

## Vision for Australian Victorian Laconians



Chris Paikopoulos was interviewed on Sunday 30 October 2011 on the cessation of the Pallaconian Brotherhoods Annual general meeting. The Laconians of Melbourne and Victoria located in Albert street Brunswick is home to an estimated 25000 Australian of Hellenic Laconian origin within the Melbourne and Victorian region.

The Pallaconians held their annual general meeting in the Sunday afternoon in the great hall. The meeting attracted the numbers required for a quorum, legitimising the proceedings, under an image of ancient Spartan warrior. The committee seated in front of members assisted the President Chris Paikopoulos who conducting the meeting from the podium. The meeting was robust, constructive and spirited, leading the way for proposals and motions to be carried democratically and passed by the majority of the members present.



A presentation highlighting the Lakonians achievements was followed by the administrative and financial aspects of the Pallaconians projects throughout the previous 12 months. Members' questions regarding the future of the Pallaconians were both investigative and passionate, prompting the President to give a detailed report on the vision for the Pallaconians and what they as committee were expecting to achieve over the next five years.

The President advised members that he and the committee were excited about the direction that the Pallaconians were heading towards and that what was being planned now would lay the foundation for future generations to build upon. Chris Paikopoulos said that it was important that Australian Hellenic institutions survived well into the future and it was important that Australians of Hellenic heritage supported them. A detailed list of proposed projects, were discussed briefly by the President as shown below:



**Vision.** Cultural Centre, Electronic History of Pallaconians, Information Technology and Network, Australian Hellenic Oral and Written Histories, Youth and Mature Age Dance Groups, Newsletters in Electronic and Hard copy, Reading Library of Hellenic and Australian Records, Youth and Mature Age Focus Groups, Maximisation of Assets and Services, Federal and State Cultural Grants, Senior Citizen Support and Assistance, Laconian City – Town and Village Histories, Photographic Records Section, Australian Hellenic Memorial Representation, Youth Leadership and Mentoring Support and Assistance, Pallaconian Scholarships, Recruitment program, Pallaconian Professionals Register, Recognition of prior service to Pallaconians, Cinema and Special Event Programmes.

The President on behalf of his committee thanked past Presidents and committee members for their hard work in establishing and maintaining the Pallaconian Brotherhood. In doing so he also provided a list of achievements that the current committee had undertaken on behalf of its members as shown below:

**Achievements.** Establishment of Leonidas – Sparta Place, Membership Review, Sydney Road Festival, Fancy Dress – Apokriatiko' Dinner Dance, Independence Day – Shrine of Remembrance, Antipodes Festival, Grants from Moreland Council and Commonwealth Bank, 'Agathonas Rebetiko" , 50th Anniversary Cocktail Party and Celebrations, introduction of Pallaconian Website, Lecturers, Retrospective Photographic Display, Dance Group achievements, Annual Dinner Dance and a Grand Final On screen



**Members at the 50th Anniversary celebrations**

A show of hands regarding the future direction taken by the current management committee indicated that it was a unanimous decision, giving the green light for Chris Paikopoulos and his team of dedicated committee members to move ahead with the planned activities. Chris Paikopoulos, brimming with enthusiasm was delighted at the members' response to his committee vision of the Pallaconians. He humbly accepted their show of approval and confidence, vowing to ensure that the projects went ahead as indicated. **Peter Adamis**