

THE PALLACONIAN BROTHERHOOD AUSTRALIAN RULES GRAND FINAL 2011 SPARTAN GRAND FINAL EVENT 2011



The Pallaconian Brotherhood of Melbourne Victoria conducted its first Australian Rules Grand Final in house BBQ. Fans, families, members and friends attended the Sausage sizzle Grand Final BBQ at the Brunswick Community centre to watch the over head projector display the contest between Collingwood and Geelong. It was of interest to note the mixture of the young and older generation together at the community centre barracking for their respective teams, while at the same enjoying each other's company. Youngsters played in the hall, parents, mates, friends and acquaintances all glued to the screen in front of them as if they were right there at the game in front row seats at the playing field.



The Pallaconian Australian Rules Grand Final was the brain child of the President Chris Paikopoulos, who wanted to bring together the community of Spartans from various generations. The atmosphere within the community hall was rife with friendly rivalry and provided a venue where everyone was able to barrack for their team of choice. The event was an novel new way of bringing in new members to the community, something which had never been done before.

Chris Paikopoulos aim is to attract more members by demonstrating to all Laconians in Victoria that today's Spartans are open and have a good understanding of community expectations and to provide facilities and technologies that will be acceptable to all generations. Suffice to say, the strategic planning and resources that went into executing the Pallaconian Australian Rules Grand Final paid off. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to note that over 250 people came and went at different intervals during the game. At any one time there would be 100 who would be always in the hall watching the game and enjoying the community's facilities.

The occasional shout could be heard above the roar of the crowd on the screen whenever a goal was scored by either team. There was an air of expectation amongst those watching the screen that their team would come out in front between the two giants of football. The two teams fought like lions on the field of battle just like the Spartans of old. One moment one team was down and then up, the whole games seesawed to and fro up until the final quarter where Geelong began to rise above Collingwood and eventually come out on top.



Half time was also the trigger for the sausage sizzle and many thronged around the table which held the sausages, meat patties and bread rolls. While alcohol was not permitted, there were light refreshments available and the tea and coffee was made as required. King Leonidas had he been alive today would have probably been fighting for the underdog. As every Australian knows, Aussies' love the underdog. However in the clash between Collingwood and Geelong, both teams had the status of the underdog and it was difficult to separate them on the field of battle. In the end Geelong took the top prize and came out on top with a 38-point against Collingwood. Chris Paikopoulos was very pleased with the overall outcome and intends with the support of the committee to conduct similar events over the next calendar year and is also looking forward to the implementation of the Pallaconian Cultural centre which will enhance the facilities available to its members. **Peter Adamis**