

THE ANCIENT HOPLITIKON OF MELBOURNE INC.

Recreating the past for better future

The not only dress up like the "300" Spartans but like other ancient Greeks with outfits as original as possible.

Athanasios Porporis "Polemarchos" is the Founder. Born in Australia (his parents are from Kozani) he considers himself as the "Polemarcho" of the group. Along with Mario Kroutka they speak about their goals.

"We have established a group which is devoted and likes to perform with military and civilian equipment from the period of 500-200 BC. We have taken part in many festivals and our appearances are always impressive. We specialise in Ancient Classical and Hellenistic Greek re-enactment. Our appearances are mostly educational and cultural.

"Non-Greeks show bigger interest in becoming members of the group in order to keep the

ancient Greek culture.

All members feel proud of our performances and achievements. We take part in festivals and we also organize historical and philosophical debates. We also organise symposiums according to the education and discipline rules of the ancient Greeks.

We even make appearances and exercise at parks in Melbourne. Lots of Australians look very surprised.

At present, all members are men. Women do not want to take part because one of the rules is that they have to appear topless.

We are hoping that we will overcome this difficulty and we are planning to establish a group of Amazons. We have already spoken to a few women and they will soon make their appearances on horses in parks in Melbourne".



Athanasios Porporis "Polemarchos"



Up in arms and ready to party



WHO better to flaunt the style and charisma of Greek culture than Effie? Flanked by an army of spartans, the hair-gelled goddess travelled to Melbourne's city square yesterday for the launch of this year's Antipodes Festival. The celebration of Greek theatre, dance and food ends at the Lonsdale St Glendi on March 24-25.

Picture: CRAIG WOOD

A few words about the Ancient Hoplitikon of Melbourne

The Ancient Hoplitikon of Melbourne is a member of the Australasian Living History Federation (ALHF). It is made up of people, individuals from all walks of life that join together with a devotion both to their craft and to the people around them, be they fellow participants or the public.

Focus

The Ancient Hoplitikon of Melbourne are a group of people who are located in Melbourne and the state of Victoria who specialise in Ancient Classical and Hellenistic Greek re-enactment. The group's focus is to study, replicate and perform with military and civilian equipment from the period of 500-200 BC. They pride themselves on the fact of having realistic and internationally updated knowledge on Ancient Greek culture of this period. Together with their companions/associates the Sydney Ancients, they have made professional appearances in film and international commercial advertisements using the unique Greek Hoplite Warrior imagery.

A major aim is to make aware to the general public that Greek culture not only lead the ancient world in philosophy, democracy, art and citizenship but also the genius of military prowess, arms technology and application on the ancient battlefield. This ability and determination to repel invaders over the centuries earned great respect and enabled Greek culture to flourish and spread through the Mediterranean world, inspiring the emerging Roman Republic.

The imagery of Greek Hoplite Warriors seems to have international appeal and encapsulates the beginnings of early European cultural determination and sense of galvanizing order out of chaos. School children or adults who may or may not have been exposed to literature of the Iliad, Odysseus or Alexander the Great can easily identify with this imagery and instantly recognize the symbolism of Greek struggle for independence and freedom.

