

**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF THESSALONIKI**

**MR VASILIOS PAPAGEORGOPOULOS TO THE THESSALONIKI ASSOCIATION  
"THE WHITE TOWER" OF MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Dear Friends,

We will be enjoying many of this year's celebrations organised by the Thessaloniki Association "The White Tower" in honour of the patron saint of Thessaloniki, Saint Dimitrios and the 23 year sister-city relationship of Melbourne and Thessaloniki together, and my joy and emotions are indescribable since I will be with you between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

As Mayor of Thessaloniki, the capital of Greek Macedonia from time immemorial, the city that is the home of Hellenism everywhere and the maternal embrace for all of us, I convey messages of love and of deep patriotic friendship on behalf of all the people of Thessaloniki who always value and think the world of the Greeks of Australia.

Your festivities are always a valuable and joyous reason for us to communicate and exchange our thoughts and expectations for even greater prosperity for the homeland but also for the Greeks of Australia.

The Greeks of Australia have been and remain a steadfast lighthouse of ecumenical Hellenism, a focal point of light for our beloved Greece, indicating to all humanity the great virtues of patriotism, peace, friendship, solidarity and fraternity of all peoples of the world.

All of you residing in the remote but hospitable Australia are a great solace to us who are permanently residing in Greece, because for years and years now you guard "Thermopylae", you guard the holy name of our Macedonia and of historical truth with deep love, knowledge and faith in the immemorial virtues of Romiosini.

Our presence at your festivities this year highlights and underlines exactly this: our vast and warm patriotic love that stems directly from the heart and unites us on the road to our common happiness and prosperity.

I wish you every success in the festivities and health and happiness to your families.

With heartfelt patriotic greetings

**THE MAYOR**

**VASILIOS PAPAGEORGOPOULOS**