



MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE

It is with great pleasure that the City of Melbourne celebrates its 23-year sister city relationship with the Greek city of Thessaloniki at Federation Square. We are particularly delighted that this year we host a visit from the Mayor of Thessaloniki, Mr Vassilios Papageorgopoulos, who will join in the festivities.

Melbourne has the largest Greek-speaking population in the world outside Greece. Much to the city's enjoyment, Melbourne's Greek Precinct on Lonsdale Street has been sharing Greek food and customs since the 1930s.

Established in 1984, Melbourne's sister city relationship with Thessaloniki recognises the connections Melbourne's large and dynamic Greek community have with their homeland and the significant contribution Greek people have made to our city.

The relationship has facilitated a range of cultural and business exchanges greatly benefiting our two peoples. In time for the Athens Olympics, the Sailability Hellas program introduced 'access dinghies' to Athens and Thessaloniki, enabling people with disabilities to share our mutual appreciation of the sea. Earlier this year, the City of Melbourne took a delegation to Thessaloniki to reaffirm the spirit of friendship we hold dear.

The Thessaloniki Glendi is a fantastic means by which to learn more about our Greek friends and the city they hail from. It's also a family friendly day with food, music and dancing all Melburnians can enjoy.

I hope you enjoy this wonderful escape to the flavours of the Mediterranean and the City of Thessaloniki.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'John So'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

John So
Lord Mayor of Melbourne