



Mr Emanuel J Comino OAM



Mrs Kathy Kouvas



Mr Russell Darnley

“The Case for the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles. Athens, Greece and the whole world are ready to see the treasures returned”

On Sunday 15 November, Emanuel J Comino OAM JP Founder and Chairman of the International Organising Committee - Australia - For The Restitution Of The Parthenon Marbles, presented an address on the fascinating history of these priceless expressions of Hellenism. The event was organised by The AHEPA NSW Education Committee and the Greek Australian Professionals Association (GAPA) at the Ahepa Hall.

The issue of the Restitution of the Parthenon Marbles continues to be the world’s most celebrated cultural property dispute. Since Lord Elgin took them their history has been the subject of both neglect and controversy. Now in the British Museum they’ve been rendered mere artefacts in a distinctly British construction of world history and their place in it.

Removing great works from their cultural context and displaying them in gloomy spaces is a distinctly 19th century approach to knowledge. It is particularly sad when these brilliant works are acknowledged globally as expressions of the very heart of Greek culture. The real tragedy of their exile in a foreign setting is in denying the world an opportunity to see them in the very place that gave them ‘life’.

In Athens the new Acropolis Museum has been built to display these irreplaceable masterpieces, close to their original setting. Here, aligned as they were on the Parthenon, it will be possible to view these unique Hellenic Sculptures in a completely holistic context.

The real history of the Parthenon Marbles is an extraordinary story, far more interesting than their sombre display in the British Museum can possibly suggest.

