



# Fundraising Dinner Dance of the Diavitiko Association of NSW

Type 1 or Juvenile Diabetes continues to be a crippling and very prolific disease in Australia with an estimated 140,000 sufferers. Most of these sufferers are children and young adults who depend on a strict diet, exhaustive daily monitoring and daily insulin injections to survive. In conjunction with these extensive daily challenges they also live with the fear of developing devastating long term complications.



The Non-Profit organisation, The DIAVITIKO Association has been in existence for nearly 21 years and has raised in the vicinity of \$750,000 to purchase vital Diabetes equipment and assist with diabetes research for the Institute of Endocrinology and Diabetes at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

In January 2008 the DIAVITIKO's president, Maria Bouzani was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (O.A.M) "For service to the community through diabetes public awareness and fundraising activities, particularly in association with the Greek community."

This year's dinner dance aimed to raise \$50,000 to fund the purchase of the LOGIQ ultrasound machine. This ultrasound machine will be used to measure the thickness of the plantar fascia in the foot, the tissue which surrounds the muscles under the arch of the foot. The technique shows adolescents who are at greater risk of complication progression (eye, kidney and nerve disease).

The Annual Dinner Dance was held on Saturday 30th of May 2009 at the Hall of the Saint Ioannis Greek Orthodox Church at Parramatta.

Over 400 people were in attendance to support the cause, despite the cold rainy weather, with esteemed guests including doctors and medical staff from the Westmead Childrens Hospital, representatives of SAE, representatives of the Laiki Bank and Radiomathon and many prominent businesspeople and philanthropists from Sydney's Greek community.

Every aspect of the event was carefully planned and executed thanks to the tiresome efforts of the Diavitiko

Committee as well as a large dedicated group of volunteers who executed almost every duty with professionalism and gusto. From the preparation of the venue, and cooking meals, to organising prizes, selling raffles and coordinating the evening's formalities and events.

The evening's official proceedings were kicked off by MC Vicky Karmogianni – a long standing and passionate supporter of the Diavitiko's cause. This was followed by speeches from the organisation's president Maria Bouzani and then a touching first hand account of what it is like to live with Type 1 diabetes by Joseph Monsweto, Constantine Kondos and John Dimitrakas.

Associate Professor and staff physician Kim Donaghue also addressed those present, reiterating the ongoing and longstanding relationship that the hospital has with the Diavitiko Association and the Greek Community as well as explaining where the funds raised from the evening will be spent.

The traditional Greek flavour was injected into the evening by the Paroula Thurban dancers, who entertained everyone present with traditional and modern Greek dances as they have at many previous Diavitiko functions.

At the business end of the evening more funds were raised through the mega raffle – with prizes such as a trip for Greece, a big screen TV and precious jewellery up for grabs – and auction. Supporters were able to bid for an amazing and impressive array of prizes including a Sydney Harbour Bridgeclimb, professional poker tables, spa and beauty treatments, and even a convincing giant floral arrangement made entirely of cupcakes!

The hard work of the committee, volunteers and supporters however did not go unrewarded. At the end of the night the efforts had raised just under \$70,000 for the Westmead Childrens Hospital – more than enough for the life saving equipment they had pledged to purchase.

## The Diavitiko Committee are:

Maria Bouzani O.A.M  
President & Assistant Treasurer  
Katrina Mansweto  
Vice -President  
Jackie Dimitrakas  
Treasurer  
Gina Kondos  
Secretary  
Clare Ciardi  
Committee Member

## The Diavitiko Committee wish to thank that following hard working tireless volunteers:

Vicky Karmogianni  
Nonda and Betty Vervitas  
Ilias and Gina Emmanouil  
George and Effie Delinikolis  
Con and Maritsa Kondos  
Con and Gina Mitrokas  
Manuel and Dianne Koutsourais  
Peter and Fotoula Londos  
Irene Anestis  
Sia and Kostandina Fylactou  
Eleni and Savvas Katsaros  
Olga Vervitas  
Pamela Vervitas  
All the partners and families of everyone involved

## The Diavitiko could not have reached the phenomenal figure of almost \$70,000 without the generous support and donations of the following sponsors:

Euro Funerals  
The Good Guys Discount Warehouse Nick Nikas, Caringbah  
Dracakis Jewellers  
Sydney Baby Kingdom  
Complete Fitness  
Parkside Superior Meats, Peter Kefalouros  
Sydney Best and Fresh  
Laiki Bank Radiomathon  
Exotic Cuisine, Chris Fylactou  
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Thomas Hotels, Mr George Thomas  
Konstantly Fabulous Events  
Little Miss Stella Publicity & Media Relations  
Mascot Liquor  
Yianni Fine Foods  
Tulipanna florists, Bondi  
Paroula Thurban  
St Ioannis Church, Parramatta  
Sweet Fantasy  
Ingham  
Adora Chocolates  
Diabetes Australia, NSW  
Tim the Bouzouki DJ  
The Rocks Auto Care, North Rocks, Con Tsigounis  
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Mr Andrianakis  
M&G Seafoods, Marrickville  
Mandi Products, Bexley  
Bilal Printing  
Mr Jim Tzavaras  
Ms Eva Grey

## Monetary donations were given by the following generous supporters:

Radiomathon/ Laiki Bank	10,000
Mr Matthew Lepouris	\$10,000
Mr George Thomas	\$ 5000
Nikos Kostandelos, Melbourne	\$ 1000
OEGA Organisation	\$ 1000
Parramatta Greek Orthodox Church	\$800
Syndesmos Olympiacos Sydney	\$500
Westpac Bank Kingsgrove	\$500
Makedonikos Sillogos	\$300
Mr Tsagias	\$200
Mr Kiki Efthimiou	\$100
Mr Themis Kallos	\$100
Mr Con Askitis	\$100
Maria	\$100
Athena	\$100

