



Media Release: Saturday 25 February, 2012

## Prime Minister Julia Gillard announces funding of \$2million for the Greek Cultural Centre at the Lonsdale Street Glendi.

Tonight at the opening of the **2012 Antipodes Festival**, the cultural arm of the Greek Community of Melbourne & Victoria, launched by Acting Premier Peter Ryan, Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced that the Federal Government will contribute \$2million to the Greek Cultural Centre to be built by the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne & Victoria.

"We are thrilled that Prime Minister Julia Gillard is supporting our exciting new project, and her announcement is testament to the vitality and strength of Melbourne's Greek Community." Bill Papastergiadis, President of the Greek Community of Melbourne & Victoria.

"The Antipodes Festival has had ongoing supporting from the State Government of Victoria, and in 2011 further financial support was pledged to include the Greek Cultural Centre, which will commence development later this year. We are overjoyed that our efforts have been recognised at a Federal level, and we look forward to sharing our projects with the whole of Australia." Leonidas Vlahakis & Tammy Iliou, Co-chairs Antipodes Festival.

The four levels of the Cultural Centre will be dedicated to; a permanent exhibition celebrating Greek-Australia and the history Greek migration; a resource, language and archive centre; multi-purpose venue space with in-built technologies for conferences, community meetings and educational workshops; Lecture theatre and community function space; interactive library, linking with educational institutions and cultural centres globally.

The Centre will be located in a region characterised by its population and economic growth, the Cultural Centre will provide a unique opportunity for the general public to explore the "Greek-Australian Story", operating as a cultural hub that will prove to be an invaluable asset for the Australian public.

### About the event:

The **Lonsdale Street Glendi**, a highlight of the Greek Community's Antipodes Festival, which this year celebrates 25 years, will once again celebrate *apokries* – the tradition of carnivalé, in what promises to be two days of frivolity, good food and free entertainment for the whole family. This free street party staged along Melbourne's Lonsdale Street, brings together local and international performers, cooking demonstrations, children's activities and food, for a weekend of fun and feasting.

This year's headline act is **Pantelis Thalassinos**; one of Greece's most iconic contemporary singers and songwriters, and with this being his first visit to Australia, it will be huge. He performs at 8.30pm on Saturday 25 February on the main stage, Lonsdale Street.

### Lonsdale Street Glendi

25 & 26 February, 2012

Cnr Lonsdale & Russell Street, Melbourne

1pm – 11.30pm – FREE EVENT – [www.antipodesfestival.com.au](http://www.antipodesfestival.com.au)

### For further information and image requests, please contact:

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