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The year 2000 will not only be remembered for the successful and best ever Olympic games, but also for the inaugural Dimitria Greek Festival which symbolises Hellenic unity in South Australia. For the first time in its 22 year history the festival has expanded its proud Greek Macedonian representation through the Pan-Macedonian Association of South Australia to include Peloponnesian Greeks through a joint initiative with the Peloponnesian Federation of South Australia (PFSA).

This year's festival comprised of the following events:

- The Dimitria Greek Festival Soccer Carnival held on Sunday 8 October at the Thebarton Oval. The winners this year being the Adelaide Olympic soccer club.
- The Student Olympics on Saturday 14 October.
- The festival dinner dance at the Stoney fell Winery held on Saturday 21 October and attended by over 200 guests. One of the guest speakers was the SAE Oceania Co-ordinator Mr Costa Vertzayias. Costa congratulated the PFSA and the Pan Macedonian Association in undertaking such an initiative to combine and jointly host the festival. He stressed the need for more such joint initiatives and unification of Greek organisations world wide in order to more effectively maintain and promote Hellenism in the diaspora. He also pointed out that currently there are more than 3000 Greek organisations world wide with the majority being too small to be effective. He indicated that the Ministry of Greeks Abroad in Greece is strongly encouraging that these organisations be reduced drastically in number through mergers and thus become fewer and larger through which the Ministry can more efficiently assist to effectively execute their aims and objects.
- The official festival launch reception held at Parliament House on Friday 27 October organised by the Patron of the festival The Hon John Olsen, Premier of South Australia. It is therefore with great appreciation that the PFSA thanks the Premier for his support of the festival and continued support of such events which reinforce the multicultural fabric of South Australia.
- The two day outdoor festival at Thebarton Oval on Saturday the 4th and Sunday the 5th of November. The outdoor festival delivered live music including overseas and interstate artists, traditional Greek dance groups and Greek cuisine.

One of the most positive outcomes of the two day outdoor event as far as the PFSA was concerned was the strong sense of unity that was demonstrated amongst the PFSA member associations. The decision to have one tent to represent the PFSA societies collectively rather than as separate entities achieved its objective which was to demonstrate to the community at large that the PFSA represents unity and a harmonious relationship amongst all Peloponnesian societies in South Australia. During this event there was no distinction between each member society. That is, the Messinians, Arkadians, Laconians, Eliotes, Ahaiaotes and Argolites saw themselves, foremost as Greek Australians with Peloponnesian heritage with their Peloponnesian provincial heritage being of secondary importance. The achievement of such a sense of unity could not have come at a more appropriate time than during an Olympic year, and in particular being the Australian Olympics. For it was the Olympic spirit during the time of ancient Greece which brought the various Greek states together as Hellenes to participate peacefully as one nation in the various events at ancient Olympia.



Above: PFSA members enjoying a drink at the launch at Parliament House.

Despina Karagiannis addressing the guests at Parliament House at the festival launch.



House.

Left: Anna Vellis and George Genimahaliotis of the Pan-Macedonian Association with the Premier

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Above: A collage of photographs illustrating the fun and unity witnessed at the Peloponnesian tent over the 2 days of the outdoor festival.



Board members of the PFSA with the leader of the opposition, Mike Rann, above left, and with the Premier, Mr John Olsen, at the festival during the official opening.





Dimitri Katsambis of the PFSA and Vasilis Terlegas, the overseas artist who performed at the festi-



George Skrembos and Kathy Tsorvas of Ahia with Vasilis Terlegas.

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The Premier of South Australia, the Hon John Olsen, pictured above cooking pita bread for the yiros and admiring the lambs on the spit.



The Premier, Mr Olsen sitting down sharing a Greek meal with the president of the PFSA Mr Jim Tsagouris (front left) and the president of the Pan-Macedonian Association of SA, Mrs Anna Vollis, (front right).



The two co presidents of the Dimitria festival, Mr Jim Tsagouris (PFSA) and Mrs Anna Vollis (Pan-Macedonian Association) addressing the crowd at the opening of the festival.



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The mayor of West Torrens, Mr Trayner (right) presenting a gift to the Dimitria Greek Festival.



President of the Laconians Miss Katerina Rozaklis with the leader of the opposition Mr Mike Rann (left) and ALP member for Hindmarsh Mr Steve Georganas.



St George college, winners of the student Olympics award.



Vice president of the PFSA Despina Karagiannis (front middle) surrounded with board members of the PFSA.



Above: Peloponnesian struggle, its hard work getting those lambs onto the spit.

Right: But once its on it is worth gathering around and watching it cook.



Peloponnesian beauties from left, Katerina Rozaklis, Stacey Takopoulos and Christine Tsorvas.



Peloponnesian friendship around the chip fryers as shown here by Mr Datsopoulos (far left) and Mr Karagiannis.



