

Greeks plan to lift city site

MELBOURNE'S Greek community is planning a 27-storey tower and cultural centre on Lonsdale Street to breathe new life into the flagging precinct.

Bill Papastergiadis(photo), president of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria, said the building would be a central site for the 300,000 Greeks in Melbourne, as well as a way for others to engage with Greek culture.

Rather than taking focus off Lonsdale Street itself, he hoped the building would bring people back to the strip.

"It's been a slow death, hasn't it? For the last

10 years, that's what's happened. So it needs this injection.

"It will make us relevant, it will give us some financial power. I mean at the end of the day we're an organisation that needs to offer services."

Premier John Brumby is tipped to announce a government share of the funding for the \$23 million project at the Antipodes Festival on Lonsdale Street tomorrow night. An executive summary of the proposal, seen by *The Age*, says the contemporary-style building would reinforce the historic link between Greek Melburnians and the Lonsdale Street area and "act to ensure the continued survival of the



precinct".

The Greek community has sought funding for the new building under the State Government's \$8-million Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund.

Article from THE AGE



Earth Hour starts from Greece

This year the Earth Hour will start from Greece, which managed to get ahead of Australia and will be the first one to turn off all lights on March 28th as symbol protest against climate changes. All together 270 municipalities and 18 thousand citizens will participate in this protest. The third country after Australia is Canada. "We want to show that we are many and we are ready for action, in order to prevent climate changes," said Georgios Velidis from the Greek branch of the ecological organization WWF. The Greek participation in the Earth Hour will not only be on a mass scale but it will also be spectacular.

Some of the most famous archeological landmarks will join the campaign, in order to add glamour and finesse. With a solid vote the central archeological council decided to turn off the lights of all Greek landmarks, which are of utmost world significance, from 08:30 pm to 09:30 pm on March 28th. Among them are the Parthenon, Poseidon's temple on cape Sounio, Hephaestus temple, which is under the Acropolis, and the beautiful hanging bridge Rio-Antirio near Patra. Nearly 1 billion people, will turn off their home lights, from more than 1000 cities, among which are London, New York, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Beijing, Moscow.

Alexander the Great's tomb 'is in Broome, Western Australia'

Alexander the Great, whose tomb has been missing for nearly 2,000 years, could be buried in Broome in Western Australia, a Perth man says.

Macedonian-born Tim Tutungis told ABC Kimberley that he first heard the 'Broomer' from his old mate, Lou Batalis.

"We just got onto the subject of Alexander The Great's tomb, and he said, 'They'll never ever find it, no matter where they look, because Alexander the Great is buried in Broome, in Western Australia'," Mr Tutungis said.

"Approximately 50 years ago, some guy went into a cave in Broome and he saw some inscriptions in there and



Still missing: Alexander the Great died in 323 BC.

AN Australian tourist town, better known for its nudist beaches and sunset camel rides, could actually be the final resting place of Alexander The Great.

A bizarre theory has been floated that Broome, in Western Australia, is home to the tomb of the Macedonian-born warrior, who cut a swathe through the Middle East and Asia about 2500 years ago .

Alexander's tomb has been missing for about 2500 years but a resident of the West Australian town says he knows where it is.

"They'll never ever find it, no matter where they look, because Alexander the Great is buried in Broome, in Western Australia'," Tim Tutungis says.

they looked like ancient Greek.

"He reported it to the government, then the government went and saw it and they confirmed there were some inscriptions there.

"They went to the Greek community and they asked the community, 'Is there anyone here who can read ancient Greek?'

"Naturally Louis Batalis put his hand up and said, 'Yes, I went to school in Egypt, I got educated, I can read it'. So they took him up there and he defined the inscriptions as saying, in ancient Greek, 'Alexander the Great'.

"The government did say to him at that time, 'You didn't see this, OK, this never happened'."

History's mystery

Alexander the Great died on June

11, 323 BC, probably from malaria, alcoholism or poisoning.

One traditionally accepted story says his body was placed in two gold caskets in a gold carriage. Another says his body was preserved in a clay jar filled with honey and that this was placed in a glass coffin.

Some historians say Alexander's general and friend, Ptolemy, stole the body and took it to Alexandria, while others say Roman Emperor Caligula looted the tomb and stole Alexander's breastplate.

According to some sources, Emperor Septimius Severus closed Alexander's tomb about 200 AD, and little is known of the body's whereabouts after that.

Mr Tutungis says he is 99 per cent convinced Mr Batalis told him the truth, because people "have looked

everywhere" for Alexander's grave, to no avail. He says his friend is a very old man now and has virtually lost his memory, and others who heard the story had dismissed it. But he says Mr Batalis was "a man of substance" who was very educated, and the story stuck with him.

"I drew my own conclusion because the war of the Macedonians ended up in India and I assumed that some of the soldiers went back to Macedonia on foot," Mr Tutungis said.

"Some of the soldiers must have caught a ship. Why can't we say that Alexander did catch a ship; they lost their way in the treacherous ways up there.

"Look where India is, look where Broome is; a ship could easily get wrecked in Broome."

Mr Tutungis says a new documentary suggests that when the war ended, Alexander the Great ordered thousands of ships to be built.

He takes that as further evidence to support his theory and has written to a detective from Scotland Yard who is looking for Alexander's grave.

"Nobody ever, ever suspected that Alexander could have died in Broome," he said.