

The Greek Community of Melbourne's
**Lonsdale St
Festival** Proudly presented by
DelphiBank

**Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Greece's Kostas Makedonas to
share the stage on Saturday 8 February.**

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Melbourne – VIC. The 2014 Lonsdale Street Festival, Melbourne's largest Greek themed street party, takes over the street during the weekend of February 8 & 9. Headlining this year's event is Kostas Makedonas, performing in Australia for the first time with Orhestra Emmetron, accompanied by Eirini Toumpaki.

"It is with enormous pleasure that we welcome Kostas Makedonas as the headline act of this year's Lonsdale Street Festival, travelling to Australia for the very first time.

He has proven to be one of Greece's most versatile performers, playing demotic, rembetiko and contemporary music, since the triumphant release of his first album, "Den Exo Idea", in 1989. Since then, he has produced numerous hits and has collaborated with some of Greece's finest musicians.

And we are lucky to be hosting him at the Lonsdale Street Festival: on a weekend that promises once again to offer something Greek-to everyone", Leonidas Vlahakis, Co-chair Antipodes Festival.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott will be in attendance during the evening of Saturday 8 February to take part in the events festivities. Joining him will be the Premier of Victoria Denis Naphine, and representatives of the opposition at both state and federal levels.

"The presence of Prime Minister Tony Abbott at the Greek community of Melbourne's Festival reflects positively on our organisation and the commitment of the Australian government to the contribution of Greeks to the fabric of our society.

This is the third year in which Abbott is attending our event, and the first as Prime Minister. His presence and that of other ministers in his government provides us with the opportunity to develop and enhance the Greek community relationship with the federal government. We aim to use these events to highlight the cultural importance of Greeks in this country as well as continuing the dialogue on other pressing issues", Bill Papastergiadis, President of the Greek Community of Melbourne.

Support for the Greek Community's Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture continues, with a further \$455,000 now secured at federal level going directly to the Greek Centre for Contemporary Culture. With eight levels of the tower now complete, the Greek Community is excited about its proposed completion in June 2014.

The Lonsdale Street Festival, which is staged in the heart of the City of Melbourne's Greek Precinct, attracts over 100,000 people across the weekend, who head to the street to enjoy two stages of free entertainment, an assortment of food stalls, children's activities, cooking demonstrations and trader displays. Fully licensed and catered, the



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Barbaresso Oyzo Ouzeri will be set up on street, offering a little Greek island bar experience in the centre of Lonsdale Street. Open all weekend it will be a cool little spot to relax from the bustle, and soak in some music from local DJs.

ABOUT KOSTAS MAKEDONAS

Kostas Makedonas, born in Thessaloniki Greece, makes his first trip to Australia this February. Makedonas has enjoyed a continuous upwards trajectory in the music scene, making him one of the most sought after musicians, working with almost all of the big names of Greek music. He has collaborated with the likes of Alkistis Protopsaltis, Eleni Vitali, Christos Nikolopoulos, Mikis Theodorakis, Harris Alexiou, Marinella, Glykeria, Pantelis Thalassinos and countless others. He has release 12 solo albums and has collaborated on more than 40 other albums.

LISTING DETAILS

Lonsdale Street Festival

Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 February

Cnr Lonsdale & Russell Street, Melbourne

1pm – midnight – FREE EVENT – antipodesfestival.com.au

GETTING THERE

Leave the car at home, and take any city bound train, tram or bus towards the CBD and head towards the historic Greek precinct (between Swanston & Russell Street).

For further information and image requests, please contact:

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