



THE GREEK COMMUNITY OF MELBOURNE'S

LONSDALE STREET GREEK FESTIVAL

25 + 26 FEB 2017

lonsdalefestival.com.au

#lovelonsdale

MEDIA RELEASE: 27 FEBRUARY 2017

BLUE + WHITE NIGHTS AS MELBOURNE PARTIED GREEK-STYLE THIS WEEKEND

More than 40,000 people flooded the historic Lonsdale Street Greek Precinct on the weekend to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Lonsdale St Greek Festival. Much-loved Greek siren Glykeria performed some of her greatest hits to a massive crowd that filled the intersection of Russell and Lonsdale Street in the heart of the city.

Wurundjeri Elder Ron Jones offered a Welcome to Country before The Hon Robin Scott (Minister for Multicultural Affairs) officially opened the Festival. Others who took part in official proceedings included The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer (Minister for Revenue & Financial Services), Senator Jacinta Collins (Assistant Shadow Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Australia), The Rt Hon Lord Mayor Robert Doyle, His Grace Bishop Ezekiel of Dervis, His Grace Bishop Iakovos of Militopoulis, Ms Christina Simantrakis (Consulate General of Greece to Victoria) and Bill Papastergiadis (President of Greek Community of Melbourne).

The Festival served up some of Melbourne's best Greek street food traders, offering an extensive menu of Hellenic flavours for all to enjoy. The **Procal Dairies Greek Kitchen** ran cooking demonstrations all weekend, seeing the return of favourites including **Kathy Tsaples** (*Sweet Greek*), **Philip Vakos** (*Bahari*), **Angela Nicolettou** (*Angela's Kitchen*), **Angie Giannakodakis** and **Jarrod Smith** (*Elyros*), **Mary Valle** (*Mary's Kitchen*), and newcomer **Niki Louca** (*My Greek Kitchen*). Late in the evening, food switched to music, and the stage buzzed with local musicians offering music for the many regions of Greece.

The outdoor pop up **Festival Bar** was a hot spot across the weekend, drawing people wanting to relax and soak in the atmosphere, along with offering the best view of the **AA Holdings Stage**.

Both the **Delphi Bank Stage** and **AA Holdings Stage** was packed with local, interstate and international acts, interactive activities such as the **Zorba 'til you Drop** dancing competition (the ultimate test of endurance), **Magic Mic** singing competition for amateur performers, highly skilled Greek dancing groups, bands and DJs. Late on Saturday evening, **Beautiful People Events** with **guest DJ Sotiristav** brought a little Greek island magic to the street with 2 hours of partying for those with staying power. The **Stratakis Brothers** (Greece), wooed a heaving crowd with their mesmerising vocals and lyre talents on Sunday evening, giving the weekend the send-off it deserved.

The Greek Community would like to thank every single sponsor, performer, musician, dancer, food presenter, competition entrant, MC, stall holder and volunteer for giving life to the Greek Community's largest event. The 30th Lonsdale St Greek Festival is a Greek Community of Melbourne event.

www.lonsdalestfestival.com.au

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<https://www.facebook.com/events/285331038498427/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/thegreekcentre>

Instagram: @greekcentre

Twitter: @greekcentre

Website: lonsdalestfestival.com.au

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