20 June 1938 – 1 June 2015

*Former Premier and Minister
for Education*

Presentation by Tassos Douvartzides
Chairman
Community Language Schools

A tribute to Joan Kirner

- Joan was a great friend and support of community languages schools and education .

- In her capacity as a Minister for Education and later Premier Joan, she was a great BELIEVER and supporter of language and multicultural education.

- She was ahead of her time - she knew it was critical to have a systemic approach to education, that a range of providers had to work together.

A tribute to Joan Kirner

- Supporting the introduction of the delivery of community languages like

  - Arabic

  - Chinese

  - Vietnamese

  - Greek

  - Portuguese

  - German

  - Japenese

  and all other languages at VCE level by after hours community language schools enhanced a holistic approach to the provisions of language education in Victoria.

A tribute to Joan Kirner

- Implemented the funding for after hours Community Language Schools

- Support for the then State-wide Resources Centre which is now known as the Languages and Multicultural Education Centre LMERC, a hub for language teachers from all systems is a legacy she left . Some wanted to close it – She stood strong and said NO!

A tribute to Joan Kirner

- Today Victoria is the leader in language education –Joan Kirner was one of the politicians over time who provided the solid building blocks for this to occur.

- She left your mark and was a pioneer who can now quietly say:
  "I did my bit to support languages education and communities and I am proud of this achievement!"

- Joan Kirner was the very first Premier to visit an Ethnic School in our State, in her electorate of Williamstown at the Yarraville campus of Omiros College, where thousands of students developed their Greek language.

A tribute to Joan Kirner

On behalf of over 200 community language school authorities and over 36000 students in over 50 languages in Victoria

"I say thank you Joan Kirner –

You will always be remembered…"